

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HORSE RACING BOARD

In the Matter of:)

)

Regular Meeting)

)

DEL MAR HILTON

15575 JIMMY DURANTE BOULEVARD

DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory Ferraro, Chairman

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner

Wendy Mitchell, Commissioner

Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner

Thomas Hudnut, Commissioner

STAFF

Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Robert Brodnik, Chief Counsel

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

Mike Marten

ALSO PRESENT

Gregory Ferraro, observer only

Dennis Alfieri

Josh Rubinstein, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Aidan Butler, Santa Anita Race Track

Nate Newby, Santa Anita Race Track

Jack Liebau, Los Alamitos Race Course

Alan Balch, California Thoroughbred Trainers

Bill Nader, Thoroughbred Owners of California

Larry Swartzlander, California Authority on Racing Fairs

Eric Sindler, Golden Gate Fields

Michael Machowsky, Fasig-Tipton

APPEARANCES

ALSO PRESENT (cont.)

Cliff Goodrich, California Thoroughbred Horsemen's
Foundation

Amy Zimmerman, Santa Anita Race Track

Jordyn Egan, Thoroughbred Owners of California

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martha Sullivan

Heather Wilson

Bonnie Croker

Darrell Haire, Jockeys' Guild

Oscar de la Torre

Ellen Ericksen

Tom Clark, Rancho San Miguel

Roz Barkley

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15. Closed Session: For the purpose of receiving advice from counsel, considering pending litigation, reaching decisions on administrative licensing and disciplinary hearings, and personnel matters, as authorized by section 11126 of the Government Code. 109
- A. The Board may convene a Closed Session to confer with and receive advice from its legal counsel regarding the pending litigation described in the attachment to this agenda captioned "Pending Litigation," and as authorized by Government Code section 11126(e).
- B. The Board may convene a Closed Session to confer with and receive advice from its legal counsel regarding the pending administrative licensing or disciplinary matters described in the attachment to this agenda captioned "Pending Administrative Adjudications," as authorized by Government Code section

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11126(e).

- C. The Board may convene a Closed Session for the purposes of considering personnel matters as authorized by Government Code section 11126(a).

16. Adjournment

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

CHAIR FERRARO: Good morning, everyone. Good morning, everyone. Ladies and gentlemen, this is the meeting of the California Horse Racing Board. It will please come to order. This is the regular noticed meeting of the California Horse Racing Board on Thursday, August 17th, 2023, at the Del Mar Hilton in Del Mar, California.

Present at today's meeting are: myself, Dr. Gregory Ferraro, Chair; Mr. Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair; Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner; Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner; Thomas Hudnut, Commissioner; and shortly, Wendy Mitchell, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I'm here.

CHAIR FERRARO: There she comes.

Also, Scott Chaney, Executive Director. Commissioner, Brenda Washington Davis is not able to join us today.

Before we go to the business of the meeting, I need to make a few comments.

The Board invites public comment on the matters appearing on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, the Board will first hear from those directly involved in the agenda

1 item. I will then invite public comment on the agenda item.
2 The Board will not answer questions. This item is for
3 comments only.

4 Unsolicited speakers are limited to two minutes.
5 During all public comments, a sign will be raised after the
6 first 90 seconds, meaning the speaker will have 30 seconds
7 remaining to conclude their remarks. At two minutes, a
8 second sign will be raised, and the tone will sound to
9 indicate the speaker's time is up. The Board may ask
10 questions of individuals who speak, which may extend their
11 two-minute time limit.

12 There are public comment sign-in sheets located at
13 the designated table to my right for each agenda item on
14 which the Board invites comments. There is also a sign-in
15 sheet for those wishing to speak during the public comment
16 period for matters not on the Board's agenda, if it concerns
17 horse racing in California. Please print your name legibly
18 on all sign-in sheets.

19 When a matter is open for public comment, your
20 name will be called. Please come to the podium, introduce
21 yourself by stating your name and organization. This is
22 necessary for the court reporter to have a clear record of
23 all who speak. When your two minutes are up, I will ask you
24 to return to your seats so that others can be heard.

25 I will insist that all speakers stay strictly on

1 the topic for each agenda item. If the speaker strays off
2 topic, I will ask to move on to the next speaker. If the
3 speaker repeats themselves, I will ask if the speaker has
4 any new comments to make. If there are none, the speaker
5 will be asked to let others make comments to the Board.

6 If anyone has comments of a more general nature
7 that are not specific to earlier agenda items, those
8 comments must wait until agenda item number 14, Public
9 Comment. There will be a 30-minute time limit for public
10 comment. In order to allow as many individuals to speak as
11 possible within that half hour, I will strictly enforce the
12 two-minute time limit for each unsolicited speaker.

13 Additionally, please note that the Board has
14 received an additional document for agenda item number
15 seven, Proposed Amendments to CHRB Rule 1867, after the
16 Board materials were published on the website. The
17 additional document has been provided to each Commissioner
18 in attendance today and copies are available on the sign-in
19 sheet table for that agenda item. The digital Board meeting
20 packet available on our website is updated as well.

21 Before we start the formal process of the meeting,
22 I think Commissioner Alfieri here has a few words about
23 our --

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
25 just wanted to remember, take a moment to remember, Jerry

1 Moss, who passed away a week ago. Jerry was a giant in the
2 industry, incredible man, very successful man, started A&M
3 Records with Herb Alpert. But he, beyond that, you know,
4 with his success in his business, his private life, and in
5 horse racing, he always gave back. He was a very passionate
6 and compassionate man about helping others, and he did that
7 with several philanthropies and charities, always giving
8 back.

9 And so I just wanted to recognize him. He was
10 appointed in 2004 to this Commission. He was a member for
11 eight years. He was reappointed, I'm sorry, he was
12 reappointed in 2008 with -- Governor Schwarzenegger
13 appointed him. And he died at 88 years old. He had, as you
14 recall, Zenyatta, a racing great, who won the Breeders' Cup
15 Classic 2009. He had Giacomo, as you recall, 2005 with the
16 Kentucky Derby. And so I just wanted to spend a moment to
17 just, you know, thank him for all his service, and to
18 remember him.

19 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Commissioner Alfieri.
21 Mr. Moss was an effective and wise member of this Board for
22 eight years.

23 Okay, I'm going to move forward with the approval
24 of the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting.

25 Do the Commissioners have any comments or

1 corrections?

2 I think Commissioner Castellanos has a correction.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I just had one. Scott
4 Chaney.

5 Damascus is actually spelled incorrectly on the
6 cover page, so with that correction, A instead of E.

7 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: That happens all the
8 time.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other comments from the Board?
10 Do we have any comments from public? None?
11 Can I have a motion to approve?

12 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Second.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Commissioner
19 Castellanos?

20 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes. The
22 minutes are approved.

23 The approval for the minutes of June 29th, 2023,
24 we're not going to handle today because we don't have a
25 quorum of proper members to do so, so we'll push that off

1 until next month.

2 Item number three is a report from the Race Dates
3 Committee.

4 Mr. Gonzales?

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I want to start off by just thanking the attendees
7 from yesterday's meeting. I also want to thank Commissioner
8 Mitchell and Commissioner Castellanos for helping to drive
9 the conversation, which I think overall was fruitful.

10 An overriding theme is one in which the parties
11 understand that horse racing has come a long way since the
12 spotlight was on us back in 2019, and everyone realizes that
13 more work needs to be done.

14 This particular Race Dates Committee meeting was
15 like no other. There was a lot of exchanging of ideas,
16 wanting stability, everyone putting the welfare of horses
17 first, obviously, and also thinking about the workforce in
18 terms of licensees.

19 So I'm going to just recap the meeting to the best
20 of my ability. And if there's anything that I omitted on
21 the part of any of the presenters, apologies in advance.

22 So, Mr. Chairman, we started off the meeting with
23 a presentation on Southern California, followed by Northern
24 California, and then there was a public comment period. So
25 I'm just going to go in the order of which the agenda

1 appeared.

2 Mr. Rubenstein and Mr. Robbins, on behalf of Del
3 Mar, proposed a Southern California calendar that
4 essentially replicates the current year allocation, noting
5 that hosting the Breeders' Cup in 2024 will require Del Mar
6 to stage a five-week meet. They requested they be named
7 host of the simulcast-only week separating their meet from
8 Los Alamitos.

9 Del Mar was followed by the Santa Anita leadership
10 team with Mr. Fravel, Nate Newby, and Mr. Butler. They
11 introduced a calendar similar to the current year for Santa
12 Anita.

13 There was some discussion, even though the focus
14 of the first part of the agenda was on Southern California,
15 since they had the platform, they referenced thoughts and
16 sentiments about what was happening in the north. And Mr.
17 Butler led that conversation and went into great detail, of
18 which we really and truly honor and respect about how the
19 rollout of their Northern California announcement could have
20 been handled differently. There were many plans that they
21 had in place, but because the story broke, they were having
22 to play some catch-ups.

23 So, again, we take them at their word, and we
24 think that there's been some professionalism on the part of
25 the team to really try to make good in terms of their role

1 in California racing.

2 One of the things that Mr. Butler did say that
3 appeared to get some headlines on the local media circuit
4 was the consideration that The Stronach Group will give
5 toward extending Golden Gate Field by some period of time,
6 noting that things needed to pencil out, is what the key
7 word was to make this happen.

8 I went out on a limb to ask what would need to
9 happen, and Mr. Butler referenced that a meeting of sort
10 would need to take place to have that extension. It sounded
11 to us that not only the terms of what the extension would
12 look like, but perhaps some other peripheral matters and
13 items would be addressed while we're talking about that.
14 But I think once that was mentioned, there was definitely
15 support for that kind of move. And so we are going to be
16 anxiously awaiting to see and hear about the discussions as
17 they unfold.

18 Obviously, there was some reference on the part of
19 The Stronach Group about some of the challenges and rigors
20 that they have encountered in keeping Golden Gate open.
21 There was some dollar amounts that were put out in terms of
22 losses that they've experienced. But overall, a firm
23 decision has been made to close Golden Gate Fields, and that
24 then is what is prompting the Northern California horsemen
25 community and horsewomen community to come together to

1 figure out what we could do next.

2 We were fortunate to have Mr. Chaney join us, who
3 asked some really insightful, very important questions. One
4 of the items that Mr. Chaney went into was about that week,
5 that dark week, and who would be getting that? Mr. Chaney
6 asked Santa Anita how big of a deal would it be if that, you
7 know, last week in December somehow got moved around a
8 little bit, and there was no real definitive or concrete
9 response other than everything should be on the table.
10 But, obviously, everyone is going to be paying very close
11 attention to the calendar, and hopefully there will be no
12 winners and losers.

13 But again, Mr. Chaney, I want to say thank you for
14 asking the list of questions that you did.

15 Following, The Stronach Group was Mr. Liebau from
16 Los Alamitos. I had mentioned to the group that Cathy Monji
17 had reached out to me, expressing her regrets that she
18 couldn't be here, otherwise she would have joined Mr.
19 Liebau. But Mr. Liebau did a, you know, good job of laying
20 out their commitments to the backstretch community in a way
21 of providing support, some renovations that were underway.
22 I believe a figure of a \$1 million was mentioned in terms of
23 backstretch improvements, which we all appreciate.

24 So, Jack, please give our regards and words of
25 support to Doc Allred.

1 Mr. Liebau did say that Los Alamitos deserves to
2 host the simulcast-only week preceding Del Mar, prompted by
3 a question from Scott to Liebau on -- it really had a lot to
4 do with about the financial stability and the feasibility of
5 that being possible.

6 In a follow-up, Liebau said closure of Golden Gate
7 Fields, which I asked about, as the Southern California
8 folks had the microphone, what their thoughts were, and I
9 believe that Mr. Liebau's comments about the importance of
10 Northern California racing, drawing on his years and years
11 of experience, was really welcome and I believe heartfelt,
12 so that really went a long way with the group.

13 What I would have to say in terms of the
14 management presentations that were made, every single team
15 echoed their support for Northern California racing,
16 stressing the importance, particularly of the breeding
17 community, the training, the trainers, and others who
18 contribute toward the vibrancy of Northern California, which
19 strengthens all of California.

20 We also had the opportunity to hear from key
21 stakeholder groups. TOC, with Mr. Nader, indicated that
22 it's been a long-standing TOC position to support Del Mar,
23 especially regarding the simulcast-only week. Mr. Nader
24 went on to say that replicating the current year for 2024 is
25 desirable in terms of race dates. And then we heard more

1 from Mr. Nader later on as it relates to Northern
2 California. But, again, we appreciate he and Mr. Fenton for
3 tracking things as closely as they are.

4 Mr. Balch, a very passionate presentation was
5 made. For those who had not seen, a letter was submitted to
6 this Board relating to some historical information, some
7 very forward-leaning and forward-thinking impressions of
8 what California racing should be about.

9 But also, one of the things that did stand out in
10 that letter was the CTT's desire that this Board not take
11 any action on any race dates until we have more information.

12 I believe that there was a feeling that because Del Mar is
13 hosting the Breeders' Cup, that maybe we just consider
14 approving Del Mar and then leave the rest kind of in
15 abeyance, but that will again be for this Board to
16 determine.

17 But again, Mr. Balch, thank you for speaking on
18 behalf of an important constituency, the training community.

19 As we focused on Northern California race dates,
20 at the head table was Larry Swartzlander of CARF,
21 accompanied by Becky of Sonoma, Becky Bartling of Sonoma,
22 Mr. Tom Martinez of Cal Expo, and they had Jerome Hoban from
23 Pleasanton. They also had a gentleman by the name of Louis
24 Brown, who is a consultant or attorney for CARF, gave a
25 pretty good presentation, all in all.

1 What stood out loud and clear is that the fair
2 managements indicated that the announcement of the closure
3 of Golden Gate Fields could not have come at a more
4 challenging time for them, probably the busiest time of the
5 year for all of the fairs. This literally is how they pay
6 their bills throughout the year.

7 For those who paid attention, the fairs, you know,
8 did undergo some trying and challenging circumstances during
9 COVID, but they persevered, and it looks like things were
10 back up and running, and by all accounts, ran very safe fair
11 racing. Left on the calendar is Ferndale, which starts this
12 weekend with the following week, and then the Fresno Fair in
13 October.

14 But each of the leaders from the fair gave their
15 verbal commitment to strengthening and continuing racing in
16 Northern California. Mr. Martinez, I believe, eloquently
17 said that they all have their boards. None of them can
18 really make unilateral decisions, that they have to go
19 through a process to make sure that they're getting the
20 necessary signatures and approvals, so that when they come
21 back before us, because the plan would be back in the
22 September CHRB meeting, that we are able to see a plan for
23 Northern California racing. But it was a very, I believe,
24 important presentation with what I would describe as a
25 unified voice of Northern California stakeholders.

1 And before I forget, there is a petition that has
2 been circulated amongst Northern California horse racing, it
3 looks like primarily owners and breeders and trainers, some
4 300-plus that all are interested in keeping Northern
5 California racing. So for those who took their time to sign
6 the petition, I think speak on behalf of this Board.
7 Engagement and involvement is always important, so we really
8 appreciate the voices being heard.

9 Scott asked several very important questions. I
10 don't want to get into too many of them right now, but
11 Scott, maybe when we go to some of the presentations here,
12 you could jump on in and answer them -- I mean, ask them
13 again.

14 Mr. Chris Schick was here on behalf of Watch and
15 Wager. He indicated that news reports about Cal Expo. You
16 know, the harness community considers Cal Expo home, but in
17 a very animated and passionate delivery expressed his
18 concerns about being unfairly treated as it relates to
19 moving them out, that is the harness community in place for
20 thoroughbreds.

21 But, you know, Mr. Schick just appreciated you
22 weighing in. You know, this is a Commission that is
23 committed to all of California racing, and not just the
24 north, not just the south, not just thoroughbreds, but all
25 racing, so we really appreciate you being here.

1 Commissioner Mitchell asked some really good questions,
2 primarily at The Stronach Group with Mr. Butler in mind,
3 wanting just to know, you know, just some of the more
4 procedural process kind of oriented things, also, along the
5 lines of, you know, how -- let me just make sure I get this
6 right, Commissioner Mitchell -- what needs to happen to keep
7 Golden Gate Fields open for an additional six months, I
8 think was the top line question that Ms. Mitchell asked.
9 And Mr. Butler went into some of the remarks that he had
10 given earlier in the day about what needs to happen.

11 So I just want to just wrap things up here.
12 Again, these are just some notes that staff and a few of us
13 helped pull together, a lot that I could have gone into. It
14 was overall, Mr. Chairman, about a two-hour and 45-minute
15 meeting.

16 I want to just say that there was public comment.
17 The two or three presenters really talked about, you know,
18 safety of horses and mentioned some numbers that are out
19 there that we all are working hard to correct in terms of
20 horse fatalities. But, you know, all in all, I thought it
21 was a productive conversation.

22 I made a comment towards the end that not only was
23 the Race Dates Committee meeting was like no other, but it
24 has implications beyond just 2024. We're talking about the
25 future of California racing, and we're also talking about

1 the impact that what we do here has, the impact that it has
2 nationally.

3 So, Mr. Chairman, that's a summary. I know it's
4 long, but it was a long meeting and we know how important
5 this is, so thanks for giving me the time to present.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much, Oscar.
7 Commissioner Castellanos, you're a Committee
8 Member. Do you have anything to add?

9 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes, sir. Thank you.
10 You know, I think this is for everybody that's in
11 the industry. We heard everything that was said yesterday,
12 and it was great. Everybody has an idea of working together
13 and doing what they got to do for the industry, but nobody
14 really came to us yesterday with a plan. We've had about a
15 month to figure this out, and everybody must have probably
16 got the same call that I got when this was going down.

17 And there's no secret in this room, I represent
18 labor. And the bottom line is, is that there's going to be
19 hundreds and hundreds of people that are going to be out of
20 work, and some of those are on conditional visas. They
21 can't work anywhere else unless they get authorized to work
22 somewhere else under those visas.

23 So my concern is the urgency. We are all about
24 the safety of the horses, all about safety of jockeys, all
25 about safety of everybody in this industry. But I think

1 everybody that is involved in this closure and everybody
2 that can participate, or everybody in this industry, should
3 be thinking, gee, how can we help everybody, all the way
4 from the horses all the way down to the backside?

5 And that's what didn't come across yesterday. I
6 get that you're all willing to work together, and that's
7 great. That's great. I've negotiated thousands of
8 contracts in my career. But let's show some urgency and
9 let's get something done. Something really needs to happen.

10 And from the questions I asked yesterday, not in
11 the meeting, I asked after it because I wanted to make sure
12 that I'm not out of line on anything, we can't force anybody
13 to do something that they don't want to do. All we do is
14 regulate and we apply and we can enforce the rules that we
15 put together. But from what I understand and what I was
16 told is that we can't force you, we can't dates on anybody.
17 You guys got to come up with this. Everybody has to come up
18 with their plan and put it together and then bring it to us.
19 And then we sit there and say, you know, hey, it looks good.
20 The whole thing is what is the best thing for the industry?
21 What is the best thing for the state? And then let's move
22 forward.

23 But there are a lot of people that is going to be
24 out of work that cannot go anywhere else. That was not
25 mentioned yesterday. There was very little mention of that

1 yesterday. And I think that needs to be addressed because
2 we need to put something together that can help those people
3 go elsewhere.

4 And I promised Scott that I would keep it clean.
5 And I did pretty good. I did pretty good, didn't I?
6 Alright.

7 But look, I appreciate all of you, and I've worked
8 with most of you in other ways, and I really do. But I
9 really -- there's a sense of urgency that I didn't see
10 yesterday about what we need done so that we can make sure
11 either keep full racing in the north as far as thoroughbreds
12 or not. But I think there's no -- everybody wants to work
13 together, I'm repeating myself, but everybody wants to work
14 together, but nothing came to us yesterday as far as a plan.

15 I suggest as an industry, get together, figure it
16 out. I really do. I plead that let's figure this out. And
17 if you need our help, please, let us know and we'll go ahead
18 and help.

19 But that's my two cents. Thank you very much.
20 And again, I appreciate all of you, but let's show some
21 urgency on this. Thanks.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Well said, Damascus.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell, you have
24 comments?

25 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I would just echo

1 Commissioner Castellanos and Commissioner Gonzales's
2 comments. I think we're really -- this is -- I've been on
3 this Board four years now, and we're really at a crossroads
4 more so than I think we've been in my time here, and I'm
5 very concerned.

6 And I also really appreciated the comments
7 yesterday from the new head of the TOC about not setting up
8 false expectations for workers and creating a scenario where
9 we can, you know, drag this out to make everyone feel good,
10 but at the end of the day, you know, not really solve the
11 problem in a substantive way that is realistic for what we
12 have to do.

13 So I agree, I mean, we need to show some
14 leadership, get it together. It is an urgent -- it is more
15 urgent than it's ever been to have the industry stay in
16 California. So I look forward to folks stepping up and
17 showing a sense of urgency and coming up with a solution
18 that's going to work for everybody, and particularly the
19 workers, so thank you.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

21 Any other Commissioners wish to comment? None?

22 Since public comment was taken yesterday on this
23 item and there is no decision to be made today, no vote, so
24 there will be no public comment on this item.

25 We'll move on to item number four, which is

1 discussion and action by the Board on Southern California
2 2024 race state solutions.

3 Mr. Chaney, do you want to comment first?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Nothing specific. As
5 part of the Board packet, the submissions from the Southern
6 California tracks are part of it. There was some
7 discussion, obviously, that Vice Chairman Gonzales talked
8 about with respect to allocation of weeks. And then there
9 was also some discussion about whether it's proper to even
10 allocate those weeks given the uncertainty in Northern
11 California.

12 So at this point, it's really up to the Board.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Alright. As Mr. Gonzales
14 mentioned, we had a two and a half hour discussion
15 yesterday. Many of you made some rather elaborate
16 presentations, some elegant, some not so elegant, but we
17 heard it all.

18 So in the interest of getting things done today,
19 I'm going to ask each of the stakeholders in this room to
20 come forward, and in 25 words or less, I want to know what
21 it is you want. That's the only question. What is it that
22 you want? So each of you, please come forward, tell us what
23 you want, and then we'll try to solve this problem, at least
24 for Southern California for 2024.

25 So can we start with Del Mar as we usually do?

1 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Good morning, Commissioners.
2 Josh Rubenstein, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. Does that count
3 as my 25 words?

4 As the Vice Chair said, we are, for our summer
5 meet, are looking for exactly what the Board has allocated
6 to Del Mar for the last four years. That would be a nine-
7 week allocation, eight weeks of racing with a dark week
8 prior to our summer season.

9 For our fall meet, we are requesting a five week
10 season. That's one additional week as we've been granted
11 for the last two years. And that is due to Del Mar being
12 awarded the Breeders' Cup in 2024.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?

14 Thank you.

15 Santa Anita?

16 MR. NEWBY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Nate
17 Newby, Santa Anita.

18 Our request is for a very similar calendar to this
19 last couple of years, 31 weeks, kicking off December 26th
20 with our opening day, and running through June 18th for the
21 main meet. And then it will go from a six-week autumn meet
22 to a five-week autumn meet, as we discussed yesterday, due
23 to Del Mar hosting Breeders' Cup. And then we would like to
24 come back as hosts on December 18th leading into our opening
25 day.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

2 Los Alamitos?

3 MR. LIEBAU: Yes, Los Alamitos.

4 I think the only issue that there is with respect
5 to the Southern California dates is the allocation of the
6 simulcast-only week. This was discussed, maybe it was 11
7 months ago, maybe it was 12 months ago, in Sacramento. And
8 really not much has changed since then, and our arguments
9 are the same, and we would appreciate that week being
10 allocated to Los Al.

11 I'd just like to say one thing about Northern
12 California, and that is my roots are in Northern California.
13 As I said, I work at the Sonoma County Fair and the Solano
14 County Fair, and we wish them luck, but Los Al stands ready
15 to do whatever it can to help alleviate this problem. Just
16 if various stakeholders advise us as to how we can help,
17 we're there.

18 Thank you very much.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Jack.

20 CTT?

21 MR. BALCH: Alan Balch, California Thoroughbred
22 Trainers.

23 We believe the entire state is interdependent. We
24 welcomed The Stronach Group's suggestion yesterday, not only
25 that they would consider extending Northern California at

1 Golden Gate, but they supported additional racing in the
2 future in Northern California after the closure of Golden
3 Gate.

4 Since the state is integrated, because horses run
5 both places, we strongly urge this Board not to allocate
6 Southern California dates, given the pendency of potential
7 legislation and for many other reasons, until all the
8 stakeholders can get together as was suggested yesterday by
9 Mr. Butler.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: TOC?

12 MR. NADER: Bill Nader, TOC.

13 Chairman, I think it was in the opening remarks
14 that TOC's longstanding position has been to support Del Mar
15 in the summer dark week. And we also believe that the
16 absence of insight in knowing what the north might look like
17 didn't really influence the South.

18 So it would be prudent, I think, to award the
19 dates for the South today to give, really, the rest of the
20 country some clarity and completeness that California is
21 still strong and has a vision leading into 2024.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: And in regard to the disputed dark
23 week between Los Al and Del Mar, where is the TOC's position
24 on that?

25 MR. NADER: The TOC, and again, this is my first

1 year, but I've been aware that it has been a longstanding
2 position to support Del Mar, as the flagship meeting for
3 California and the counterpart for Saratoga in the East,
4 that's what Del Mar is to the West. And we thought to
5 secure that position for Del Mar and to maintain
6 competitiveness, especially when we don't have, you know,
7 secondary streams of income to be able to attract and
8 recruit horses to the flagship meet, TOC supported Del Mar.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

10 MR. NADER: Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Larry, do you want to make a
12 comment, even though you must have some interest in these
13 dates?

14 MR. SWARTZLANDER: Yeah. Larry Swartzlander,
15 Executive Director of CARF. Just simple comments.

16 I see no reason not to award Del Mar their dates.
17 But in lieu of Aidan's comments yesterday about extending
18 Golden Gate's dates through June, CARF would like to have an
19 opportunity to enter those discussions to see how they
20 impact on dates in both the north and south. So I would ask
21 that Santa Anita dates to be held until the September Board
22 meeting.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

24 Do Commissioners have some comments/questions?

25 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: I do. I have a

1 question.

2 So my question would be, I guess, to Scott. My
3 question would be, if these Southern dates get approved and
4 we move forward with them and something in the north gets
5 decided later on and that happens to or may affect the
6 South, is there a problem with us going back and revisiting
7 that?

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: The short answer is,
9 no, and then I'll give a longer one.

10 This happened a fair amount during the pandemic
11 when obviously times were changing fairly quickly. So the
12 Board did reallocate dates on several different occasions.
13 So you could always revisit it. Obviously, it's not a great
14 look because, you know, tracks have business plans and
15 marketing plans and like to, you know, plan for the future.
16 And so, you know, switching is not ideal, but certainly
17 within the power of the Board.

18 Secondarily, the second lever you have is in terms
19 of awarding a race meet license. So even if a track has,
20 you know, allocated dates, it doesn't automatically give
21 them a racing license when that comes around.

22 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Thank you.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other Commissioners?

24 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes. Great.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Tom?

2 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I have a question for the
3 Vice Chairman. It's my recollection, and correct me if I'm
4 wrong, sir, that a year ago now you were in favor of -- you
5 suggested a change in the allocation of the dark week so
6 that Los Al would have the opportunity to benefit from that.
7 Is that recollection correct?

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, there was some
9 discussion of that prior to that particular meeting that
10 you're referencing.

11 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yeah.

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Scott and I had met with Mr.
13 Liebau, heard their rationale, really understanding that the
14 numbers at Del Mar were improving. So, yeah, there was some
15 consideration.

16 I believe that there has been some changes. Not
17 only was the Breeders Cup not, at that time, not known that
18 it was going to be awarded to Del Mar next year.

19 But, also, one other thing that I believe has
20 changed is just really where we're at now. And I think we
21 were talking stability in the South, I believe it also has
22 to include trying to go with what's correct.

23 So, yes, your recollection is correct, but I
24 believe that things have changed since then.

25 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: And we did award a dark week

1 to Los Al, did we not?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: You did not. You mean
3 in calendar year 2024 or --

4 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: No, the year just finishing.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: We did not.

6 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Didn't we? I thought we
7 did.

8 I have a comment, though, on Commissioner
9 Castellanos' excellent point. We can't force dates on
10 anybody, but we can withhold them. And I think there is
11 some merit in the suggestion of the California Thoroughbred
12 Trainers to avoid giving -- awarding any dates right now.
13 And the dates are the carrot, and the stick we have is not
14 awarding them, pending people getting their collective acts
15 together, as several of you have spoken to this morning.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Very good.

17 Martha Sullivan of San Diego, would you like to
18 make a comment, please?

19 MS. SULLIVAN: I'd like to welcome the Board back
20 to Southern California for your first meeting here in 2023.
21 Given that we can no longer comment remotely, this is the
22 only opportunity we have to comment in the meetings now.

23 For context, I want to convey that this Board has
24 reported eight racehorse fatalities for Golden Gate Field so
25 far this year, down from nine reported there at this point

1 last year. Seven racehorse fatalities at fair racetracks so
2 far this year, the same number reported there at this point
3 last year. These fatality reports are in sharp contrast to
4 those of the So Cal tracks, with Santa Anita having an 89
5 percent increase in fatalities at this point over this point
6 last year, and Del Mar having a 67 percent increase over
7 this point last year. Los Al actually is having one more
8 fatality reported so far this year, as at the same point in
9 2022, at 12 versus 11, although the increase from 2021 to
10 2023 is 50 percent.

11 In short, The Stronach Group is seeking to
12 consolidate racing in the part of the state where fatalities
13 are on the rise in 2023 versus Northern California, where
14 they have at least stayed at the same level. Which should
15 this Board be rewarding?

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Heather Wilson.

18 MS. WILSON: Good morning.

19 Everyone knows that racehorses are typically
20 trafficked from south to north, not the other way around.
21 And this is, of course, is discussed in the meeting packet,
22 and I quote,

23 "Also, if a number of horses did ship from the north as
24 a result of the closing of Golden Gate, they would most
25 likely take advantage of the opportunity to then run at

1 Los Al. In fact, the opportunity to compete at Los Al
2 might constitute a further enticement for horses to
3 ship from the north to the south."

4 In other words, the Golden Gate horses are not
5 good enough to run at Del Mar and Santa Anita. These top
6 tier tracks do not want the leftovers from Golden Gate.
7 This is evidenced by Dr. Ferraro's quote in a recent *L.A.*
8 *Times* article,

9 "No more than 20 percent of the horses would qualify to
10 race in the south. I don't think there is much support
11 for \$5,000 claimers down there."

12 So callously referring to buying or claiming
13 horses like they're cheap race cars. We know that a \$5,000
14 claimer is the bottom of the barrel.

15 Next, I do hope that you allocate less dates for
16 racing in 2024 because your industry is clearly contracting.
17 There is no more racing at Bay Meadows, Hollywood Park, and
18 soon to be Golden Gate. No more fair racing at the L.A.
19 County Fair in Pomona, Solano Racetrack in Vallejo, San
20 Joaquin County Fair in Stockton, and the San Mateo County
21 Fair, which used to race at Bay Meadows. So when
22 considering the smaller fields, less racetracks, less
23 racing, and public opinion turning against racing, this
24 warrants less racing dates, not more.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

1 Bonnie Crocker?

2 MS. CROKER: Thank you and good morning.

3 I would advise that you do not set any race dates
4 for 2024 in light of the 28 percent spike in horses killed
5 for gambling in 2023. That number is 50 CHRB-reported
6 horses killed so far in California this year as compared to
7 39 CHRB reported horse deaths at this point in 2022. There
8 are four dead so far in just August, all but one of these
9 killed at Del Mar. No legitimate sport would tolerate this
10 many deaths of its athletes in just one state.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

13 In looking out here, I see several industry
14 members that maybe don't represent the major tracks. If
15 there's an industry person who wants to make a comment,
16 now's your chance. Anyone?

17 If not, can we have a little discussion with the
18 Board? I think the first thing we need to decide is whether
19 we want to allocate the dates for 2024 this month or not.
20 So should we do that in the form of a motion and see where
21 it goes? And then we can talk about how to allocate the
22 dates.

23 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move that we defer
24 allocation of race dates throughout California until our
25 next meeting.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have a second for that
2 motion? No second?

3 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: It dies without a second.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Sorry, Tom.

5 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: That's alright.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, so we are going to award the
7 dates. So to make it simple, up or down, I'm going to start
8 off by making a motion that we allocate the dates for 2024
9 in the exact replication of the dates we awarded for 2023
10 with the exception of the one week for Del Mar for the
11 Breeders' Cup.

12 Do I have a second?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll second.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Really quickly, just
15 to be clear, you'll be allocating Quarter Horse racing as
16 well.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Right.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: That seems to be kind
19 of lost, but that is Southern California racing, so it would
20 be 12/20/23 to 12/24/24.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Okay.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Right.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, if I can also
25 add, just since we're in a discussion period, just so we're

1 all mindful that not only can we hold an emergency meeting
2 if necessary, under Senate Bill 469, we can stop racing if
3 we ever see necessary. And we can also, when licenses,
4 individual licenses come up, we can adopt them or shorten
5 them. I mean, we have a lot of latitude as a Board.

6 So it's among the reasons that I intend to vote
7 for Southern California racing dates, knowing that this
8 Board has been empowered by the state legislature and our
9 own creativity on the part of understanding that licenses
10 just are not to be accompanied by a rubber stamp, that
11 there's thoughtfulness, there's conditions and stipulations
12 that we add to that.

13 So in allocating Southern California racing dates,
14 I believe we are just going to be paying very, very close
15 attention to see how things unfold here over the next few
16 weeks and months.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Well said. Can I have your vote?

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes, sir.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Castellanos?

20 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Hudnut?

22 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: No.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Mitchell?

24 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Alfieri?

1 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes. Okay,
3 there you go.

4 Moving on to item number five, discussion and
5 action by the Board on the Application for a License to
6 Conduct a Horse Race Meeting of the Los Angeles Turf Club at
7 Santa Anita, commencing September 27th, 2023, through
8 November 7th, 2023, inclusive.

9 MR. SINDLER: Good morning. This is Eric Sindler
10 on behalf of the Los Angeles Turf Club II. I'm accompanied
11 by our General Manager, Nate Newby, and our Racing
12 Secretary, Jason Egan.

13 We are applying for our license for September 27th
14 through November 7th, 2023. As is noted in the staff
15 analysis, the license is complete, and all requirements have
16 been met. So we seek your approval, and Nate is going to
17 give an overview of our meeting.

18 MR. NEWBY: Thanks, Eric.

19 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and esteemed
20 Commissioners and staff. We're very much looking forward to
21 the auto meet. It's a busy six weeks, ending with, of
22 course, the Breeders' Cup World Championships, the 40th
23 running, and the 11th, record 11th time that Santa Anita's
24 hosted. It's not only an extremely important event for the
25 horse racing community, but also to local businesses. It's

1 over \$100 million economic impact to local businesses in the
2 community, so it's really important and we're proud to host
3 it for a record 11th time.

4 With six weeks, we jump right in. The racing
5 highlights, over the first two weekends, we actually run 16
6 stakes races. So Jason can answer any questions on that,
7 but we're hoping for a strong contingent from around the
8 country and, quite frankly, around the world coming in to
9 prep for the Breeders' Cup and running those 16 stakes
10 opportunities.

11 We have a busy marketing plan, events and
12 promotions planned every single race day, every weekend,
13 packed with events, promotions, handicapping contests,
14 chances to qualify for the Breeders' Cup betting challenge.
15 So it will be a busy six weeks starting off right away.

16 We have summer projects that we're completing, a
17 couple that fans will see on opening day in September. We
18 have two new big-screens in the paddock that will debut, so
19 it'll be a great improvement to the customer experience for
20 fans watching the races from the paddock, so those will be
21 ready on opening day. And then some other improvements
22 around the facility that get us ready to host, you know,
23 probably right around 100,000 people over two days for
24 Breeders' Cup, so new escalators, things like that. We're
25 upgrading Top of Stretch for -- breakfast area for the

1 Breeders' Cup participants coming in.

2 So it's been a busy summer, and we're looking
3 forward to showing off the great race place later this
4 season. We're happy to answer any questions. And Jason's
5 here to answer any detailed racing questions.

6 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Here's a chance to see if we
7 can do more than just rubber stamp some dates.

8 There were a number of representations made at the
9 time the announcement came out that Golden Gate was being
10 closed about what was going to be done to improve things at
11 Santa Anita. You've just referred to a couple of them, but
12 the laundry list was longer than that, so I think we'd like
13 an update, particularly with respect to the backstretch.
14 And any comments you all on behalf of ST1 would like to make
15 on your plans for backstretch workers in Northern
16 California, we'd appreciate hearing that too, so fire away.

17 MR. NEWBY: Sure, no, absolutely. The capital
18 projects I was speaking about, those are projects that have
19 been planned and in place, you know, in the past year or
20 two, so that was not included in what we just announced,
21 what, two weeks ago.

22 It's been a busy two weeks since we announced
23 that. We have had several meetings, not only with the City
24 of Arcadia, advancing in the permit process with vendors,
25 contractors, engineers, the major projects, which of course

1 you know about, would be the new turf chute, the Tapeta
2 track on the training track and the barn area, which is a
3 massive project, and that'll be a multi-year project. We
4 have more meetings and engineers out in the next several
5 weeks to finalize, possibly permitted and started later this
6 year or certainly early next year. So those projects are
7 all moving forward.

8 We're working with stakeholders on timing. For
9 example, the training track installing the Tapeta, we'll
10 know probably in the next two weeks whether that will happen
11 later in November, or if the process is looking longer,
12 we're going to talk to stakeholders and basically whether or
13 not they want to live without the training track during some
14 of our seasons. So that's, I think, a decision we want
15 input in from all sides that affects everybody, but that
16 project will be completed in the next year.

17 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I don't believe you
18 mentioned the therapy pool for horses.

19 MR. NEWBY: We had a meeting on that yesterday.
20 We're looking at locations for that, so there's several
21 places that it may go. And then we're also putting bids out
22 for vendors. So we're actually -- there's a little bit of a
23 shortage on equine pool vendors, so if anybody knows
24 anybody, please reach out to me. We're looking for those
25 now, but that's another project that's moving forward.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: A couple of things that,
2 basically, you're telling us, that none of the talked-about
3 improvements are probably going to happen before the end of
4 your meet, fall meet; correct?

5 MR. NEWBY: Oh, yeah, yeah, by November. I think
6 the projects that I spoke about leading up to Breeders' Cup,
7 the team is pretty much maxed out getting the facility ready
8 to host 100,000 people for Breeders' Cup, and then the
9 projects will start just right after that first week in
10 November.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. My other comment is if you
12 care to talk to Dr. Blea and myself, we would cast some
13 negative light on this pool idea, so I'd appreciate it if
14 you'd consult with us before you actually make the move
15 forward. I think you're making a mistake, so we can discuss
16 that later.

17 Any other comments from the Board?

18 Public comment, Michael?

19 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Chair Ferraro, I was just
20 going to say while she's coming up, I really appreciate how
21 the applications come in complete now. It's amazing how
22 people can be trained to do the right thing. And when
23 Chairman Ferraro asked everyone to give you what you wanted
24 on dates and less than 25 words, everyone mostly complied,
25 so again, nice work. Maybe, you know, the Subcommittee let

1 everyone get out their emotions yesterday and over-talking,
2 and today we can be effective and move forward.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have any industry
4 stakeholders that want to make a comment on this, first of
5 all? None?

6 Can we start with Darrell Haire?

7 MR. HAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman,
8 members of the Commission, I'm the Western Regional Manager
9 for the Jockeys' Guild, and I'm a partner and supporter of
10 the California Horse Power Coalition.

11 We all know that over the last few years, the
12 California horse racing industry has made significant
13 changes to its practice to ensure equine athletes are safe
14 and healthy. The results are clear.

15 In 2022, California tracks were ranked among the
16 safest race tracks in North America, more than two times
17 safer than the national average. Santa Anita Park set the
18 United States standard in 2022 as the safest track in the
19 country, improving their safety record by 77 percent over
20 the last three years. In fact, the 89 percent increase
21 mentioned earlier is, in fact, a count of three, and none of
22 the three fatalities that represent this increase were due
23 to racing or training injuries. In fact, musculoskeletal
24 fatalities at Santa Anita decreased by 30 percent since last
25 year.

1 Those numbers demonstrate that we are protecting
2 horses from harm through the many safety improvements we
3 have made to the tracks, diagnostic technology, regulations
4 around medication, and increased veterinary monitoring.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

7 Oscar de la Torre.

8 MR. DE LA TORRE: Good morning, Chairman Ferraro,
9 Executive Director Chaney, and Commissioners. Thank you for
10 your service.

11 My name is Oscar de la Torre. Since 2019, I've
12 had the privilege and honor to work with some of the hardest
13 working people in this industry, the backstretch workers.
14 It must be acknowledged that allocated race dates at any
15 racetrack throughout our state represents jobs and economic
16 opportunity for thousands of working families.

17 In California, since 2019, there has been a 50
18 percent decrease in accidental horse racing fatalities. We
19 should all be proud of that fact.

20 Right across from this hotel is the Del Mar
21 Racetrack, a racetrack operated by the DMTC that has been
22 recognized for many years in a row as one of the safest
23 racetracks for horse safety in the country. Del Mar and
24 DMTC has shown that safer horse racing is possible.

25 There are approximately 3,700 workers at the

1 racetrack across the street here at Del Mar. The economic
2 benefit extends beyond the racetrack. Here at the Hilton,
3 the Del Mar Hilton, many workers benefit from horse racing
4 and live racing, many restaurants, small businesses in the
5 local economy. This represents jobs that families depend on
6 to feed their families, and so it's very important to
7 acknowledge that.

8 I just want to thank you all for all your hard
9 work, for the progress that we're making in horse racing
10 here in the state of California, for your guidance, for your
11 due diligence, for your responsibility. Many people depend
12 on you. Many people depend on the work that we are doing
13 here in the state. As we all know, the state of California
14 is having an impact nationwide in terms of horse safety
15 reform. We should be proud of that fact.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

18 Bonnie Croker?

19 MS. CROKER: Do not grant a racing meet license
20 for the L.A. Turf Club at Santa Anita. The track's owners
21 have become the textbook definition of ruthless and insane.
22 Of course, the entire horse racing industry is characterized
23 by ruthlessness and insanity, but The Stronach Group is
24 leading the industry's descent into infernal disintegration,
25 along with the suddenly announced closure of Golden Gate

1 Fields, which will hurl 1,000 or more workers into
2 bankruptcy and thousands of horses into danger of losing
3 their lives.

4 The Stronachs are throwing \$31.7 million into
5 keeping the dying sport of horse racing alive in Southern
6 California. While they attempt to resuscitate the industry,
7 they will be sinking approximately \$2.5 million into another
8 horse-killing Turk horse at Santa Anita.

9 The new course will go uphill but will still cross
10 the deadly dirt track that has injured countless horses and
11 killed many, such as Arms Runner, who died on 03/31/19 in
12 Race 4 on the downhill turf. He fell on the dirt crossing
13 and was euthanized for a catastrophic injury. Another horse
14 named La Cerdane (phonetic) fell over Arms Runner on the
15 dirt. Recently, on 02/11/23, Decorated My Life in Race 9 on
16 the downhill course for three-year-old fillies fell on the
17 dirt crossing, dumped her rider and was euthanized.

18 Instead of allowing the Stronachs to terrorize
19 your industry, as well as horses, why don't you deny these
20 lunatics racing meet opportunities on their deadly track?

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

23 Heather Wilson?

24 MS. WILSON: There is a well-established pattern
25 of horse trafficking in the racing industry. Horses go from

1 track to track and state to state. In California, they
2 start out at the Southland tracks, which are top tier, Santa
3 Anita, Del Mar. Then they run at Los Al Thoroughbreds.
4 From Los Alamitos, they go to Northern California, the soon-
5 to-be-defunct Golden Gate, and then the Northern California
6 Fairs. But now with Golden Gate and Turf Paradise closing
7 down, where will all these horses go? There are now fewer
8 dumping ground options for the Santa Anita horses. They
9 don't come back to Santa Anita.

10 Now let's talk about a three-year-old bay colt
11 named Havnameltdown. He was trained by Bob Baffert, and as
12 is typical, he started out at Del Mar and then Santa Anita.
13 He earned over \$700,000 for his captors in just seven
14 starts. He was then trafficked. That was his reward. He
15 was trafficked across the Atlantic Ocean for over 8,000
16 miles to run in Saudi Arabia. He then came back to the
17 United States to run one more time at another Stronach-owned
18 meet grinder, the Pimlico Racecourse, where he was killed at
19 Preakness on 05/20/23.

20 Allowing this racing license is allowing horse
21 trafficking. Horses are continuously shuffled in and around
22 Santa Anita, and they are treated like commodities, not like
23 living, breathing, magnificent, iconic creatures.

24 When you love an animal, you don't enter them into
25 races where they can be catastrophically injured, and you

1 don't allow them to be trafficked.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 Helen Ericksen?

4 MS. ERICKSEN: Good morning, Commissioners. Thank
5 you for letting us be present today.

6 There are dozens of missing horses every year for
7 which you refuse to answer about. Are these horses dead or
8 alive? No workouts or races posted since these horses last
9 know whereabouts at Santa Anita.

10 Colt Spun Intended, last seen in Santa Anita
11 January 8, 2023, pulled up, vanned off, replay video
12 butchered, placed on your vet list as unsound.

13 A gelding Magnificent Ride, last seen at Santa
14 Anita January 20, 2023, placed third, vanned off, put on
15 your Board as unsound.

16 Filly Rylan Jayne, last seen in Santa Anita
17 January 20, 2023, pulled up, walked off, did not finish.

18 There have been 17 racehorse fatalities reported
19 at Santa Anita Park so far this year by the Board, an 89
20 percent increase over the desk reported at this point last
21 year. This shocking increase in racehorse deaths should not
22 be rewarded by a race meet license.

23 Do not grant a race meet license to Santa Anita
24 for September 27 through November 7. If this racing license
25 is approved, more horses will go missing and unaccounted

1 for.

2 Every meeting, we always have to remind this Board
3 that it is your job to oversee the welfare and well-being of
4 these horses. And yet, even when asked, there's a big
5 cover-up. You cannot even answer a very simple question, if
6 these horses are dead or alive.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

9 Martha Sullivan?

10 MS. SULLIVAN: Apparently, jockeys have a problem
11 with math. Nine fatalities reported for Santa Anita by this
12 Board last year at this point. Seventeen have been reported
13 so far this year. That's an 89 percent increase, regardless
14 of whatever wishful math the jockeys are doing.

15 I also want to ask, well, not ask, comment on
16 Commissioner Hudnut's question about improvements to the
17 backstretch, which I assume is for backstretch workers.
18 That question was not answered. And as I understand it, the
19 willful inadequacy of backstretch housing at Santa Anita has
20 been an issue since the elder Stronach brought it back in
21 like 1999. And, really, no significant or substantive
22 improvements have been made to it.

23 So I laud the discussion earlier about, you know,
24 planning for the transition of workers out of Northern
25 California. It was acknowledged in media reports that

1 housing at Santa Anita is a factor in that but there's been
2 absolute silence about that.

3 Instead, we're talking about turf shoots and, you
4 know, a Tapeta training track, and other improvements for
5 the attendees of the Breeders' Cup, which I want to just say
6 the Breeders' Cup is the party on the Titanic before you hit
7 the iceberg. That's what's going on with that. So party
8 hardy. The iceberg's coming.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

10 Any comments or further questions from the Board?

11 Oh, sorry, Cliff. I didn't see you there.

12 MR. GOODRICH: No, my apologies. I was too late
13 for the sign-up sheet. My name is Cliff Goodrich. I
14 represent the California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation.

15 As most people in the audience know, and as Oscar
16 referenced, we service -- we provide healthcare services to
17 over well over 1,000 workers and their families in the state
18 of California. And on this license application, whenever
19 there's discussions of denying the application, that would
20 obviously directly affect thousands of workers and their
21 families if that were to be the case.

22 Free speech is one of the great things this
23 country holds dear. And while I guess I don't respect, I
24 listen to the very passionate and well-intentioned people
25 that care about the safety of horses. When they start

1 talking about ruthlessness and insanity and lunacy --

2 MS. MS. WILSON: That's a violation of Bagley-
3 Keene. He needs to address the Board and not the other
4 speakers in the audience.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead, Cliff.

6 MR. GOODRICH: I hope that doesn't represent, in
7 fact, I know it doesn't represent this Board or the people
8 in the industry.

9 California is the gold standard for this country.
10 Would we like to get to zero in injuries? Absolutely. Are
11 we ever going to get there? No one knows, but no state is
12 trying harder, no state is more transparent. Anybody has
13 the right and can get up and cite individual statistics.
14 But in the broad picture, looking year after year, no state
15 can claim the reductions in injuries and fatalities as this
16 state can. No state is as transparent as this state.

17 I laud the Board and the industry for all the
18 efforts they are making. And to deny this license would be
19 a travesty, not only for the well-intentioned tracks and
20 horsemen, but for the backstretch workers who are totally
21 dependent upon the survival of this industry, so thank you.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

23 Can I entertain a motion from the Board?

24 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellanos motion.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Second?

1 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Second.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

3 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

5 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Oscar Gonzales?

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

9 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell?

11 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

13 Thank you very much, gentlemen. Have a good meet.

14 Item number six, discussion and action by the

15 Board on the Application for a License to Conduct a Horse

16 Race Meeting of the Los Alamitos Horse Racing Association at

17 Los Alamitos Race Course, commencing September 13th, 2023,

18 through September 26th, 2023, inclusive.

19 Mr. Liebau?

20 MR. LIEBAU: Yes. The only changes in our

21 application has to do with our stakes races, which there are

22 four of them that we're having in a two-week period.

23 There's the E.B. Johnston, that's the cow bread race that

24 will stand as reported in the application. The other three,

25 the Dark Mirage, the Los Al Special, and the Compote

1 (phonetic), those purses for those races will be raised
2 through the personal funds of Dr. Allred. The Dark Mirage
3 will go to \$125,000, provided it has six starters, as the
4 Los Al Special and the Compote will go to \$100,000. And
5 again, those are not funds generated through wagering, but
6 are directly from Dr. Allred.

7 The other change is that on the backside right now
8 under construction is a project to upgrade bathrooms, wash
9 racks, everything that can possibly be done. We think the
10 estimated cost is \$1 million.

11 We would appreciate very much the passage and
12 award of our dates for this meet.

13 Just as an aside to the staff, with respect to the
14 dates that were just passed for -- just adopted for 2024,
15 could we get some precise dates out rather than --

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, we'll follow up with that.

17 MR. LIEBAU: That would be great. Thank you very
18 much.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board for
20 Mr. Liebau, anybody?

21 Bonnie Croker?

22 MS. CROKER: Do not grant a new race meet license
23 for Los Alamitos race course. Twelve racehorse fatalities
24 at Los Al have been reported so far in 2023 by this Board,
25 compared to 11 reported there by this point last year and 8

1 by this point in 2021, which equals a 50 percent increase in
2 reported Los Alamitos kills in 2021.

3 In addition to reported horse fatalities at Los
4 Al, there are chronically numerous horses who sustain race-
5 related injuries, then appear on CHRB vet lists, then
6 disappear from public records. For example, a four-year-old
7 filly named Lovely Evening. On January 1st, 2023, she
8 flipped over in the starting gate just before the start of
9 Race 9. The subsequent vet list stated gate injury. As of
10 08/12/23, Lovely Evening is missing from public record.

11 Another example of injured then missing horses at
12 Los Al is a four-year-old gelding named Fort Bridger. On
13 February 4th, 2023, he placed third in Race 7 and was banned
14 off following the race. The subsequent vet list stated he
15 was unsound. He is missing from public record as of
16 08/12/23.

17 According to HISA, the Horse Raising Integrity and
18 Safety Authority, specifically its Whereabouts Program, all
19 horses under HISA's jurisdiction are to be accounted for at
20 all times. If a horse is moved to a private facility,
21 responsible persons need to submit a whereabouts filing to
22 HISA.

23 I believe the CHRB should be responsible for
24 collecting HISA whereabouts filings as part of the racing
25 license application package. No racetrack should be granted

1 a license to race unless they have submitted such
2 documentation.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

5 Heather Wilson?

6 MS. WILSON: Regarding the Los Alamitos racing
7 license, from the April 20th, 2023 meeting, Item Number 5,
8 Discussion and Action on the Amendment to CHRB Rule 1902,
9 Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing to Penalize Licensee
10 Involvement in Non-Recognized Match Racing, Mr. Chaney
11 stated,

12 "I want to thank Los Alamitos. Dr. Allred, Kathy
13 Monji, and Jack Liebau have been really engaged in this
14 for a number of years."

15 More like they have known about this for a number
16 of years and done nothing.

17 Ed Allred's horses continue to be photographed at
18 these illegal tracks. So what are you thanking him for?

19 Jocks continue to race at Rancho Los Alamos and
20 Los Alamitos in plain sight. They're not even trying to
21 hide it. And since this April 20th meeting, photos have
22 been posted of three Los Alamitos jocks in one race, Johnny
23 Roman, Jose Nicasio, Cesar Franco, all in one race at Rancho
24 Los Alamos. Then there were additional photos of Johnny
25 Roman, Jose Nicasio, and Armando Viramontes, all regular Los

1 Al jockeys.

2 On the same date, there are photos posted of an
3 Allred-bred horse taken by Precision Photo Finish, a big
4 photographer and videographer of these illegal match races.
5 And then there was another photo of an Allred bred horse by
6 Fuerza Carriera (phonetic). More pics of Jose Nicasio
7 posted on 07/31/23, and more Allred horses were posted just
8 this month.

9 Approval of this license is approving of match
10 racing. You are fully aware of Los Alamitos working closely
11 with at least one huge illegal track, Rancho Los Alamos.

12 Perhaps you all should look at CHRB Rule 1901
13 regarding conflict of interest.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

15 Ellen Ericksen?

16 MS. ERICKSEN: Many more horses will go missing if
17 racing license is approved for Los Alamitos. How many of
18 these Los Alamitos horses end up at illegal bush tracks that
19 you have known about for so many years?

20 On March 4, 2023, mare Italian Lovesong was last
21 seen at Los Alamitos, pulled up, did not finish, and vanned
22 off.

23 On April 8, 2023, gelding Above the Law, is said
24 to have taken a bad step, whatever that means, and then
25 vanned off.

1 Where did these horses go? Were they euthanized
2 at the same clinic as Tap the Wire, so now you don't have to
3 report on them?

4 Do you think that people just forget about these
5 horses at this track and others in California? We are here
6 to keep reminding you that you cannot hide their deaths.
7 We're never going to stop talking about these horses until
8 you become accountable in where they are.

9 Please do not grant a new race meet license for
10 Los Alamitos.

11 In regards to the last gentleman that spoke, as
12 far as California being a safe place for horses, I have a
13 list of about 80 horses that have gone missing since 2020 to
14 2022, and 31 of them are still missing in action for Los
15 Alamitos. When are we going to find out where these horses
16 are?

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

18 Martha Sullivan, please.

19 MS. SULLIVAN: Fatalities are going in the wrong
20 direction in this state. You've heard the percentages. Los
21 Alamitos is 50 percent increase from 2021 to 2023. This is
22 the wrong trajectory. Overall, yes, you decreased deaths,
23 and I commend you for that. That's an important
24 accomplishment.

25 Yes, Mr. Chaney, I can compliment the Board. It

1 would be nice to get that in return sometime, since it's our
2 persistent voices that contributed to that accomplishment.

3 No legitimate sport would tolerate the deaths of
4 50 of its athletes in a single season, eight months gone.
5 Regardless of your accomplishments in reducing the prior
6 horrific death rates, that's a fact. This is not a sport.
7 It's an industry that commodifies horses for gambling. No
8 noble cause for gambling.

9 And we know that 90 percent of horse fractures
10 resulting in their deaths are the result of repetitive
11 injuries from scientific research. It's indefensible to
12 continue to racehorses, knowing that, for gambling.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

15 If there's no further comments or discussion from
16 the Board, can we entertain a motion, please?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: So move.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Second?

19 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell?

21 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

23 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

2 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

4 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes. Thank you
6 very much.

7 Moving on -- good luck, Jack -- discussion and
8 action by the Board regarding the proposed amendment and
9 public comment received for CHRB Rule 1867, Prohibited
10 Veterinary Practices, to clarify subsection (b) regarding
11 Federal Drug Administration-approved medication. This is a
12 conclusion of the 45-day public comment period. The Board
13 may adopt the proposal as submitted or include the suggested
14 changes.

15 Commissioner Chaney, do you want to comment on
16 this, please?

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm not sure if
18 Commissioner Chaney is elevation or a demotion, but I'll be
19 happy to.

20 We did receive two comments included in the packet
21 on 1867, which as you recall, the Board passed several
22 months ago. This was the amendments to the FDA compounded
23 drug subsection of 1867. Based on those two comments and a
24 follow-up meeting that Equine Medical Director Dr. Blea and
25 I had with the Vet Med Board about three or four weeks ago,

1 we suggested some further changes to 1867 to address some of
2 their concerns. That is the document I sent to the Board, I
3 think, two days ago. It was also uploaded in the digital
4 packet this morning, and there are some copies at the table.

5 But we just wanted to -- on the copy that you got,
6 the red and the hard copies, the lighter print are the
7 additional changes to the amendments that you passed in the
8 emergency fashion, what, about eight months ago.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: And these changes are made after
10 consultation with the Veterinary Medical Board; is that
11 correct?

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: That's correct. I
13 would say -- and their letter to the Board is included in
14 the packet. I would say they made about six suggestions
15 after speaking with them and speaking with Dr. Blea, more
16 him than me, but we believe four of them made sense. Two we
17 didn't include because they were based on federal guidance
18 rather than established regulation, and we just didn't
19 want -- you know, since it's difficult to change regs, we
20 thought being more general rather than too much in the weeds
21 with respect to our regulation was a better way to go and
22 provided more clarity to our licensees.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: And if we pass this, it goes out
24 for 15 days; is that correct?

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, so it would go

1 out for, if you did make the changes that we're suggesting,
2 it would go out for a 15-day comment again to the public.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Comments or questions from the
4 Board? None? None? No questions?

5 Do we have public comment? No.

6 Can we have a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move adoption of the
8 proposed changes to the language in Rule 1867.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman seconds the motion.
10 Commissioner Mitchell?

11 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

17 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: And Commissioner Hudnut?

19 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman votes yes. Motion
21 approved.

22 Item number eight, discussion and action by the
23 Board regarding proposed amendments and public comment
24 received for CHRB Rule 1846.5. Post Mortem Examination. and
25 Rule 1846.6. Post Mortem Examination Review. The 45-day

1 comment period has ended on May 30th, 2023, and the Board
2 may adopt the proposal as presented.

3 Mr. Chaney?

4 MR. BRODNIK: Good morning, Commissioners. Robert
5 Brodnik, CHRB.

6 Item eight comes back to you after a 45-day
7 comment. One comment was received which seeks to have these
8 records shared with racing associations.

9 At the last meeting, staff was asked if there are
10 any legal concerns with this amendment. After reviewing, we
11 have no legal concerns, so approval of this amended language
12 will require an additional 15-day comment period if you
13 choose to adopt it.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: And the change that we're talking
15 about?

16 MR. BRODNIK: The comment came from The Stronach
17 Group. It seeks to have these reports and necropsy shared
18 with racing associations, so that language was added, which
19 is reflected in your packet, and that is permissible under
20 the Business and Professions Code section 4857.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions or comments from the
22 Board? None?

23 Do we have public comment? Who is it?

24 Heather Wilson?

25 MS. WILSON: This goes back to your unscientific

1 method of convenience sampling.

2 Tap the Wire and Hendavid are two exemplars of
3 horses who sustained catastrophic injuries while racing at
4 CHRB-sanctioned tracks.

5 The very first sentence of Rule 1846.5 states,
6 "every horse which suffers a fatal injury on the racetrack
7 in training or in competition." So technically, they did
8 meet the criteria, yet they never made the fatalities list.

9 Neither were afforded a necropsy at UC Davis,
10 where future veterinarians get to play doctor on a dead
11 horse. And there are absolutely more.

12 When you do not count every single death, your
13 sampling method is flawed, and your findings are not
14 generalizable.

15 On to the proposed amendment of Rule 1846.5, the
16 proposed amendment would expand the scope of the rule to
17 require a post-mortem examination and a post-mortem
18 examination review on every horse that dies or is euthanized
19 in California within 72 hours of leaving a facility under
20 the jurisdiction of the Board. So what's the catch? They
21 have to be killed within 72 hours, or it doesn't count?

22 Hendavid languished for an entire month with his
23 fractured sesamoids. It was confirmed by Mike Martin that
24 he went from Pleasanton to Del Mar, and then this horse was
25 euthanized in Utah.

1 Every single horse who unwillingly sacrifices his
2 or her life for this bloody industry must count. If a horse
3 sustains a catastrophic injury at a CHRB jurisdiction, they
4 must count, no matter where they were injected with the
5 euthanasia.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

7 Questions or comments from the Board? Can I
8 entertain a motion, please?

9 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellanos motion.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Second?

11 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Second.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

13 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

15 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

19 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell?

21 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman votes yes. Thank you.

23 Item number nine, discussion and action by the
24 Board regarding the proposed amendment of CHRB Rule 1500,
25 Apprentice Jockey, and Rule 1619, Apprentice Allowance, to

1 align with current health and safety standards for jockeys.

2 Mr. Chaney?

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5 As the Board recalls, several months ago you
6 passed some amendments to the apprentice jockey rules.
7 These were requested by the Jockeys' Guild. It eliminates
8 the ten-pound apprentice allowance and adds additional
9 language to create -- to be more in line with a national
10 regulation that the Jockeys' Guild is proposing.

11 The Board passed the regulation. At OAL, they had
12 several changes and suggestions and clarifications that they
13 requested, so those are reflected in what's before you
14 today.

15 So staff's request is that the Board approve the
16 changes OAL suggested, and then of course it would go back
17 to them for approval.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, and they would approve and
19 then we'd have the 45-day period?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I believe we'd
21 probably have to go out with 15-day comments again --

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- because it would be
24 different, similar to the last rule, and then we'd go back
25 to OAL.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Questions or comments from
2 the Board?

3 Ellen Ericksen, do you have a comment? Let's hear
4 it.

5 MS. ERICKSEN: I do.

6 It is quite disturbing when a major injury happens
7 to the horses, but then a major injury happened to a jockey
8 here at Del Mar recently.

9 This Board, which we believe is for the welfare,
10 and I use that term lightly, to take care of the jockeys,
11 failed. What we realized is that there are no protocols in
12 place when a catastrophic incident happens during the race.
13 No decision was made by the stewards to call off this race.
14 Why? Because no one ever wants to stop a race.

15 I ask, how many times in the history of Del Mar's
16 84 years has this ever happened? Probably not very often.
17 I suspect that getting numerous horses being raced, forced
18 and whipped to run 40 miles an hour cannot stop because all
19 they know is to run fast in a straight line. This jockey
20 could have been killed on this track because nobody knew
21 what to do.

22 So what happens? The gate crew thugs moved Abel
23 (phonetic) off the track without a board or collar
24 stabilization, which is standard procedure and protocol with
25 all back, neck, and head injuries. No one in this industry

1 cares about the horses and now we see no one cares about the
2 Jockeys either. Sounds like a lawsuit this track and others
3 will pay for.

4 Horse racing is a disposable industry for horses,
5 and now Jockeys, and cares nothing about anything except
6 money. It's so shameful.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

8 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Good morning Commissioners. Amy
9 Zimmerman with Santa Anita Park.

10 I just wanted to rebut what was just said about
11 the stewards and the Del Mar incident. I advise everybody
12 to take a look at the California Horse Racing Board minutes
13 in which this incident was discussed quite extensively by
14 the Board of Stewards. Yes, I'm not sure there are things
15 that could have been done differently, but the fact that
16 there was no consideration for the Jockey and what was
17 taking place is an absolute falsehood.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

20 Comments or questions from the Board? Can we
21 entertain a motion, please?

22 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: So move.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Gonzales seconds.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

25 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

2 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

6 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell?

8 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman votes yes. Thank you.

10 Discussion and action by the Board regarding
11 Fasig-Tipton's request for authorization of its upcoming
12 horse sale at Fairfax in Pomona, California pursuant to CHRB
13 Rule 1807, Authorized Horse Sales.

14 Michael?

15 MR. MACHOWSKY: Good morning Commissioner. I'm
16 here for your approval on our horse sale we have September
17 26th at Fairfax Park. We have 283 yearlings catalogued in
18 it, and majority Cal-Breds, and we will have some horses of
19 race and age, also, which will come out in the first part of
20 September.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

22 Bonnie Croker?

23 MS. CROKER: Stop letting Fasig-Tipton feed the
24 slaughter pipeline by bringing hundreds of horses for sale
25 into California. Only a minute number of horses they sell

1 ever make it into racing. Many end up in slaughterhouses in
2 Canada or Mexico. As long as the villainous foal crop
3 breeders have brokers to sell their equine victims for them,
4 they will continue to breed like puppy mills.

5 CHRB, you have the power to stop this. Let's see
6 if you have the backbone and the courage to stop it.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

9 Heather Wilson?

10 MS. WILSON: According to CHRB Rule 1807, horse
11 sales are to be held on the premises of a racing
12 association. There is no horse racing association at the
13 Pomona Fairplex. There is only drag racing with cars. In
14 2014 it was decided there would be no more thoroughbred
15 racing at Pomona, and by 2017 the racetrack was turned into
16 a soccer field.

17 This horse sale is a gross violation of your own
18 rules. I brought this up at the previous meeting, yet here
19 we are again waiting for this horse sale to be unanimously
20 rubber stamp approved by the Board.

21 A sad but eye opening quote by Commissioner Fred
22 Moss at the 2019 meeting at Los Al,

23 "And just to put some things into perspective, last
24 year about 19,000 horses were born, actually the foal
25 crop. About half of those will never make it to the

1 track. And of the remaining half, probably another
2 half won't race more than once if they race at all."

3 So that is 9,500 horses who will never make it to
4 the track. Of the remaining 9,500, 4750 won't race more
5 than once if they race at all.

6 What do you do with all these horses? How many
7 more horses will be deliberately bred into existence and
8 thrown out like a bag of trash because they don't want to
9 run for you or because they become fractious and restless
10 and rank in the starting gate?

11 Not only is this horse sale illegal according to
12 your own rules, it is encouraging horse breeding. And right
13 now there are thousands and thousands of horses from your
14 industry that just need a soft place to land. And now we've
15 got Golden Gate shutting down and turf hell in Arizona.
16 Fewer dumping grounds. Where are these horses going to go?

17 We should stop encouraging the breeding of horses
18 and the selling of horses in the state of California.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

20 Ellen Ericksen?

21 MS. ERICKSEN: With the closing of Golden Gate
22 fields and Turf Paradise in Arizona, hundreds of horses now
23 need a home, yet you are encouraging breeding and horse
24 sales. Why not take care of the surplus of horses first?

25 Per the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, I quote

1 Stacy Clark Rogers.

2 "Thoroughbred racing and breeding face intense public
3 scrutiny. The industry lacks accountability for the
4 well-being of the horses we breed, sell, compete with,
5 and race against. This is a situation that demands
6 immediate change. The recent instances of horses
7 breaking down in and around the Triple Crown races,
8 despite concerted efforts to minimize injuries at
9 premier tracks, should serve as a wake-up call for all
10 of us. As seasoned individuals within this industry,
11 we are acutely aware that injuries and subsequent need
12 for aftercare could be an existential threat to our
13 industry that demands our urgent attention."

14 She also says,

15 "The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance provides
16 approximately \$3.5 million annually to 81 accredited
17 organizations. For those organizations, thoroughbred
18 care expenses stand alone at approximately \$17 million,
19 based on 2021 figures, and with costs expected to
20 continue to rise. The total budgets for the accredited
21 organizations amount to roughly \$46 million per year.
22 Not only does the granted amount fall short of horse
23 care alone, it also fails to cover essential business
24 costs."

25 This seems to be a very big problem in your

1 industry.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 Questions or comments from the Board? Do we have
4 a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: So moved.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Second?

7 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell?

9 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

11 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

15 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

17 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman votes yes.

19 Item number 12 --

20 MR. MACHOWSKY: Thank you.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: -- update from the California
22 Horsepower Coalition.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I think we're on 11,
24 item number 11.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Did we miss one?

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Oh, excuse me, you're right.

3 Sorry, Cliff.

4 Discussion and action by the Board regarding the
5 request for approval of the nominated members of the Board
6 of Directors of the California Horsemen's Foundation, Inc.,
7 pursuant to CHRB Rule 2049(a), Designation and Approval of
8 Horsemen's Welfare Fund.

9 Go ahead, Cliff.

10 MR. GOODRICH: Thank you. Cliff Goodrich,
11 representing CTHF.

12 As the Chairman just said, Rule 2049 requires us
13 to come before you upon the nomination and election of Board
14 members. This time around, we have three-year terms. Angie
15 Carmona, who's an officer of the corporation, was re-
16 elected, as was Eric Sindler from Santa Anita. At the time,
17 that gave us nine Board members, we are allowed up to 11.
18 But while not on the agenda or to be acted upon, we lost two
19 members for different reasons since that meeting. One of
20 them was our long-term physician.

21 So my guess is we will be looking at a couple of
22 special elections, and we'll probably be coming back to you
23 well before June, maybe more than once, to ask for your
24 approval on any new nominees, certainly including a
25 physician, given the fact we're a health care entity.

1 And I would say for background, we try and have a
2 broad matrix on our Board. We have racetrack
3 representatives, horsemen representatives, businessmen and
4 women who have years of experience. And as we look for new
5 directors, we first and foremost try and find people who are
6 interested in the industry, who want to help the backstretch
7 workers. And with that passion, normally we have a pretty
8 good lineup of people who would like to help us. And
9 hopefully I'll be coming back to you in subsequent months
10 and asking for further approval on specific nominees.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Alright. Thank you very much.

13 Questions or comments from the Board?

14 Heather Wilson?

15 MS. WILSON: According to the meeting packet, the
16 CTHF is a self-administered charitable program dedicated to
17 assisting the financial needs of the backstretch workers,
18 their primary dependents. The CTHF also offers medical and
19 dental care prescriptions, eye testing glasses, financial
20 aid, social programs, free clothing and household items.

21 Normally, when someone is employed and they are
22 earning a fair wage, their rich bosses don't have to take up
23 collections and then benefit from a tax write-off to give
24 their employees basic necessities.

25 In an *L.A. Times* article from April 23rd, 2000,

1 titled Life Grim for a State's Backstretch Workers -- excuse
2 me, Racetrack Workers,

3 "Behind the grandstands and opulent turf clubs, workers
4 who take care of horses at California's racetracks
5 inhabit a dusty, isolated world where normal labor and
6 living standards don't apply. They often work every
7 day of the week without overtime. Most live in small
8 equipment rooms in the stables with plywood walls, bare
9 concrete floors and no running water."

10 "At Santa Anita in Arcadia, which is owned by
11 billionaires, they use filthy communal restrooms
12 infested with flies and deemed unsanitary by the health
13 department.

14 "The situation," the article states, "is no accident.
15 The horse racing industry has long enjoyed exemptions
16 from labor and living regulations that apply to other
17 California workers, including farm workers, for the
18 last 25 years. Horse racing has been exempt from state
19 employee housing standards, making it the only industry
20 whose living quarters can't be inspected or regulated
21 by state housing officials. Horsemen also are
22 effectively excused from paying overtime," end quote.

23 So it sounds like you love your backstretch
24 workers as much as you love your horses.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

1 Questions or comments from the Board? Do we have
2 a motion?

3 Go ahead.

4 MR. GOODRICH: Thank you. I'll use Amy words,
5 "a short rebuttal."

6 First of all, it's the Board of Directors, it's up
7 for approval. But I will say this, there's hundreds of
8 thousands, if not millions, of blue-collar workers in this
9 state that live check to check. As far as our racing
10 industry, I can say this without any, I think, rebuttal,
11 California, and I will throw in New York and Kentucky in a
12 bit, have by far, by far the best programs for workers, not
13 only in healthcare, but all the things, the tracks, and the
14 horsemen, and we do for the workers. An example is feeding
15 the workers five days a week at Del Mar. These workers love
16 their horses more than themselves. That's one of the
17 factors we deal with in the healthcare.

18 But everybody in this room should know, while we
19 can always do better, the dedication and the time spent on
20 programs for these backstretch workers, including
21 discussions about improvement of living conditions, goes on
22 all the time.

23 And I'm also happy to report that as far as our
24 Board goes, there were no injuries or fatalities this past
25 year.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Mr. Chairman, if I
4 might, I just want to thank Cliff. You and your Board do
5 excellent work in any comments to the contrary is just
6 nonsense. So thank you so much for your service to the
7 industry.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Mr. Hudnut?

9 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I'm ready to make a motion,
10 sir.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Make it.

12 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move approval of the
13 nominees.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman seconds.

15 Commissioner Mitchell?

16 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

18 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

22 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Due to the fact that I
23 sit on this Board, I will recuse myself.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: I think that's a good idea.

25 Commissioner Hudnut?

1 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

3 Motion is approved.

4 Now we're expecting an update from the California
5 Horsepower Coalition. Who wants to handle that? Amy?

6 MS. ZIMMERMAN: (Off mic.) (Indiscernible.)

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Great. Thank you.

8 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Good morning, Commissioners.
9 Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. I'm
10 Amy Zimmerman with Santa Anita Park, and I'm pleased to be
11 joined by Jordyn Egan of the Thoroughbred Owners of
12 California. Together we represent two of the three founding
13 members of the California Horsepower Coalition.

14 When we presented to the CHRB back in November,
15 the California Horsepower Coalition had just launched. We
16 had nine organizations, and we were beginning our work to
17 preserve and protect California's equine industry. Over the
18 last nine months, we're proud to report that our Coalition
19 has now grown to 15 member organizations representing
20 thousands of individuals, including breeders, trainers,
21 veterinarians, aftercare providers, backstretch workers, and
22 jockeys, all with a shared passion for the horse. We now
23 have over 4,000 followers, and that number is growing every
24 day, illustrating the continued widespread support for the
25 horse racing industry here in our state.

1 Over the past few months, our goal has been to
2 spread the word about the Coalition itself, but more
3 importantly, of the industry's impact in the economy, jobs,
4 equine safety, and local tourism in our state. Community
5 engagement has been one of the most important aspects of our
6 work as a coalition.

7 We know that one of three Californians have a
8 horse enthusiast in their home. Two of them are sitting
9 right here at this table. We want you to understand that
10 the support does more than just provide entertainment, but
11 we actively support the community in which they live.

12 Since our launch, we've been part of the Rose
13 Parade's popular Equifest, several events at Santa Anita
14 Park, at Del Mar's exciting opening day, and on the steps of
15 the California State Capitol during Ag Day. We will
16 continue to reach out to the local communities in the months
17 to come.

18 MR. EGAN: Thank you for having us. I just want
19 to highlight a couple of initiatives that we've worked on
20 since November.

21 First is educating policymakers. As one of the
22 most regulated sports in the nation and in the state, our
23 coalition understands that it's incumbent upon us to raise
24 awareness about our industry among state policymakers.

25 Since sweeping reforms went into effect in 2020,

1 the California legislature has seen a significant turnover.
2 As such, our Coalition recently launched an effort to
3 educate current legislators about the changes that have been
4 made to protect the health and welfare of our equine
5 athletes in recent years. It's important that the
6 policymakers understand that California is considered the
7 gold standard for safety across the nation.

8 In particular, in 2022, California tracks were
9 ranked amongst the safest racetracks in North America, more
10 than two times safer than the national average. In fact,
11 fatal injuries are down more than 50 percent over the last
12 three years, and we're continuing to innovate to reduce that
13 number as much as possible. This is a result of not only
14 the historic reforms, but also a multimillion-dollar
15 investment in the future of racing, from racing surfaces to
16 cutting-edge diagnostic equipment. And I would also add
17 leadership from you.

18 As previously mentioned, this spring we
19 participated in Ag Day in Sacramento and continue to work
20 through the development of educational material about our
21 industry's impact on businesses, economy, and jobs.

22 The second initiative that we're just launching
23 and very excited about, we launched a Backstretch Worker
24 Committee, and that Committee is made up of Coalition
25 partners including the Edwin Gregson Foundation, CTHF,

1 California Thoroughbred Trainers, the Jockeys' Guild,
2 Winners Foundation, and the Race Chaplaincy Association.

3 As I'm sure all of us in this room can agree, a
4 large part of our industry's success is due to the dedicated
5 individuals who work and care for our equine athletes every
6 single day. We're incredibly proud of these thousands of
7 talented and skilled individuals, and it's important that
8 their work is celebrated and protected.

9 MS. ZIMMERMAN: A major part of that Committee's
10 goal is to take a holistic view of the benefits offered to
11 workers on the backstretch, many of which Cliff just
12 outlined to you, and assess where the gaps can be filled,
13 and we want to see where we can do better. Also, we want to
14 assure that the backstretch workers are aware of the many
15 benefits they already have access to. Over the next few
16 months, you'll see us highlight both of those benefits and
17 the support systems, but also the personal stories of those
18 Backstretch workers to illustrate their incredible care and
19 skill.

20 It's important to note, Commissioners, that as
21 Coalition members, we're not going to agree on every issue.
22 There are times that the companies that Jordyn and I work
23 with may be at an impasse. But the issue that we can and
24 will always agree on is the importance of the horse in our
25 culture and in uniting to preserve and protect both the

1 horse and the thousands involved in their care.

2 We are grateful to be part of this equestrian
3 community, and we are committed to seeing our industry
4 coalition progress and grow. Thank you for your support,
5 and please let us know if you have any questions.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

7 Do we have questions from the Board? Comments?

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'm just very, very
9 impressed. Since the last time this was shared, it covered
10 a lot of ground. I am especially encouraged about the focus
11 on backstretch workers. And, as you know, there's going to
12 be some changes going on in Northern California. I'm
13 confident that the Coalition, just like this Board, is one
14 corner of the state to the next.

15 But is there anything -- I mean, are you prepared
16 to assist in any kind of way, particularly the Committee you
17 referenced on backstretch, if issues or gaps arise in the
18 displacement or attention that will be needed for the
19 Backstretch workers at Golden Gate Fields?

20 MS. ZIMMERMAN: I can take that.

21 MR. EGAN: Yeah, you go now.

22 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Okay.

23 Commissioner, I think that because of the members
24 in our Coalition, all of us have a tent post holding up that
25 tent. And together and collaboratively, yes, we will indeed

1 be able to pull people together, at least with a Coalition
2 banner, to make that a priority.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: That's great to hear. Okay,
4 fantastic. Thank you. Keep up the good work is all I can
5 say. Great.

6 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. (Indiscernible.)

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I sure will. Yes.

9 Public comment period, I'm going to be taking over
10 from here. Can we have Ms. Heather Wilson?

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, both.

12 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

13 So there's nothing in the meeting packet about
14 this agenda item, so I had to look it up online. And it
15 states that one of the members of the Coalition, it includes
16 animal wellness advocates, which is actually laughable.
17 Legitimate animal wellness advocates do not endorse an
18 industry that cripples, injures, and kills countless horses
19 every single year. And these are not athletes. They're
20 animals.

21 Real sports have willing participants, people who
22 choose to play, people who understand the rules of the game,
23 humans that don't have to be whipped in order to enhance
24 performance, humans that don't have to go to starting gate
25 school because they're terrified of being shoved into a

1 little metal box, afraid that they might flip over and break
2 their necks. Horse racing is not a sport. It's an
3 industry. And horses are not athletes, they are animals who
4 don't consent.

5 Animal wellness advocates do not advocate for the
6 trafficking of horses from track to track, state to state,
7 dumping them in claiming race after claiming race until they
8 can no longer perform, and then they end up in feedlots and
9 kill pens destined for slaughter. I mean, we know this is
10 true. We see it happen every single year.

11 So this is what I want to emphasize, horse racing
12 is not a sport. It is an industry. And these animals are
13 not athletes.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay. Two remaining public
15 speakers on this item, and we'll go with Bonnie Croker next.

16 MS. CROKER: Thank you.

17 Members of the California Horsepower Coalition
18 would be wise to form a California Human Power Coalition.
19 Learn to rely on your own power instead of horsepower.

20 According to your statistics given on
21 californiahorsecoalition.com, horse racing accounts for 37
22 percent of the economic impact you say is generated by the
23 equine industry.

24 Horse racing is dying out as it should. The
25 downsizing of horse racing in the U.S. has been underway for

1 30 years and it will continue. Over 40 tracks have closed
2 since 2000. In 1989, there were more than 74,000 races. In
3 2022, there were only 33,453 races. The annual foal crop
4 has declined by nearly two-thirds since 1986. The number of
5 trainers has dropped by half since 2000.

6 Looking at California alone, Golden Gate Fields in
7 the Bay Area will be the sixth track to close since 2008,
8 preceded by Bay Meadows, Solano Fair, Hollywood Park, Pomona
9 Fairplex, and San Joaquin Fair. Los Alamitos will close
10 after its almost 90-year-old owner dies as per city
11 ordinance.

12 The owners of Golden Gate Fields and Santa Anita
13 Park, The Stronach Group, is reportedly in talks to invest
14 \$500 million in the Sacramento Major League soccer
15 franchise, while committing \$3.7 million to consolidate
16 horse racing in Southern California at Santa Anita Park.
17 Members of the California Horsepower Coalition need to find
18 ways of supporting themselves that don't rely on the
19 exploitation of horses or upon the exploitation of
20 yourselves by the big money corporations like the Stronachs.

21 The most current case in point is the closure of
22 Golden Gate Fields in December of this year. If you have
23 followed the Stronach money trail, you have been left by the
24 thousands, hip-deep in horse manure.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Martha Sullivan?

2 MS. SULLIVAN: As is my want, I'm going to inject
3 a note of reality into the Horsepower Coalition
4 presentation.

5 On January 30th of this year, the Fitch Bond
6 Rating Agency put out a statement, quote,

7 "The BB- rating reflects the elevated vulnerability of
8 Del Mar Racetrack Authority's operating profile, given
9 the secular decline in the California horse racing
10 industry."

11 Fitch's rating case forecast assumes horse racing
12 revenues will slowly deteriorate with concession revenues
13 stemming from the country -- from the county fair and other
14 lifestyle events serving as the main source of revenues
15 servicing the public bonds. Quote,

16 "Although net concession revenues bolster the debt
17 service coverage ratio through debt tenor, this revenue
18 stream is dependent on the continued operations of the
19 facility at or above historical levels," which Fitch
20 views as uncertain over the long term.

21 The bond buyer on February 14th of 2022 reported,
22 quote,

23 "The Del Mar Racetrack Authority in San Diego County,
24 California, which was downgraded to junk amidst stay-
25 at-home orders in early 2020, had its BB- rating and

1 negative outlook affirmed by Fitch ratings on a poor
2 outlook for the racing industry.”

3 You know, inside the bubble of horse racing,
4 you've got to allow this reality.

5 The investment banking industry sees the future of
6 horse racing very clearly. You guys need to acknowledge
7 that and start planning for it, particularly for the
8 workers. That's your responsibility. That should be your
9 mission, to create a safe landing place for workers and
10 horses as this industry continues its decline.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: There's no action to be taken on
13 this agenda item.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Microphone.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: There's no action to be taken on
16 this agenda item. This is just for the Board's information.

17 We'll move on to item number 13, which includes
18 the Executive Director's Report and Equine Medical
19 Director's Report.

20 Mr. Chaney?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman, and good morning, Commissioners.

23 I will begin with the handle report. For the
24 month of June, day racing handle is up one percent, night
25 racing handle is down four percent, and total handle is the

1 same as compared to June 2022. For the month of July, day
2 racing handle is down nine percent, night racing handle is
3 down eight percent, and total handle is down nine percent as
4 compared to July 2022. Year to date, day racing is down six
5 percent, night racing is down nine percent, and total handle
6 as compared to the first seven months of 2022 is down six
7 percent.

8 Next, continuing our practice we started a few
9 meetings ago, I'd like to recognize CHRB personnel who have
10 attended this meeting and have not been previously
11 recognized. Just one, Southern California Investigator
12 Hiroshi Yokoyama, Hirsh for short, started working for the
13 CHRB last month and was sworn in yesterday. I'd like to
14 thank all CHRB staff, including Hirsh, and contractors for
15 their work and dedication.

16 Obviously, the main topic of conversation and CHRB
17 attention over the last month has been the announced closure
18 of Golden Gate Fields. While the closing of the racetrack
19 and any racetrack in California is not a good thing, my
20 belief is that the industry and CHRB should view this event
21 as an opportunity that will allow California racing to craft
22 a racing calendar that will not only create racing
23 opportunities but secure a vibrant future.

24 The biggest concern for the CHRB is the impact on
25 CHRB employees and contractors at Golden Gate, as well as

1 impact on licensees, stakeholders, and track employees. To
2 address that concern, at the direction of the Vice Chairman,
3 staff is working on a report that will assess the impact and
4 hopefully provide solutions to ameliorate it. To that end,
5 we are in the process of identifying experts who would be
6 helpful in that assessment.

7 Next, for the last few months, staff under the
8 leadership of Chief of Enforcement Marc Shaw has been
9 working on a new license application for licensees. That
10 application combines several different versions and types of
11 application into one simplified form. We also created a
12 Spanish version to aid non-English speaking licensees in
13 completing an accurate application.

14 As part of this project, we have also drastically
15 decreased the number of license categories, which will aid
16 us in seeking an amendment to the Business and Professions
17 Code in order to comply with new DOJ requirements regarding
18 background checks for employees and licensees. Also part of
19 the project, we will seek regulatory amendments from the
20 Board next month that will reflect these new categories and
21 simplify the current fee structure. I really appreciate the
22 work Marc Shaw and Amanda Brown and others in staff have put
23 into this endeavor.

24 Other regulations, mainly in the area of animal
25 welfare, will also be presented to the Board for

1 consideration over the next two months. Those include
2 limiting performing endoscopy to veterinarians, clarifying
3 rules for possession of hypodermic needles and medications,
4 and requiring diagnostics before corticosteroid injections
5 into high-motion joints.

6 Lastly, speaking of intra-articular corticosteroid
7 injections, as the Board may know, on May 22nd, when the
8 Anti-Doping Medication Control Regulations for HISA went
9 into effect, California's 30-day stand-down time for fetlock
10 joints was rolled back to 14 days before races and 7 days
11 before works. We view this as a major blow to our animal
12 welfare and injury prevention efforts in California.

13 The good news is that, based largely on our
14 lobbying efforts and HISA's willingness to listen and focus
15 on equine and jockey safety, HISA is considering an
16 amendment to change their rule to California's former 30-day
17 stand-down period for FETLOC joints prior to racing. Sadly,
18 they are facing massive opposition from stakeholders from
19 around the country who still believe corticosteroids are a
20 necessity in racing and clearly did not learn the lessons
21 from the negative media attention during the week of the
22 Kentucky Derby, surrounding the Belmont Stakes, and at
23 Saratoga just two weeks ago.

24 Here, our goal has been to separate those IA
25 injections from works and races and eventually eliminate

1 them altogether. We firmly support HISA's efforts to change
2 their stand-down period for IA corticosteroids into fetlock
3 joints and look forward to the day when they can be
4 eliminated from racing entirely.

5 And that, Mr. Chairman, is my report.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

7 Dr. Blea?

8 DR. BLEA: Good morning, Chairman Ferraro, Vice
9 Chairman Gonzales, Commissioners, Mr. Chaney.

10 I'd like to first start off by acknowledging
11 Commissioner Alfieri's statement at the beginning of this
12 meeting. Mr. Jerome Moss was a leader, pioneer, a
13 visionary. He was a racehorse owner and he was very
14 compassionate, not only about his animals, but about the
15 people that took care of his animals. So I would also like
16 to acknowledge his passion. He was one of a kind.

17 So regarding my report this month, leadership of
18 both HISA and HIWU were present on opening day at the Del
19 Mar meet and met with many stakeholders, including the
20 California Horse Racing Board leadership. Needless to say,
21 as they toured through the test barn and the receiving barn,
22 they were quite impressed with our test barn procedures and
23 personnel.

24 The results management of test samples has been
25 challenging, however, it continues to improve from an

1 efficiency perspective. And I'm confident, based on
2 conversations with HIWU, that these results management
3 program will continue to improve.

4 The 2110 and the 22 -- excuse me, the 2100 and the
5 2200 Racetrack Safety Rule red line versions have been sent
6 out to all stakeholders. Many stakeholders have reviewed
7 those and commented. I've had several meetings with various
8 stakeholders as far as what we feel are improvements
9 regarding welfare and safety, one of which is what Mr.
10 Chaney just referred to in the 30-day stand down to fetlock
11 injection with corticosteroids and a 10-day stand down or
12 14-day stand down to work with the fetlock IA injection of
13 corticosteroids.

14 I'm completely in agreement with Mr. Chaney and
15 have echoed those comments to HISA as far as part of the
16 lobbying effort that we feel that their intra-articular
17 corticosteroid joint injections rule in fetlocks is a step
18 backwards regarding welfare and safety. So we're
19 appreciative of them listening. We're appreciative of them
20 inquiring and bringing us to the table.

21 Vesicular stomatitis is still an ongoing issue in
22 the state of California. As of August 15th, since the start
23 of the outbreak on May 17th, 189 vesicular stomatitis virus
24 affected premises have been identified, 66 are confirmed,
25 and 124 are suspect in three states, California, Nevada, and

1 Texas. Nevada has since been released from the quarantine
2 and Texas has a new quarantine in an area near Abilene.

3 186 of these premises have only had equine species
4 in California. California has identified 186 affected
5 premises, 64 confirmed, and 124 suspect in nine counties,
6 those counties being Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San
7 Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara,
8 Ventura, and a new county as of last week, Fresno County.
9 Of the 189 total vesicular stomatitis affected premises, 141
10 premises have completed the quarantine period with no new
11 clinical cases and have been released from quarantine.
12 Currently, there remain 48 premises quarantined in
13 California.

14 Since our last meeting was at the end of June,
15 these results will reflect July, and so in July there were
16 nine fatalities in California, two musculoskeletal in
17 racing, three musculoskeletal in training, two sudden death
18 fatalities, one systemic disease resulting from an injury on
19 a trailer, and one accident in training.

20 Regarding the Maddy Lab, in the month of June at
21 the Maddy Lab, 228 blood and urine samples, including 6 work
22 blood samples, were tested. Additionally, 189 out of
23 competition samples were tested. There was one class two
24 violation, diisophenylmine (phonetic) was identified in all
25 of CHRB testing in June.

1 Now if you remember, these numbers are markedly
2 different from previous reports, and the reason they are is
3 because thoroughbred testing for all covered horses is now
4 being conducted at the Maddy Lab through HAIWU.
5 Unfortunately, those figures are not available to provide to
6 the Commissioners at this time through HIWU, and I am
7 currently working with HIWU to see if we can get some
8 information to present what type of testing numbers are
9 occurring at the Maddy Lab in the state of California.

10 In July, 308 blood and urine samples, including 10
11 work blood samples were tested. Additionally, 187 out-of-
12 competition samples were tested. One Class 3 in hair, and
13 three Class 4 medications in blood were identified in July
14 through CHRB testing.

15 For fiscal year '22-23, CHRB testing at the Maddy
16 Lab accounted for 15,220 primary blood and urine post-race
17 samples, which included 535 work bloods, 10,235 out-of-comp
18 samples in blood, hair, and urine, 14,278 TCO2 samples,
19 1,279 cobalt samples. Of all these samples tested by CHRB
20 in fiscal year '22-23, there were no Class 1 substances
21 identified. There were four Class 2 substances, 27 Class 3,
22 and 58 Class 4 substances, for a total of 69 substances
23 identified in all testing by the MATI lab in fiscal year
24 '22-23. It should be pointed out that not all of these
25 findings resulted in violations, rather they are a summary

1 of all laboratory findings for the fiscal year.

2 Regarding HIWU positive findings, that information
3 can be located on their website at hiwu.org, look under
4 public disclosures, list rulings, and ADMC violations
5 matters.

6 This concludes my report, and I'm happy to answer
7 any questions.

8 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Dr. Blea, you must have a
9 sense of what your colleagues around the country are
10 thinking, and I'm wondering whether the attitude on intra-
11 articular injections is intransigent, or do you think
12 there's opportunity here for HIWU to see it our way?

13 DR. BLEA: I think there's real opportunity for
14 HIWU to see it our way. And I think part of the reason for
15 that is if we look at the data that we've collected, and we
16 look at from 2017 to 2022 or 2023, you can see a significant
17 decrease in fatalities, most of which due to many rule
18 changes, but one of the most impactful rule changes was the
19 IA fetlock steroid injection. Fetlocks are the most common
20 area of catastrophic injuries, so that's why that rule has
21 been so impactful.

22 Part of the problem that arose was when they
23 presented new language in the red line version, the language
24 was a lightning rod, because their language said any
25 injection into a fetlock is prohibited with a 30-day stand-

1 down to race, 14 days stand-down to train. It should have
2 been limited to corticosteroids, and that's the impact.

3 We want to promote biological therapy, we want to
4 promote regenerative therapy. It's good for the joint, it's
5 good for the horse, not only in the short term, but the long
6 term. But I think what really brought, you know, was a call
7 to arms for my colleagues across the country was the
8 language was incorrect.

9 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Got it.

10 DR. BLEA: That's been pointed out. We get a lot
11 of eyes rolled, you know, well, we don't have that problem.
12 Yes, you do. We've been through this. We recognize it's
13 changed. Our horsemen have done yeoman's work managing
14 this, dealing with this, a huge shout out to the trainers
15 and the owners for being patient because it's not cheap for
16 them, but it can be done. And I think we have results to
17 prove that it is an effective program.

18 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Thank you.

19 On an unrelated matter, we have spoken often about
20 catastrophic shoulder injuries following lengthy layoffs.
21 There recently was a fatality that fitted that prescription
22 to a T. What can be done to get horses back into training
23 without their suffering or being apt to suffer a shoulder
24 injury?

25 DR. BLEA: So on July 1st, 1846.2 and 1846.3 went

1 into effect. And those two regulations are basically summed
2 up as a training soundness examination. So any horse that
3 has not had a race or workout for 90 days is subject to that
4 rule.

5 The CHRB has created a form. It's on the website.
6 The official vets have that form to provide a history,
7 medication-wise, training-wise, housing-wise, any
8 diagnostics, so forth and so on. With that form and with
9 along with that rule, an examination by the regulatory
10 veterinarian as well as the attending vet must occur prior
11 to training the onset of training. In addition to that, a
12 follow-up examination should occur within four to six weeks
13 after the initial examination.

14 Those two things right there, those examinations,
15 will hopefully -- the goal is to be able to identify these
16 horses that are at risk following a layoff.

17 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yeah.

18 DR. BLEA: So increased veterinary monitoring,
19 increased awareness, I think are the two biggest things to
20 help drive those shoulder injuries down.

21 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Okay. Thank you very much.

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, thank you for
23 that presentation, Dr. Blea, and Mr. Chaney, thank you for
24 your presentation.

25 Dr. Blea, with the transition that's going on in

1 Northern California, just know that this Board is here to
2 provide support to you and your team up there. You know,
3 we've talked about the, you know, perhaps areas of
4 opportunities and transition can sometimes be painful. We
5 want to make sure that what you and your colleagues do to
6 make sure horses are safe, that you have everything at your
7 disposal. So we're keeping a very close watch on things.

8 If, in fact, Golden Gate Fields is extended by any
9 period of time, you know, just know that we empower you to
10 do everything that's necessary until the very last race at
11 that facility that we're monitoring.

12 Along those lines, and maybe this is something
13 that you and Dr. Ferraro can come back to us on, but one of
14 the unintended consequences of closing down Golden Gate
15 Fields, and perhaps the real challenge to breeding and
16 owning in Northern California, is the impact it's going to
17 have on the veterinarian community. We have one of the best
18 facilities in the world at UC Davis. I think if you were to
19 ask any of the folks there on the equine side how important
20 it is to have farms and ranches and facilities nearby, I
21 think that they would say that it's pretty important.

22 So probably, you know, you don't have enough time
23 to get into that now, but Dr. Ferraro and Dr. Blea, if at
24 any time you feel you need time from this panel to hear out
25 from the veterinarians what it means and the impact that's

1 going to have, please feel free to bring that back to us.

2 DR. BLEA: Thank you. I appreciate that. And
3 I've communicated with several of them up there when the
4 news was released, so I'm in communications with them as to
5 what they're going to do, what their plans are, things like
6 that.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent.

8 DR. BLEA: Thank you for the outreach.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: You got it, Dr. Blea. Thank
10 you.

11 That's it, sir.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Anyone else from the Board?

13 We have some public comment.

14 DR. BLEA: Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Martha?

16 MS. SULLIVAN: I wish that Dr. Blea would stay in
17 the room while I make this comment because it's pertinent to
18 him, please.

19 I had occasion to ask CHRB Public Inquiries about
20 the lack of a menu option for the San Luis Rey Downs or
21 Training Center on the CHRB's online veterinarian list. And
22 the response was that the CHRB veterinarians list is
23 maintained via InCompass. At this time, San Luis Rey Downs
24 is not a location monitored by InCompass. As such, you will
25 not see vet list horses designated with a track code for San

1 Luis Rey Downs, even if said horse was physically located
2 there at the time of the vet list placement. This was an
3 occasion because there was a fatality reported by this Board
4 at San Luis Rey Downs of Loyal to a Fault in training this
5 month.

6 I think this is a pretty significant gap when a
7 facility, a training facility for which you report racehorse
8 fatalities, but for whom you do not report vet list,
9 placements of horses on vet list, who were stabled at that
10 facility, which is an official auxiliary stable of both Del
11 Mar, and I believe Santa Anita, who owns it. I think this
12 is a gap and an oversight that this Board needs to rectify,
13 particularly since the media reports about the consolidation
14 of racing in Southern California.

15 Santa Anita -- I mean San Luis Rey was mentioned
16 as its role being emphasized and increased. If that's
17 indeed going to happen, it makes it even more important that
18 your records of veterinarian list entries include horses
19 that are stabled at that facility.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

22 Ellen Ericksen?

23 MS. ERICKSEN: Thank you.

24 I just have a comment to report from the *Paulick*
25 *Report* from Editor Natalie Voss on July 24th this year, and

1 I quote,

2 "Veterinarians and academic researchers like will tell
3 you that part of the remedy for so many common medical
4 problems in horses, colic, ulcers, stereotypical
5 behaviors, arthritis and more, is to increase turnout
6 time.

7 "Horses' bodies are evolved to graze on forage in mixed
8 social groups for most of each day, and the way they
9 manage many of them is totally counter to this. This
10 has been shown over and over in research and in
11 practical effect for years. The fact of it is really
12 not something that people in other equine sports
13 question anymore.

14 "Racehorses are not the only horses who experience
15 these health problems, and they don't experience them
16 because they're stalled for prolonged periods, but one
17 of the most basic components of their day is associated
18 with an increased risk of these problems, and there's
19 just no getting around it. We all know that horses
20 that are stalled for months at racetracks have higher
21 incidence of deaths."

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Heather Wilson?

23 MS. WILSON: I do wish that we would get
24 information in the meeting packet on these reports because
25 we never know in advance what you guys are going to talk

1 about.

2 So something that really upsets me is that these
3 horses' names aren't listed. They're just listed as
4 numbers, as objects. Every single horse who unwillingly
5 sacrificed his or her life for this industry had a name,
6 they had a dam, they had a sire, they had a story, they had
7 a name. So I would appreciate it if we could properly
8 acknowledge these athletes as you call them, if they're so
9 cherished, then say their names. List their names when you
10 list their fatality reports, please.

11 And Dr. Blea is happy to answer questions, then
12 he -- I don't know if he's still in the room, but I want to
13 know where Gowdy is. You know, if we're leading the way in
14 racetrack safety in California, where is Gowdy?

15 On January 21st, or 23rd rather, 2021, it was
16 pouring rain at Los Alamitos and, due to lightning, the post
17 parade was abbreviated. It was pouring rain. The track was
18 a muddy, sloppy mess. The gates flew open and Gowdy slipped
19 in the mud and he fell down. He tried to get back up. He
20 fell down again. The original chart said he was injured and
21 vanned off.

22 The chart was then altered to say that he locked
23 up, whatever that means, locked up. But because the
24 stewards determined that he was afforded a fair start,
25 whatever that means, he was considered a starter and he was

1 listed as a DNF on Equibase.

2 So where is Gowdy? It's been over two years.
3 Where is this animal? And if he's alive, then you should
4 say he's alive. He's been retired. He's here. He's there.
5 Obviously, he can't be used for breeding. He's a gelding
6 and nobody cared about this animal, so nobody wants his
7 genes, so where is Gowdy?

8 We need to keep track of every single horse. And
9 we're already doing that. The animal advocates, the real
10 advocates for the horses that show up every month and ask
11 about these horses, very simple question, where are they?
12 And all we get is silence.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

14 We're going to move on to item number 14 with the
15 public comment period. Note that the comment period has a
16 maximum time limit of 30 minutes. Each speaker will be
17 given two minutes for their comments.

18 So we'll start off with Oscar de la Torre, please.

19 MR. DE LA TORRE: Thank you.

20 Poverty kills. Homelessness kills. In fact, in
21 2002, an estimated 588 homeless people died in San Diego
22 County. That's nearly six times higher than in 2012, when
23 114 homeless people died, according to the San Diego County
24 Medical Examiner.

25 Now, how is this related to horse racing and the

1 horse racing industry? The demands of those who want to
2 prohibit horse racing should reflect on the consequences of
3 their demands.

4 A prohibition on horse racing would have a
5 catastrophic effect on the working men and women in horse
6 racing. We would increase homelessness. We would increase
7 poverty. We would increase the number of children that are
8 struggling in our society. And that is a fact.

9 The money that is generated from horse racing pays
10 for many of the social services throughout the state, social
11 services that are needed right now on our streets to prevent
12 the real crisis that's happening with homelessness, with
13 poverty that is killing many of our residents, many
14 Californians right now. So we should reflect on the
15 consequences of the demands that we make, and we should be
16 responsible, and we should care about the human impact, as
17 well as the impact on animals and the impact on horses. We
18 care about both.

19 The men and women that work in the backstretch,
20 they are very offended to hear that they are abusing animals
21 because that is not what's happening. That is not what
22 their job is. They are the real animal rights people. They
23 are the people that are protecting the horses every day.
24 And they take offense to anyone saying that their job equals
25 animal abuse.

1 Thank you very much.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 Martha Sullivan, please.

4 MS. SULLIVAN: I have personally sheltered over
5 three dozen unhoused residents of San Diego County since
6 2009. I have worked on homelessness in San Diego County
7 since that time. Three of those people have lived with me
8 as housemates for the last three years, so I am intimately
9 familiar with the housing disaster in San Diego County and
10 throughout California that has made over 10,000 residents of
11 San Diego County homeless, per the latest annual count, and
12 6,500 residents of the City of San Diego.

13 So I work on behalf of unhoused residents and on
14 behalf of racehorses because both are basically discarded
15 and abandoned if they cannot earn their keep. If they're
16 disabled, if they're elderly, if they can't earn their keep,
17 they're abandoned and they're discarded. That's why I do
18 what I do.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

21 Ellen Ericksen. Thank you?

22 MS. ERICKSEN: With the close of the Golden Gate
23 Fields and other tracks around this country, the writing is
24 on the wall. The public is waking up about the cruelty
25 involved in this abusive business, which you call a sport.

1 Yes, of course, it will be a complex project to
2 end horse racing. We know what you call as welfare has not
3 changed the game at all and it doesn't work. Horses are
4 still losing their lives at all race tracks, even here at
5 Dunbar, which seems to hide and cover up the deaths of
6 horses and figured out a way to do that. And now the public
7 is seeing firsthand that you don't even take care of your
8 employees.

9 Horses are being killed in training now, and
10 they're just swept away like their lives didn't even matter.
11 Well, their lives did matter, and every single one of them
12 should be reported by your Board as a racing death.

13 You lie to the public with track improvements and
14 other stories to deceive the public. But come on, we all
15 know it's not the track, it's the race. We know as a group
16 of public citizens that this Board really doesn't care about
17 the horses, that they are just a commodity to keep
18 everyone's pockets filled with many layers of corrupt money.

19 It is out of control. It is spinning. We see it,
20 of course, and you all see it. No amount of panicking,
21 cover-ups, and deceitful stories that you spread about this
22 industry will change people's minds anymore. People are
23 paying attention. Make your plans, because horse racing
24 will end, and this will go down in history as one of the
25 most corrupt animal-abusing businesses.

1 Tell me, how does anyone in this room sleep at
2 night?

3 And just so you know, I, too, like Martha
4 Sullivan, am highly involved with the unsheltered in my
5 neighborhood, where I care for many very sick, abandoned,
6 emaciated people. And I'm going to tell you that there is
7 no money that comes out of this horse racing industry that
8 is helping any citizens that are unsheltered here in the
9 City of San Diego.

10 There are no reports that this industry, which
11 doesn't even take care of its own workers -- and I suggest,
12 since we're finishing up early, that we all walk across the
13 street and go look at the housing where all these
14 backstretch workers live and have to bring up their
15 children, and let's go see how magnificent it is, and that
16 you're not doing better for the workers. They live in
17 poverty. They might as well be unhoused in the
18 accommodations that they're in, like 200 feet from here.
19 Let's go take a walk over and see what's really going on
20 with these workers.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Bonnie Croker?

22 MS. CROKER: I want to commend the CHRB, my
23 colleagues, and all present for your extremely thoughtful
24 discussions today.

25 I highly commend Commissioner Castellanos for

1 demanding that a structured plan for recovery from the
2 closure of Golden Gate fields is presented immediately. I
3 advise you to use this impending closure to establish
4 protocols for the inevitable closure of the remaining
5 California racetracks.

6 I hope that the California Horsepower Coalition
7 and the ever-present gentleman who represents the
8 backstretch workers will be front and center to help the
9 Golden Gate workers and all racetrack workers transition
10 into jobs that don't involve animal abuse.

11 I feel secure in stating that many of us in the
12 animal rights community will be standing ready and willing
13 to help you transition horses into retirement when all the
14 California horse racing tracks finally do shut down.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

17 Heather Wilson?

18 MS. WILSON: Dane Hillsong (phonetic) was a
19 stunning California bred chestnut filly born 03/12/2020.
20 She had a star and a snip for her facial markings. She had
21 three starts but no wins at Santa Anita, where she is said
22 to have weakened and failed to rally. Dane Hillsong was
23 then predictably dumped at Golden Gate where she finally
24 broke her maiden. She was not so lucky in her second start
25 at the doomed track placing last out of five.

1 Her next stop on her tour of California were the
2 fairs. She won at Pleasanton in July. One month later she
3 was running at the Sonoma County Fair in Santa Rosa where
4 she is said to have taken a bad step. She is vanned off the
5 track and killed. And she was the seventh horse so far to
6 lose his or her life at the Northern California fairs this
7 summer.

8 Next, I want to talk about Carolina Mia. She was
9 a beautiful chestnut mare with a full white blaze, born in
10 California on 04/20/2017. She had 29 starts and 4 wins all
11 in California, earning her captors over \$200,000.

12 The last line of her racing chart reads, "Carolina
13 Mia chased the early leader while being coaxed along," and
14 coaxed, as we know, is a euphemism for being whipped or
15 beaten. "She was injured near the eighth pole, was pulled
16 up and had to be vanned off."

17 This horse was literally being beaten by her
18 tormentor while her hind leg was snapped and dangling. The
19 replay is probably still up and I would encourage you to
20 please watch it because this is your industry that you are
21 defending.

22 What I want to know, why wasn't this horse
23 euthanized right then and there? Why was she made to suffer
24 the final indignity and unimaginable pain of hobbling into
25 the van? The tarp should have went up, she should have been

1 euthanized right then and there.

2 Rest in peace, Dane Hillsong and Carolina Mia.

3 You mattered, at least to some of us.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

5 Tom Clark?

6 MR. CLARK: Commissioners, thank you for giving me
7 two minutes. My name is Tom Clark. I'm the owner of Rancho
8 San Miguel located in San Miguel, California. I've owned
9 Rancho San Miguel for 23 years. I bought my first horse in
10 1984. I've owned over a thousand racehorses and mares and
11 bred, I can't even count, in my life.

12 The first thing is I'm very, very proud of the
13 fact that not one of those horses have I ever sent to a
14 slaughterhouse or turned him out in a desert. We provide.
15 I've always worked hard and so have many, many, many of my
16 colleagues and others who have owned racehorses all the
17 time. We feel a personal obligation to find a good home for
18 all the horses that we race.

19 But I'm not actually here today to tell you -- I
20 mean, I have a couple other points.

21 We breed. Our farm is a very significant breeder
22 in the state. We bred about one of every six mares in the
23 state in each of the last four years. We had 137 foals born
24 on our farm this past year, and we have over 400 horses
25 there. Many of those are retirees that we take excellent

1 care of. We have over 50 employees and their families who
2 live on our farm and have dedicated their lives to taking
3 care of these horses. We provide housing. We provide
4 healthcare.

5 And they do it for the love of the horse. Many of
6 those people have been with me for over 20 years, and this
7 is their life, and horses is their livelihood. And I
8 believe there are many other farms in this same state who
9 take just as good a care of their horses and their
10 employees.

11 All of us will be materially impacted if Northern
12 California closes. Personally, I think the foal count will
13 be cut in half given what I know about how horses are born,
14 raised and raced in this state, and that would have a
15 material impact on the employment of many, many people in
16 this state.

17 We've all talked about the welfare of those on the
18 backstretch, but you also have to keep in mind how many
19 people will be affected by the farms that will close. And
20 it's not just the workers who are taking care of the horses
21 every day, it's your veterinarians, it's your farriers, it's
22 your transportation companies, it's your feed and your hay
23 suppliers. All of those people will be materially impacted
24 by a shutdown in Northern California.

25 I just think it's really critical that we try to

1 find a solution for Northern California that not just saves
2 all the lives and the families of the backstretch, but those
3 of all the farms that are located here in this state.

4 And I just want to also, as a last point, I've
5 been around a long time and I remember when Santa Anita
6 promised spending that amount of money to fix up their
7 backstretch. That was the day that they bought the place.
8 I hope you hold them to their promises this time.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

10 Roz Barkley?

11 MS. BARKELY: I'm Roz Barkley. I'm an owner and
12 breeder of horses in California. I've also owned and bred
13 horses for years in the State of Washington.

14 First, I'd like to thank all of you for all of the
15 incredible work you've done and continue to do on a daily
16 basis to help the safety of all of our horses and also the
17 work that you do.

18 Thank you so much, Mr. Castellano and Ms.
19 Mitchell, for we're all terribly concerned about the crisis
20 of persons, families that we all know and love that work in
21 the racing industry at Golden Gate Fields.

22 And I'd also like to express my experience of
23 living through many racetracks that have closed. I was very
24 heavily involved in the State of Washington. When Longacres
25 racetrack closed, I worked with industry leaders, I worked

1 with journalists, I worked with legislatures trying to get
2 us a good program, which we were able to receive with
3 Emerald Downs.

4 Unfortunately, the leadership at Emerald Downs
5 encouraged our state legislature and industry leaders to
6 reduce all racetracks down to one, which was the death of
7 our industry. In 1992, we had over 2,000 foals born. We
8 had a \$400 million industry for the State of Washington,
9 huge economic pluses for agriculture, labor, the racing
10 industry itself. We had thousands of acres in open ground
11 space. Many of the breeders were actively involved in
12 environmental causes. We have lost all of that. I believe
13 that we had only 99 mares bred this year, and most of those
14 were bred out of state, and the foals will be saved out of
15 state.

16 So just as a lesson in history, no matter what
17 people have promised when these racetracks close, Portland
18 Meadows was supposed to help Emerald Downs. It did not do
19 so. When Bay Meadows closed, they thought it was going to
20 help Golden Gate. It did not. When Hollywood Park closed,
21 it did not help Santa Anita.

22 So history has shown us, if nothing else, that
23 closures of racetracks, the reduction of a marketplace, an
24 avenue, a venue for our product to be sold, has negatively
25 affected all of the remaining tracks in that they no longer

1 have a healthy horse colony. Laborers, horses, those things
2 dwindled down, so it's an economic loss for everybody.

3 But mostly I'm here to express the sense of
4 urgency. We greatly appreciate everyone's consideration of
5 what's happening in Northern California. But I fail to
6 believe, no matter what's promised, that there is any way
7 that consolidating and taking any actions which would weaken
8 or lessen our possibility of a continued sport in Northern
9 California. It simply, historically, has yet to be proven
10 in the entire United States. There is never a closure of
11 any given racetrack that has benefited, either through labor
12 or horse populations, the remaining racetracks.

13 Thank you very much again for all your work and
14 listening to us all. Much appreciated.

15 And I would just like to close with I've worked
16 with a lot of animal rights groups. I've entertained them
17 at farms. I've shown them programs. And I can only say I
18 wish that all the children born in the United States, that
19 all of the homeless people that we have an increasing
20 population of, that the millions of immigrants that are in
21 desperate need of help, I would hope that all of these
22 people would receive the housing, the nutrition, the
23 healthcare, and the loving care on a daily basis that this
24 industry affords its horses.

25 Thank you very much.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

2 At this time, the Board will go into closed
3 session for the purpose of receiving advice from counsel,
4 considering pending litigation, reaching decisions on
5 administrative licensing. So I'd ask everybody to vacate
6 the room. We will go back into public session for the
7 purpose of adjourning the meeting at the end of our closed
8 session. Thank you.

9 (The Board adjourned into closed session
10 from 12:11 p.m. until 12:46 p.m.)

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Can I have a motion to adjourn,
12 please?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: So move.

14 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

16 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Aye. Yes.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

18 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

22 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Mitchell?

24 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman votes yes. Meeting is

1 adjourned.

2 (The regular meeting of the California Horse Racing Board
3 adjourned at 12:46 p.m.)

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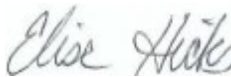
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of August, 2023.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of August, 2023.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367