

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory Ferraro, Chair

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner

Thomas Hudnut, Commissioner

STAFF

Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Robert Brodnik, Chief Counsel

Amanda Brown, Staff Counsel

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

ALSO PRESENT

Eric Sindler, Los Angeles Turf Club 2

Nate Newby, Santa Anita Race Track

Orlando Gutierrez, Los Alamitos Racing Association

Larry Swartzlander, California Authority Of Racing Fairs

Christina Estrada, Big Fresno Fair

Amy Zimmerman

Josh Rubinstein, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Oscar de la Torre

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Johnson

Ellen Ericksen

Martha Sullivan, Kill Racing Not Horses

APPEARANCES

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Sam

Samantha Prado

Ashley Lewis

Jennifer L. Borges

Lynn Freudenberg

Jane Cartmill

Allison Prater

Emily

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12. Public Comment: Communications, reports, requests 100
for future actions of the Board.

Note: During the public comment period, a total of 30 minutes will be allowed for public comments via the teleconference line. After 30 minutes, no further comments will be accepted. Each person will be limited to two minutes.

13. Closed Session: For the purpose of receiving 115
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.

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).

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PAGEClosed Session:

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 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).

14. Adjournment

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 9:32 A.M.

4 THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, this
6 meeting of the California Horse Racing Board will please
7 come to order. This is the regular noticed meeting of the
8 California Horse Racing Board on Thursday, August 15th,
9 2024, at the Del Mar Hilton, 15575 Jimmy Durante Boulevard,
10 Del Mar, California.

11 Present in today's meeting are: myself, Dr.
12 Gregory Ferraro, Chair; Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair; Brenda
13 Washington Davis, Commissioner; Thomas Hudnut, Commissioner;
14 and Scott Chaney, Executive Director.

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

17 The Board invites public comments on the matters
18 appearing on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, the Board
19 will first hear from those directly involved in the agenda
20 item. I will then invite public comment on the agenda item.
21 The Board will not answer questions. This item is for
22 comments only.

23 Unsolicited speakers are limited to two minutes
24 each. During all public comments, a tone will sound to
25 indicate a speaker's time is up. The Board may ask

1 questions of individuals who speak, which may extend their
2 two-minute limit.

3 There are public comment sign-in sheets on the
4 table on the left, in the back, they are located for each
5 agenda item on which the Board makes comments. There is
6 also a sign-in sheet for those wishing to speak during the
7 public comment period for matters not on the Board's agenda
8 if it concerns horse racing in California. Please print
9 your name legibly on all sign-in sheets. I struggle with
10 the pronunciation of your name as it is.

11 When a matter is open for public comment and you
12 come to the podium, introduce yourself by stating your name
13 and organization. This is necessary for the court reporter
14 to have a clear record of all who speak. When your two
15 minutes are up, I will ask you to return to your seat so
16 that others can be heard.

17 I will insist that all speakers stay strictly on
18 topic for each agenda item. If a speaker stays off topic, I
19 will ask to move to the next speaker. If a speaker repeats
20 themselves, I will ask the speaker as any new comments to
21 make. If there are none, the speaker will be asked to let
22 others Make comments to the Board if any had anyone has
23 comments to the Board.

24 If anyone has comments of a more general nature
25 that are not specific to an earlier agenda item. Those

1 comments must wait until item number nine, public comment.
2 There will be a 30-minute time limit for public comment. In
3 order to allow as many individuals to speak as possible
4 within that half hour, I'll strictly enforce the two minute
5 time limit for each unsolicited speaker.

6 And with that, we can begin, and we'll begin by
7 approval of the minutes.

8 All of us four were here at the last Board
9 meeting, so can we have -- do we have any public comment on
10 this?

11 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: On minutes?

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Wayne Johnson.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Wayne Johnson. Good morning, Dr.
14 Ferraro. Good morning to the Board.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Good morning, Wayne.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Please come see us more often down
17 here. We love it when you come south.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: I'm going to try to do better next
19 year.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move approval of the
22 minutes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Do I have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

5 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

7 Item number two is tabbed until September. We're
8 not going to deal with that today.

9 Item number three is discussion and action by the
10 Board on the Application for a License to Conduct a Horse
11 Race Meeting at the Los Angeles Turf Club at Santa Anita
12 from September 25th to October 29th.

13 And before we get into this, I want to inform
14 everybody that if you don't -- if any race meet that's
15 assigned days does not race on their prescribed days, and
16 that's not due to our inclement weather policy or bad air
17 conditions, it's on the judgment of the race meet people on
18 their own, you will not get the simulcast monies from the
19 day that you do not race. Those simulcast monies from now
20 on will be assigned to the regulatory charges for every
21 track. In other words, the money will be divided up
22 equally, based on what your allocation for regulatory
23 charges are, and will be applied for your account, meaning
24 that when you don't race, everybody benefits, not just the
25 track. Because the way it stands now, not racing is an

1 inducement not to race because of the simulcast money, so
2 that's the reason.

3 So you will be -- you should assume that you're
4 agreeing to this if you're taking your license application.

5 And with that, gentlemen, go ahead.

6 MR. SINDLER: Good morning. Eric Sindler on
7 behalf of Los Angeles Turf Club 2.

8 Yes, as the Chairman said, we're applying for
9 dates from September 25th through October 29th. Everything
10 is completed in the Board dates, and we do plan on running
11 all dates that were listed as dates that we plan to run in
12 the license application.

13 And Nate and Jason are here to answer any
14 questions that you may have.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, thank you, Chairman
17 Farrar, especially for that idea you just presented. I know
18 we had discussed it internally previously, but it is
19 important to race when it's safe, so I'm sure there'll be
20 further discussion around that, but appreciate your
21 leadership.

22 Yeah, just regarding the training track, I've read
23 some reports, but what can you tell me about the training
24 track? What what are plans for there? I know there's been
25 some renovations and improvements, and thank you very much

1 for that investment. What could the public and horsemen
2 expect in the coming weeks and months?

3 MR. NEWBY: Yeah, Nate Newby, Santa Anita.

4 The training track is going well. We completed
5 the installation earlier this year, so they've been training
6 on it and we kind of started it slow with allowing
7 galloping, then working, so now horsemen have been working
8 over it for a couple months. Feedback is really strong.

9 As Tapeta personnel would tell us, those tracks
10 take a little bit to break in, but the feedback has just
11 gotten stronger and stronger. So we are looking, not during
12 the autumn meet but maybe next year, of using it as an
13 inclement weather option, so it was put in racing grade on
14 the -- we redid the grade. A new safety rail was put in.
15 So everything is to racing standards and that's something
16 that we're looking at talking to Horstman with, with if
17 there's an off-the-turf day, would we look at that as an
18 option to maintain field size and still be able to operate.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: That track is pretty narrow, isn't
21 it?

22 MR. NEWBY: Yeah, it's actually very similar to
23 the width of the Gulfstream synthetic track and similar to
24 many tracks around the country. I know that the Tapeta
25 group dimensions as far as width of the track very similar

1 to many they put in around the world that they race on. So,
2 you know, it's something we want to continue to talk to
3 horsemen about. And we'd run some trial races and let them
4 test it with -- you know, obviously they've been working on
5 it for quite a bit, but we'd continue to test it with gates
6 and bigger fields and make sure everybody's comfortable
7 before we did anything.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: And what's the longest race you
9 can run on that track?

10 MR. NEWBY: You could run one mile or about a
11 mile, which would start kind of at the back of the first --
12 or the stretch, and then it's about a six and a half
13 circumference, so you would just back up from that. So you
14 could run six and a half, seven, seven and a half, and about
15 a mile.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: And where does the gate go?

17 MR. NEWBY: The gate would go, like for the six
18 and a half, it would go just before the finish line, and for
19 the mile, it would go just at the end of that far turn.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: No, I mean after they start --

21 MR. NEWBY: Oh.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: -- where does the gate go?

23 MR. NEWBY: We're cutting holes so that it would
24 go right into the infield, basically.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Pardon me?

1 MR. NEWBY: We're cutting holes in the inner rail,
2 so it would go right into the infield, into the San Andreas
3 infield. So it would just drive in, similar to, you know,
4 many other tracks.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Is that a little dangerous or not?

6 MR. NEWBY: I mean, it's done at a lot of tracks.
7 Dennis Moore, as you know, probably has more experience than
8 anybody in the country, and so he's come up with the plans.
9 Again, we'll test everything before we get to that stage.
10 It's not something we're looking at for the autumn meet,
11 but, you know --

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Well, when you get everything
13 worked out and before you actually do it, let us know, will
14 you --

15 MR. NEWBY: Absolutely.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: -- so we can --

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And the one thing, Mr.
18 Chairman, that gives me, I guess, some confidence, I would
19 guess, is, you know, they had no problem with pressing pause
20 on the six and a half down the hill, which if, you know, you
21 guys saw fit.

22 But I also really appreciated how some of the
23 younger riders, I think you guys, you know, prohibited them.
24 So I would like to think that for some apprentices, perhaps,
25 you know, maybe, maybe not, but I would just like for you

1 guys, to Dr. Ferraro's point, just to make sure you're
2 exploring all the options.

3 But again, appreciate the innovation, keeping
4 racing going as long as it's safe.

5 Just a second question if we have time, sir, is a
6 big, big month coming up in September for you guys, you
7 know, with California Crown. Hats off to you, a lot of
8 buzz. I think pricing was sent out, you know, admission-
9 wise. I know you guys are embracing safety, really trying
10 to cast net far and wide. But what can the public and
11 horsemen expect for that very fun day of racing for the
12 California Crown, it's being called; right?

13 MR. NEWBY: Yeah, the inaugural event, so it's a
14 big day. I mean, obviously with a five-week meet, that's
15 kicking off on opening Saturday, so it really starts off
16 with a bang. The first two weeks actually have 15 stakes
17 races, so it's going to it's going to be a huge opening.
18 California Crown Day is -- we boosted the purse on the
19 California Crown race to \$1 million. And then the
20 California Crown, John Henry, and California Crown Eddie D
21 will be \$750,000.

22 So we're looking to attract horses from not only
23 all over the country but with some international recruiting,
24 as well, you know giving horses an option to come in and
25 maybe prep for Breeders' Cup five weeks out with it being in

1 California at Del Mar.

2 So it's going to be a big event. We've got some
3 top talent performing during the races, some great food and
4 beverage partners, and world-class horse racing.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent. All right, I'm
6 looking forward to it.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other questions from the
8 Board?

9 Mr. Chaney?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Just a quick one on
11 the training track and having races. There might be some
12 regulatory issues. So like, obviously, I would want to be
13 in touch with you guys before you start running.

14 MR. NEWBY: Absolutely. We'll make sure
15 everybody's comfortable before we do anything. Like I said,
16 it would not be during the autumn meet. And, you know --

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay.

18 MR. NEWBY: -- I think, as everybody knows, safety
19 is our top priority, so that will -- you know, which is why
20 we're looking at it, just because that surface is Does so
21 well and any kind of weather and certainly, I think,
22 probably preferred, you know, compared to a wet turf or
23 dirt.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Public comment?

25 Ellen Ericksen?

1 MS. ERICKSEN: Good morning, Commissioners. Ellen
2 Ericksen, animal rights activist in San Diego.

3 For the second year in a row, Santa Anita Park is
4 on track to almost double the number of horse deaths
5 reported by this Board there in 2022, which was 14. The
6 Board should not grant a new racing license to Santa Anita
7 Park with this 18-month trend of increasing horse deaths.

8 So far, in 2024, Santa Anita Park has had 14 of 48
9 horse deaths reported by the CHRB, or 29 percent. In 2023,
10 Santa Anita had 27 of the 84 horse deaths reported by the
11 CHRB, 32 percent. In 2022, Santa Anita had 14 of the 64
12 horse race deaths reported by the CHRV -- CHRB, sorry, 22
13 percent of them. In 2021, Santa Anita had 21 of the 72
14 horse deaths reported by the CHRB, or 29 percent of them.
15 In 2020, Santa Anita Park had 20 of the 95 horse deaths
16 reported by your Board, 21 percent of them.

17 Please do not issue a license to Santa Anita Park
18 to race from September 25th to October 29th.

19 And just so you know, you can upgrade all the
20 tracks that you want, the surface, the turf, just know, and
21 of course you know, it's not the track, it's racing horses
22 that kills them.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

24 Martha?

25 MS. SULLIVAN: I'm Martha Sullivan with Kill

1 racing Not Horses. It's good to have the Board back in
2 Southern California after a year of hiding out in
3 Sacramento.

4 Santa Anita Park has been notorious for decades
5 for its poor living conditions for backstretch workers who
6 live at the track. While considering another race meet
7 license for it, it's useful for this Board and the public to
8 know that the workers who care for the racehorses are the
9 only type of workers explicitly not covered by California's
10 Employee Housing Act. Yet it's estimated that 80 percent of
11 these workers live at the racetrack in substandard sleeping
12 rooms, basically dorms, with shared bathrooms and no
13 kitchens.

14 Left to its own devices, the horse racing industry
15 and Santa Anita Park in particular, persist in improving its
16 racing infrastructure without improving the living
17 conditions of the workers who drive the industry.

18 I just want to quote from the Employee Housing Act
19 that housing maintained in connection with a horse racing
20 facility is not subject to the Act if it is backstretch
21 housing or housing for persons training or caring for
22 horses.

23 This Board should not be -- not continue to issue
24 a race meet license to a corporation that treats, you know,
25 the workers at its track, even though they're not their

1 employees, the workers who actually drive this industry are
2 treated just as badly as the horses. You shouldn't continue
3 to give them a race license.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

6 Wayne Johnson?

7 MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to express my appreciation
8 to the chair for asking the tough question here about gate
9 danger. Thank you, Dr. Ferraro, for raising that.

10 Truest of True, I Win Again, Adventuresome, Big
11 Switch, Seraticus (phonetic), Matanzas Creek (phonetic),
12 Buffalo Run, Blonde Bombshell, Derby Prospect, Cladacure
13 (phonetic), Honest Coop, Derby War, Practically Broke,
14 Shadow Creek (phonetic), Ounce, those are the horses that
15 died. We won't put a name on it. None of your staff will
16 name them. These are the names of the horses that have
17 passed away. These horses wanted to live as much as you and
18 I, and they are dead at Santa Anita.

19 Mr. Newby, are we going to have a memorial service
20 for those horses? That's what I'd like to know.

21 I'd also like to know why you're asking for 45-day
22 exemptions from the fire regulations. Rule 1927 is
23 important. Why are we looking for exemptions for that?

24 I'd like to have my remaining ten seconds of
25 silence for these horses that have passed away.

1 Thank you, Chairman.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 Heather Wilson?

4 MS. WILSON: Good morning.

5 Being a top-tier track, Santa Anita is often where
6 racehorses start their so-called careers. "Gotta clear out
7 the barns for the two-year-olds," that is an exact quote
8 from an on-air head at a Santa Anita race.

9 Giant's Brite Eye was a California-bred bay
10 gelding born April 8, 2019. He started out at Santa Anita.
11 He eventually found his friends, that's another euphemism
12 when they drop in class, they find their friends. Giant's
13 Brite Eye found his friends at Los Alamitos, eventually
14 getting dumped out of state. Racing for less than 18
15 months, this magnificent gelding is dead at the ripe old age
16 of five after being loaded into the starting gate 21 times.

17 On 04/30/24, Giant's Brite Eye was racing at Turf
18 Hell, Arizona, not Turf Paradise, it's a living hell for
19 these horses. He is said to have blown the turn and those
20 were his last moments alive.

21 Granting this license is granting a license to
22 kill horses, to have them drop in class, to have them get
23 dumped out of state. Just like Giant's Brite Eye, look at
24 this animal, pick up your eyes, look at this horse. This
25 was a Santa Anita horse. How many more Giant's Brite Eyes

1 will there be when you grant this license? The answer is,
2 we will never know.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

4 Sam?

5 SAM: Good morning, Board members. My name is Sam
6 and I'm here to speak up for the horses. This is regarding
7 the 2024 Santa Anita fall meet.

8 In 2022, Santa Anita Park saw 14 dead horses
9 killed by the abusive practices of horse racing. 2023 saw
10 another 27 dead horses. In 2024, the count stands at 14
11 dead innocent horses reported by California Horse Racing
12 Board at Santa Anita Park. That's the same figure as 2022
13 with five more months left for even more horses to lose
14 their lives senselessly.

15 The New York Equine Medical Director in the
16 *Paulick Report* stated, "It was a particularly rainy meat
17 last year, in other words, and the horses suffered from it."
18 That's not a revelation, but this was from Palmer.

19 The unique opportunity to compete in historic
20 prestigious races with a high purse structure incentivizes
21 risk. Horse people take the risk. The horses pay the
22 price.

23 You should keep this quote in mind as Santa Anita
24 Park hypes up a new big purse, the California Crown, one
25 month before the Breeders' Cup. By granting this license to

1 Santa Anita Park, you are incentivizing the type of behavior
2 that leads to innocent dead horses and rewarding them for
3 doubling horse deaths from 2022 to 2023. If you care about
4 horses at all, you will not grant this license.

5 When you were speaking about the inauguration of
6 California Crown just right now, you mentioned that you
7 wanted to make sure everything is okay. Please remember to
8 make sure that the horses are okay. Please make sure that
9 they're okay as well. Do not forget about the horses that
10 are being abused so people can bet money and gamble as
11 entertainment.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

14 Samantha Prado?

15 MS. PRADO: Hello. My name is Samantha Prado.
16 I'm an animal rights activist, and this is regarding the
17 Racing Me at Santa Anita.

18 In California, every year, horses go missing from
19 racetracks. These missing equines include those who were
20 injured, bleeding, unsound, vanned off, pulled up in
21 distress, or whose final race replay footage was modified.
22 What are the racetracks and CHRB concealing?

23 For example, there are two horses still missing
24 from Santa Anita.

25 Last year, on January 8th, a colt, Spun Intended,

1 ran the eighth race, then was pulled up and vanned off.
2 Head-on footage of the race was ruined, and since then, they
3 had no races or workouts and was labeled on the vet list as
4 unsound, then disappeared.

5 The second horse, a gelding, Sierra Pass, was last
6 seen on February 11, 2023, during their fourth race. They,
7 too, were vanned off with no more workouts or races. It is
8 possible Sierra Pass was euthanized. If so, then three
9 horses died in a single racing day. The other two killed
10 that day were Merit Song and Decorated My Life. What
11 happened to the missing Santa Anita horses, Spun Intended,
12 and Sierra Pass?

13 The number of missing horses will increase if this
14 racing license is granted.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

16 Ashley Lewis?

17 MS. LEWIS: Hello. My name is Ashley. I'm a
18 concerned citizen and I'm here speaking against the
19 application for Santa Anita on behalf of the horses who go
20 missing after their time there.

21 I'm bringing to your attention the example of
22 Optimistic Outcome, a horse who first ran at Santa Anita in
23 January of 2018. The chart said she weakened. In February
24 of that year, she went wrong and vanned off from Golden
25 Gate. She then became a broodmare.

1 She moved around after that, but found herself
2 back in Southern California this year with a foal at her
3 side. This broodmare, who ran at Santa Anita, found herself
4 in a So Cal feedlot, needing rescue, along with her baby.
5 This is how California treats its horses.

6 Thankfully, as of July 31st, both mare and foal
7 are safe. They were rescued by the Gainesway farm in
8 Kentucky, no thanks to the California Horse Racing Board.

9 I'm asking that you not grant the license so that
10 no more horses end up like Opportunistic [sic] Outcome.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

12 Jennifer Borges?

13 MS. BORGES: Hi. Good morning to the Board. Good
14 to see you here in Del Mar. I'm a resident of the area and
15 I'm also a licensed and a former exercise rider on the
16 Southern California circuit. I've worked at Hollywood Park
17 before it was closed, Santa Anita, and currently I have a
18 license to work here in Del Mar.

19 I'd like to correct some statistics that were
20 given by the first speaker that came up here on this
21 subject. I'd like to quote directly from a CBS News Report
22 in Los Angeles, California. The report is dated January
23 2nd, 2024, and it refers to the statistics regarding horse
24 deaths at Santa Anita.

25 I'm quoting directly from the article. "Santa

1 Anita officials have safety improvements that have brought
2 down the annual number of fatalities since 2019," which I
3 noticed that the speaker to my right, that is where she
4 decided to stop giving statistics. That was our last
5 highest number, and that was 42 horses. I did not write
6 down the exact number of horses that the speaker gave that
7 had died in training, but I believe that the numbers were
8 quoted much higher than is documented here.

9 "In Santa Anita, there were 12 racing and training
10 deaths in 2022." And again, I'm quoting directly from the
11 article. This is a reliable news source, CBS Television in
12 Los Angeles. "The number rose just slightly to only 17 in
13 2023, according to CHRB data."

14 And I would end my comment there. Thank you very
15 much.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

17 Any further comments from the Board?

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Dr. Ferraro, before we vote,
19 I just want to -- just a quick thanks to a Craig Fravel, who
20 was recently announced that he's moving on. Just, you know,
21 Mr. Fravel led it during an important time of transition,
22 embraced reform, and really I think put Santa Anita on good
23 footing. But it's also good to see that their steady
24 leadership remains.

25 And, you know, Mr. Butler, it's good to see you in

1 the audience, sir. Thank you for being here. Really look
2 forward to engaging with you and your team on, you know, on
3 continuing good racing and safe racing in Santa Anita.

4 But I just wanted to say a quick, quick thanks to
5 Craig as he goes on to greener passengers, so --

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Can I have a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move approval of the
8 application.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Second.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'll second. Gonzales.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Before you vote,
12 though, I just want to make sure that like what you
13 suggested at the beginning of the agenda item is sort of --
14 is kind of clear.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: It's understood; right?

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah. So you're
17 saying you'll grant the license on the condition that if you
18 cancel it --

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Correct.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- if a Santa Anita
21 cancels a day not due to the inclement weather policy, that
22 the simulcast money -- I probably should define that. And
23 my suggestion in thinking about it while everybody was
24 talking was, as it's defined in AB 1074, because that was
25 the last time it was --

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Correct.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- defined by the
3 legislature --

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- goes to total state
6 regulatory costs --

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Right.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- not just to the
9 south; right?

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Right. Right.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- and
12 (indiscernible).

13 CHAIR FERRARO: All tracts will benefit.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Got it. Okay.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: And all tracts will benefit.

16 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Further clarification. Is
17 it a day that is canceled or is it for any race that is
18 canceled?

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Race days.

20 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Race day.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Race days, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Okay.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, can we have a vote?
24 Commissioner Davis?

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

4 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

6 Best wishes for your success.

7 MR. NEWBY: Thank you.

8 Discussion on action by the Board on the
9 Application for a License to Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting
10 of Los Alamitos Horse Racing Association at Los Alamitos
11 Racecourse from September 11th, 2024 through September 24th,
12 2024.

13 Orlando, welcome.

14 MR. GUITIERREZ: Good morning, honorable Chair,
15 Commissioners, Executive Director Scott Chaney, as well.
16 Good morning. My name is Orlando Gutierrez representing Los
17 Alamitos Racing Association, and I'm here to humbly ask a
18 grant of the license to race during the September
19 thoroughbred meet at Los Alamitos from September 11th
20 through September 24th. Our actual opening day would be
21 Friday, September 13th. We would run two weekends, Friday
22 through Sunday, both weekends with stakes races on each
23 Saturday, including the \$125,000 Dark Mirage, the second
24 year in a row that stakes race has had a purse increase of
25 \$50,000.

1 We'll continue to do a full promotional and
2 advertising schedule for the six-day meet, including
3 promotions nationally with our ADW partners, as well as a
4 handicapping contest on the second Saturday of the meet.

5 I humbly request the granting of the license. If
6 you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: And you understand that you are,
8 too, subject to the non-racing stipulation? Okay.

9 MR. GUITIERREZ: Understood.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?
11 Public comment, please.

12 Ellen Ericksen?

13 MS. ERICKSEN: Ellen Ericksen.

14 I'd like to backtrack a moment to the woman that
15 spoke on the comment that I made. I'll be more than happy
16 to provide her the names of the horses that died during that
17 meet in Santa Anita. And to justify the death by saying
18 only 17 horses died is like one horse is too many. And to
19 justify 17 like it's okay to give these tracks a license for
20 racing in Los Alamitos for two weekends, how many horses are
21 going to die on that track needlessly?

22 So three-year-old filly Hot Dancing died racing in
23 Los Alamitos on July 4th. The filly, Hot Dancing, clipped
24 heels during the running of the seventh race, lost her
25 rider, then ran off on her own, injuring herself fatally in

1 the process, not euthanized.

2 Mike Martin of the CHRB stated,

3 "The official race chart noted that the stewards
4 disqualified the horse Bessie Coleman from the third
5 place and placed her unplaced for drifting out and
6 forcing Hot Dancing into Betty Pack at the 7/16th pole,
7 causing Hot Dancing to unseat her rider."

8 Hot Dancing, a three-year-old daughter of Dancing
9 Candy, was the second racehorse to die this year under the
10 care of trainer Peter Miller after a four-year-old gelding,
11 son of Arrogant (phonetic), Adventuresome, died training at
12 San Louis Downs on February 4th from a fetlock injury. And
13 I just want to say that these injuries off-site need to be
14 reported as horse racing deaths because those horses died
15 directly training to race at these tracks.

16 This horse, she's now one of three horses to die
17 under Miller's care after four-year-old gelding son, Dancing
18 Candy, Giver Not a Taker died, by the way, at Del Mar on
19 July 21st this year, the second day of the Del Mar meet.

20 As you all know, Peter Miller had seven racehorses
21 die in his care in 2021 and 2022. The horse in 2022, while
22 Miller was on hiatus, but was penalized by your Board for
23 acting as a trainer. The Los Alamitos thoroughbred meet
24 should not accept any entries from trainer Peter Miller,
25 because apparently his horses die a lot, and no legitimate

1 sport would allow a coach with three deaths of their
2 athletes under their direction in less than six months.

3 Please do not issue a license for Los Alamitos to
4 run from September 11th to September 24th.

5 And I just want to add one more comment. We get
6 up here and we give you statistics about the horses, what
7 happens at these tracks. You know, you go through the
8 motion, you guys all vote and say, oh yeah, it's perfectly
9 fine, we will give you a license to race while we provide
10 you accurate statistics of dead horses. And this just
11 continues.

12 So I'd like to see this Board stand up for the
13 horses and not the people Making money off of these horses
14 that die.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank You.

17 Wayne Johnson?

18 MR. JOHNSON: Hop on a Ride, Bound to Bets,
19 Bentworth (phonetic), Luxury Brand, America's Favorite, Zees
20 Empire, Puddin Head Jones, All About Fly, Poor Dompter, One
21 Two Tres Aces, Hot Dan (phonetic), these are the horses that
22 have died at Los Alamitos in 2024. Is there going to be a
23 memorial service for these horses? Can we give them at
24 least ten seconds in a memorial here? They wanted to live
25 as much as you and I.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Wayne.

2 Heather Wilson?

3 MS. WILSON: Jamminjil was a California-bred dark
4 bay mare born on 05/13/17. She ran at all the Southland
5 tracks, including six times at Los Al Thoroughbreds.
6 Jamminjil had an unusual trafficking pattern, going from
7 Santa Anita to Turf Paradise, then she went to two out-of-
8 state top-tier tracks, Oaklawn and Monmouth. She was killed
9 at Monmouth on June 4th, 2023. Jamminjil appears to have
10 suffered a catastrophic injury of her front limb. She falls
11 face first in the dirt and flips over. A horrific,
12 agonizing death, and the chart confirms that Jamminjil was,
13 in fact, killed.

14 Granting this racing meet means more horses to be
15 trafficked and killed out of state. You cannot pretend like
16 you don't know horses are abused over and over. Every
17 single time they are loaded into the starting gate, you are
18 gambling on their lives. This is a gamble that they never
19 consented to. They never agreed to this.

20 I would encourage you to look at Jamminjil's
21 replay, look at what happened to this horse. This is a
22 horse that was from California, California bred. She ran at
23 Santa Anita and she ran at Los Al Thoroughbreds.

24 You just want to grant licenses and not think
25 about the aftermath. You just want to rubberstamp every

1 single racing meet without thinking of what happens to each
2 and every single one of these horses is once the meet is
3 over, please think of Jamminjil when you rubberstamp the
4 approval of this next racing meet.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

6 Sam?

7 SAM: I'm here to commemorate a horse named Older
8 Brother. This is regarding the Los Alamitos thoroughbred
9 meet next month.

10 In order to understand what Los Alamitos
11 Thoroughbred Racing represents, we have to talk about the
12 story of Older Brother. He was an eight-year-old California
13 bred bay gelding born in March 21st, 2015. He raced all
14 over California, but he raced most of all in Los Alamitos.
15 He ran at Los Alamitos Thoroughbreds eight times, his last
16 start being on January 15th, 2022. After this race, he was
17 unceremoniously tossed to New Mexico a few months later.

18 On March 26, 2023, he was killed at Turf Paradise.
19 In his last race, he hobbled across the finish line with a
20 broken ankle, a cruel fate to the story that is all too
21 common and all too tragic for all these horses.

22 What these races represent is more stories like
23 Older Brother, a horse that had everything taken away from
24 him and was rewarded with a retirement of torture until he
25 could no longer take any more. He fought until the end and

1 his lifetime of captivity is what all these beautiful horses
2 will end up enduring.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

5 Samantha Prado

6 ?

7 MS. PRADO: I'm Samantha Prado, an animal rights
8 activist, and this regarding the upcoming Thoroughbred
9 Racing Meet at Los Alamitos.

10 There are three horses still missing whose final
11 races were at Los Alamitos Thoroughbreds. A colt, Bochombo
12 (phonetic), was pulled up, walked off, and did not finish.
13 Their last workout was on June 25, 2023.

14 The second is gelding Hill Freedom (phonetic), who
15 was eased, walked off, then placed last. From September to
16 December 2023, they worked out at Del Mar, then were gone.

17 The third is gelding Hill, 16, who also did not
18 finish, was pulled up, then placed into a van and was
19 labeled unsound on vet list.

20 As of August 11, 2024, all three horses are MIA.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

22 Lynn Freudenberg? Did I pronounce your last name
23 right?

24 MS. FREUDENBERG: Freudenberg. Yeah, thank you.

25 The Los Alamitos thoroughbred meet had 40 percent

1 more races this June than in 2023, but wagering handle was
2 only up 21.3 percent. Risking and taking lives, horses
3 lives, for this pathetic gambling product is truly heinous.

4 Three-year-old Philly, Hot Dancing, lost her life
5 racing in this pathetic meet on July 4th.

6 Another horse, January 20th, All About Fly, was a
7 stable accident. And this is from a FOIA request from Horse
8 Racing Wrongs, August 3rd this year. It quotes,

9 "The horse ran out of the stall, down, backside a barn,
10 and into a fence. Horse collapsed after coming in
11 contact with the fence. Horse was unresponsive, no
12 reflexes present, and no heartbeat. Large abrasion on
13 forehead observed," end a quote.

14 All About Fly had not turned two years old.

15 And I keep wondering like, you know, why are there
16 no live cams in the stable area, just so you can monitor the
17 horses, first of all? But I'm just wondering, what fear was
18 in this horse that made it run for its life as soon as that
19 stall door was opened? And also, too, a lot of monitoring
20 would let the public see what's happening behind the scenes,
21 you know, what's going on, and so they could also have
22 informed incisions on if there are a thoroughbred racings.

23 Have some pride and compassion. Please don't
24 grant another license to this sick joke of a race mate.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

2 Further comments from the Board? Do we have a
3 motion?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I think you have one
5 more public comment, it sounds like.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Try to get your sign up on time,
7 please.

8 MS. BORGES:: This is in regard to the statistics
9 provided here by other speakers in regard to the deaths at
10 Los Alamitos.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) (Indiscernible.)

12 MS. BORGES:: Pardon me, my dear. Pardon me.
13 You're being very disrespectful. You're being very
14 disrespectful. No one interrupted you.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: It's her two minutes, not yours.

16 MS. BORGES:: No one interrupted you during
17 your --

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Off mic.) (Indiscernible.)

19 MS. BORGES:: Regarding the statistics at Los
20 Alamitos, according to a reliable news report from ABC News
21 and statistics provided to them by the California Horse
22 Racing Board, according to the CHRB statistics, at the end
23 of the fiscal year, reported June 30, 2023, there were 26
24 deaths at Los Alamitos. The previous season, the number of
25 deaths was 39. And I'd like to point out that is a

1 reduction of 13 less deaths, and that equals a statistical
2 difference of 33 percent.

3 So there are improvements at Los Alamitos in terms
4 of standards for racing and that has resulted in an
5 improvement. There are 33 percent less deaths in the most
6 recent fiscal year report.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

9 Further comments from the Board? A motion?

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'll move to approve.
11 Gonzales.

12 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I'll second.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

18 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Just to confirm, Mr.
21 Chairman, you were -- the Board --

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Right.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- put on the same
24 condition?

25 CHAIR FERRARO: You're on the same condition.

1 MR. GUITIERREZ: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: You understand that; right?

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm not sure that if
4 the Board's putting it on, they can agree to it or not agree
5 to it, I suppose.

6 MR. GUITIERREZ: Understood.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: You understand, yeah.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thanks.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

10 Discussion and action by the Board on the
11 Application for a License to Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting
12 at the Big Fresno Fair at Fresno from September 18th, 2024
13 through October 15th, 2024.

14 Just to be clear, you will also be subject to that
15 ruling of the --

16 Yes, we understand.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, so we understand each other.

18 MR. SWARTZLANDER: Larry Swartzlander, Executive
19 Director of CARF -- oh, I turned it off -- Executive
20 Director of CARF, and also the Director of Racing, I have
21 with me Christina Estrada, who's a new Fair Manager at the
22 Big Fresno Fair, and she'll be following with a few comments
23 after I give you a short synopsis of the meet.

24 We're looking at the Big Fresno Fair for four
25 weeks under this license, September 18th through October

1 15th, 11 days. We will have the same overnight purse
2 structure that we've had at Pleasanton, Santa Rosa and
3 Sacramento.

4 We have the two stakes races at Fresno, the Harris
5 Stakes and the Bulldog. Incentive program, the first two
6 weeks of the meet, all horses has received \$200 per start to
7 offset transportation costs to Fresno. And also, we have an
8 out-of-state incentive of \$500 for the first start and \$500
9 for the second start, and the horses come in from out-of-
10 state of California.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: And just to be --
12 sorry to interrupt, Larry, but just to be clear for the
13 Board, the first two weeks or before the fair actually
14 starts, and so there's a Friday and Saturday --

15 MR. SWARTZLANDER: Right.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- sorry, Saturday-
17 Sunday card, Saturday-Sunday card, and then, of course,
18 traditional three days of racing with the final two weeks
19 with the fair.

20 MR. SWARTZLANDER: Yeah. And to expand on that --

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay. Sorry. Sorry
22 to steal your thunder.

23 MR. SWARTZLANDER: -- is that it's a five-week
24 meeting Fresno this year, 14 days. The first week was
25 approved under the Humboldt County Fair application. And so

1 it will be five weeks of racing at the big Fresno Fair this
2 year.

3 Christina?

4 MS. ESTRADA: Good morning. Christina Estrada,
5 interim CEO of the Big Fresno Fair. I just wanted to share
6 with you the work that has been going on for the September
7 racing.

8 We have been promoting. We have themed days that
9 we have promoted to just to gain awareness to the public of
10 the September horse racing. It's something that is new to
11 the fair. So we have themed days. We have Salute to
12 Veterans and First Responders. We also have Kentucky Derby
13 Hat Day contest. That's always well welcomed to the fair
14 industry.

15 We have -- let me put on my glasses to make sure I
16 read it for you guys -- we have offered free reserve seats
17 to the public for the September horse racing, giving them
18 the opportunity for the people to get free reserve seats.
19 All they have to do is fill out a form on their website. We
20 also have promotions for happy hour. We have mascot races.
21 I mean we have been working hard to promote and advertise
22 the September horse racing.

23 We have two weekends, September horse racing, that
24 has sold out. And then we also have a weekend in October
25 that has sold out. We've sold out in the Turf Club and we

1 have sold out in our Luxury Deck.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: How many stalls do you have there?

4 MS. ESTRADA: 624.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: How much?

6 MS. ESTRADA: 624.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

8 Any questions from the Board?

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Just, yeah, thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11 Good report. I had a chance to go to Fresno Fair
12 Racing last year with my wife, and you guys put on a great
13 show.

14 If I could just make a couple, you know,
15 recommendation to all the fairs, in fact, is if you have a
16 way to capture emails and phone numbers of your participants
17 so you keep them coming back, You could direct that crowd to
18 either Santa Anita when they have big events or Pleasanton,
19 and then maybe the day will come when they do the same for
20 you.

21 But there was so many people there. It's very
22 family-oriented. They looked very safe. The weather
23 cooperated. And it's -- actually, congratulations. It's
24 your new role; right? Are you new?

25 MS. ESTRADA: Yes, I am.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Well, congratulations --

2 MS. ESTRADA: Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: -- on your new role. You
4 have the ability, like a lot of others, to bring new ideas,
5 embrace innovation, embrace safety, and just embrace the
6 beautiful community of the Central Valley.

7 I know Chairman John Harris, who I had a chance to
8 see at the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association sale
9 just a few days ago, is a huge champion, and as are many
10 others. So just good luck, keep things safe, and do what
11 you can to make sure that the fans are communicated with.
12 So again, good luck.

13 MS. ESTRADA: Great, thank you.

14 I do want to add that in giving away the reserve
15 seats, all they have to do is fill out the form online and
16 it is capturing emails, addresses, information, and we give
17 them free reserve seats.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent. Excellent.

19 And then I know it's a lot of a bilingual crowd
20 too.

21 MS. ESTRADA: Yes.

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: So, para los que hablan
23 español, you know, make sure that you're able to communicate
24 with them because that's a huge demographic that, I believe,
25 is relatively untapped when it comes to California races in

1 the Spanish-speaking community.

2 MS. ESTRADA: Absolutely. May I just add?

3 (Speaking Spanish.)

4 It's a pleasure for me to be the Hispanic, you
5 know, spokesperson for the Fair.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: (Speaking Spanish.)

7 Gracias.

8 MS. ESTRADA: Gracias.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other comments from the Board?

10 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Just congratulations on your
11 position, and I hope your interim becomes permanent, if
12 that's what you want.

13 MS. ESTRADA: Thank you so much.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: I'm going to take public comment
15 here in just a second. When we're done with this, you can,
16 yeah.

17 Martha Sullivan, please.

18 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan, again, with Kill
19 Racing Not Horses.

20 The CTT and CARF agreement says TAC rooms suitable
21 as living quarters will be provided free of charge, if not
22 trailers and trailer spaces on fairgrounds premises. The
23 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Office of the
24 State Fire Marshal says in its fire clearances for the
25 Fresno -- for the Big Fresno Fair that, quote, "The barns

1 are designated for livestock use only and are not permitted
2 for sleeping accommodations."

3 Section 20 of the application for the Race Meet
4 License for the Big Fresno Fair says, in B,

5 "Number of rooms used for housing on the backstretch of
6 the racetrack, 22. C, number of restrooms available on
7 the backstretch or the racetrack, 15. D, estimated
8 ratio of restroom to the number of backstretch
9 personnel, 12-to-1."

10 Where are the approximately 180 backstretch
11 workers sleeping during the big Fresno Fair meet? This
12 needs to be answered before this Board grants this race meet
13 license, because the fire marshal has said the barns are not
14 permitted for human occupation. And that's what the race
15 meet license implies by saying 22 rooms.

16 So you need to pin this down before you issue this
17 license.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

20 Wayne Johnson?

21 MR. JOHNSON: If I'm not mistaken, Fresno falls
22 under the mantle of the California Association of Facing
23 Fairs.

24 I'm a Tank, Dardic Vic (phonetic), Moonlight, all
25 dead at Cal Expo. Where's It At, Goodbye Kai, Dad's Dream,

1 Jazzy Empress, Shayna Madrid (phonetic), all dead at
2 Pleasanton. Please consider that when you're considering
3 granting a license here.

4 Finally, I'd just like to say, as a point of
5 personal privilege, that when you add all these horses
6 together, for this year so far, as of August 15, 2024, you
7 come up with more or less 48 horses. That includes, Giver
8 Not a Taker, Handsome Red, and Savannah Lady from Del Mar.

9 Mr. Rubenstein, will you have a memorial service
10 at Del Mar for those three horses who died just a few yards
11 from here? Will you have a memorial service, Mr.
12 Rubenstein? That's the same answer he gave me a half hour
13 ago.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

15 Heather Wilson?

16 MS. WILSON: I want to talk about a horse named
17 Refuse, the best name ever for a horse, Refuse. Refuse is
18 or was a California-bred dark bay gelding born April 25th,
19 2018. He had four starts and it is important to talk about
20 each one.

21 Refuse broke his maiden on his first start. How
22 exciting. He placed first at Mountaineer in West Virginia.
23 Perhaps based on that performance he was then shipped back
24 here to his birthplace, California, where he ran right here
25 at Del Mar.

1 August 2021, he trails the field the entire time
2 he's pulled up, walked off, DNF, did not finish. Two months
3 later, he's dumped in Northern California.

4 Refuse was entered to run at the Fresno Fair on
5 October 11th. And for reasons that are still unclear, he
6 didn't run, and he was not on the vet list. A few days
7 later, he does end up racing at the Fresno Fair, placing
8 last, and the chart says that he gave out.

9 Then just two weeks later, on Halloween 2021, he
10 runs at the now defunct Golden Gate, where he placed last,
11 and he was stopped, eased, and walked off.

12 Refuse clearly refused to be a racehorse. Where
13 is he? Where is this horse who had a lot of interactions
14 with the Fresno Fair? Where is Refuse? Where is this
15 animal? None of you care, and none of you know.

16 Lastly, you anticipate that horses will die at
17 Fresno. In your fire inspection report, you have a
18 structure called the Dead Horse Barn. Is that a good place
19 for the children, the family fun? Are you going to take
20 them on a tour of the Dead Horse Barn? Is this what we want
21 to teach our children, that it is okay to enter these horses
22 in fictional, man-created contests and they might end up in
23 the dead horse barn?

24 This is what you need to be teaching the children
25 if you're going to promote this as a family-friendly affair,

1 that these animals could end up in the Dead Horse Barn, or
2 they could be missing in action just like this horse named
3 Refuse.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

5 Sam?

6 SAM: Hi again. I just have a request before I
7 make my comment, is please pay attention to us when we
8 speak. I noticed some of you are working on your computer.
9 I hope you're hearing every word we're saying because this
10 is important. We're here to speak up for the animals, for
11 the horses.

12 This is regarding the meet at Big Fresno Fair from
13 September 18th to October 15th. In 2023, race eight had ten
14 horses forced to race. Of those ten, only four are
15 currently still being abused for racing in California. Two
16 are in Alberta, Canada, where horses are slaughtered for
17 human consumption. One was dumped in Washington State.
18 Three have not raced since.

19 Northern California is clearly a transitional
20 dumping ground for California race horses that are no longer
21 deemed fit for their top-tiered events. These cold and
22 calculated horse owners will never give horses even the
23 freedom to retire in peace after years of service. Instead,
24 they're foisted off into even worse circumstances than the
25 ones they were currently found themselves in, all for the

1 profit of the people who abuse them and force them to
2 compete against their will.

3 These amazing animals deserve way better than to
4 be discarded when their human master sees them as a
5 liability. If you care about horses you will not grant this
6 license application.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

8 Ashley Lewis?

9 MS. LEWIS: Hi. I'm Ashley Lewis, concerned
10 citizen, speaking out against the application for Big Fresno
11 Fair.

12 I wanted to bring to your attention a horse named
13 Coastal Queen. She placed last out of ten in October of
14 2022 at Fresno, and we haven't seen her since. She stopped,
15 eased, walked off, no races since, zero clocked workouts, no
16 registered foals, and her last known whereabouts were at the
17 big Fresno Fair. So I ask, before you grant this license,
18 where is Coastal Queen?

19 I also want to point out that we want this Board
20 to not be a rubberstamp Board; right? But they've been
21 advertising these live meets for the last two months, and
22 you'll I'll have to take my word for it on my printout, but
23 this is from their website where they've been advertising
24 for the last two months. And I just think that if we want
25 to truly give consideration and proper consideration that's

1 due, we shouldn't be allowing this advertising before the
2 license is even granted.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

4 Jennifer Borges?

5 MS. BORGES: Regarding the horse Refuse, I
6 actually tried to do some research on the disposition of the
7 animal. I wasn't able to perform it, or at least not based
8 on that name. I did come up with a couple of others, but I
9 couldn't identify 100 percent the identity of the horse.

10 But as I believe Heather pointed out, we don't
11 know the disposition of the horse, or at least I don't at
12 this time, and neither did she. She actually didn't provide
13 that information, which I'm sure she would have been happy
14 to provide if their horse was either in some type of
15 physical condition that was negative or if it, for some
16 reason, had expired. But she did not actually provide that,
17 because that probably isn't the case.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: You know, if I can ask,
19 ma'am, don't direct your questions or points at anybody in
20 particular, please. Just say what you need to say, and then
21 let's get through this.

22 MS. BORGES: Well, I just want the audience to be
23 aware of what I'm addressing.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, I understand. But if
25 you want to continue, make your point. Otherwise, we're

1 going to have to cut you off here.

2 MS. BORGES: Make my point?

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah. You're here to make a
4 point; right?

5 MS. BORGES: The conduct of any trainer can't be
6 construed to be the conduct of all trainers. And in fact,
7 what this person described as the conduct of that trainer,
8 in reference to the horse Refuse, was actually quite
9 appropriate. The horse had won in a Maryland race, as she
10 pointed out, and due to the winning portfolio was moved to a
11 higher caliber racetrack, Del Mar. When the horse had some
12 difficulty performing here, the horse was moved to an easier
13 platform, which was the Fresno racetrack.

14 And when the horse was scratched, the horse was
15 done so apparently voluntarily, if I use her information,
16 which as I said, I wasn't able to identify that horse
17 specifically. But let's just say that it did occur that
18 way. That would mean that the trainer made the appropriate
19 decision voluntarily without any mandates from any officials
20 that the horse wasn't prepared to run that day.

21 When the horse was pulled up, that is the
22 appropriate action of a horse is struggling. And there was
23 never any injury identified here. So we really don't know
24 that this horse was mistreated in any way. In fact, as a
25 horse professional myself of more than 50 years, I would say

1 that the conduct of the trainer was very appropriate under
2 the circumstances.

3 And I'd like to know what the disposition of the
4 horse is, and I will continue to try to find that out before
5 the end of today's meeting.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Thank you.

8 Any other further comments from the Board? Do I
9 have a motion?

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'll move. Gonzales.

11 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Second.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Oh, yes. Yeah. Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

17 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

19 Thank you, gentlemen. Have a successful --
20 gentlemen and ladies.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Congratulations and good
22 luck.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: We're going to take a little ten-
24 minute break here, so everyone can relax for a minute,
25 attend to their duties.

1 (Off the record 10:35 a.m.)

2 (On the record at 10:48 a.m.)

3 CHAIR FERRARO: We're going to get started with
4 item number six. It's a little complicated, bureaucratic
5 work to do here.

6 Discussion and action by the Board regarding the
7 proposed amendment of CHRB Rule 1433, Application for a
8 License to Conduct a Horse Racing Board meeting; Rule
9 1440, Approval of Concessionaires; Rule 1440.5, Licensing of
10 Contractors and Sub-Contractors; Rule 2057, Initial
11 Application and Approval of a Simulcast Facility; Rule 2059,
12 Initial Application and Approval of a Simulcast
13 Organization; Rule 2066, Application for License to Operate
14 a Minisatellite Wagering Facility; and Rule 2071, License to
15 Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering by a California Applicant;
16 Rule 2072, Approval to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering by
17 an Out-of-State Applicant, to update applications used by
18 various entities for approvals and licenses by the Board.

19 That is, we're making amendments to existing rules
20 and regulations.

21 Robert?

22 MR. BRODNIK: Yes, good morning, Commissioners.
23 Robert Brodnick, California Horse Racing Board.

24 These regulations come back before you after
25 revisions from the Office of Administrative Law. The

1 attached revisions from OAL resolve clarity issues, and also
2 the proposed \$500 licensing fee for simulcast facilities was
3 removed for consistency. These are all edits from OAL, and
4 they're presented for your consideration.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: It's my understanding that none of
6 these changes affect the intention of the rule or the rule
7 as it stands; right? It's just clerical?

8 MR. BRODNIK: Yes. By way of history, the
9 majority of these amendments came before you and went out
10 for 45-day public comment. There was no public comment.
11 That rulemaking file was completed and submitted to the
12 Office of Administrative Law and these are just a few,
13 frankly, minor edits that they had for clarity purposes.

14 So nothing truly substantive other than there had
15 been a \$500 licensing fee application fee for simulcast
16 facilities and it was suggested that that be removed, so we
17 wouldn't be charging the \$500 for consistency reasons. We
18 don't do it for other entities. So that's it.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Mr. Chaney.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, Rob's
21 absolutely -- sorry, Mr. Brodnik is absolutely correct.

22 The one other thing I should note for the Board is
23 it does include the Section 7 language on the racetrack app
24 that we've talked about before with respect to purse
25 accounts and overpayment and underpayment. It sort of

1 clarifies that, makes it more clear for the Board.

2 Just a personal note, I've got to thank staff
3 because this is a major overhaul over a number of years and
4 a long time coming, so I really appreciate their work.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board,
6 comments?

7 We have two public comments.

8 Wayne Johnson?

9 MR. JOHNSON: I'll pass. Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Eric Sindler?

11 MR. SINDLER: Good morning. Eric Sindler on
12 behalf of Santa Anita.

13 The comment is just about the new purse account
14 information. So there's two parts you're asking for. The
15 second part where you ask for the over-under payments from
16 the last few meets we have no problem with, we think that
17 should be disclosed. It's the first one where you want the
18 amount in purse account at close of last meet after purse is
19 paid. So we just want to make sure the Board understands
20 what that is and what number that means.

21 So there's one trust account that all purses go
22 into, but that trust account also includes, let's say an
23 owner is going to put \$10,000 into claim a horse, that money
24 is in the same account, or the money that's transferred from
25 an owner to a jockey for winning a race, the ten percent,

1 that money is in the account.

2 So while we can certainly give you a number for
3 the money in that trust account, it's kind of a meaningless
4 number because it changes by the day when people either put
5 money into claim a horse, withdraw money from the winnings.
6 So we're happy to give it to you, it's just meaningless.

7 So just want to make sure the Board understands
8 what that number is that you're asking for.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Wouldn't be the first time we got
10 something meaningless.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: You're referring to
12 (b) (7) (B) (1)?

13 MR. SINDLER: Correct.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay. Do you have
15 a -- I mean, would your suggestion be to just not include it
16 or --

17 MR. SINDLER: Yes. I think --

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- or make it clear
19 that we don't want all the fluff, we actually want money
20 left over from overpayment? I mean, what we're after is, I
21 mean, the intent, obviously, is to know the number, because
22 oftentimes -- here's what we're trying to fix; right?
23 Oftentimes, you know, tracks complain that they have an
24 overpayment or underpayment, meanwhile, you know, have like
25 \$500,000 to the good in the purse account. So like saying

1 like, oh, we were overpaid \$400,000 is not an accurate
2 picture; right? You really still have \$100,000 extra. I
3 mean, because I understand that these are managed from meet-
4 to-meet.

5 So like the intent at least is to understand how
6 much you have left over after the meet is done in your purse
7 account that you can apply to purses. And maybe we should
8 just say it that way.

9 MR. SINDLER: If that's what -- yeah.

10 I mean, the second one, (b)(2), I think that
11 answers the question about the over-under payment issues
12 that's come up in the last year. But, you know, if you want
13 to clarify one, so that way it's a meaningful number for
14 purses, that's whatever the Board thinks best. Just wanted
15 to make sure you understood how it works so you could get
16 accurate information.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Scott?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, I'm just trying
19 to -- regulating on the fly is always a terrible idea, but
20 I'm just trying to think if there's a clarification we can
21 make, because I'd prefer to move this along.

22 Would something simple like changing 7(b)(1) to
23 amount in purse account left over for purses or attributed
24 to purses or something like that?

25 MR. SINDLER: If that would work, yeah.

1 MR. BRODNIK: I guess I just have a quick
2 question. If the issue that Eric is describing is that
3 there's certain amounts that aren't accurately reflected, at
4 what point would that true-up occur? I mean, it would seem
5 like that money would be paid out to the jockey, if he's
6 talking about a ten percent jockey fee, by the close of --

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Right. I don't want
8 to speak for him, but I think what he's saying is it's
9 fluid, so you're getting per -- like you're getting jockey
10 fees, and I don't know what else, in the trust account, and
11 so it's always changing. And so I don't think it's ever
12 like, am I wrong, a set number? It's just, it's revolving.

13 MR. SINDLER: Correct. It's a fluid number.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I would, if I could
15 make a suggestion, I would just suggest changing (b) (1) --
16 7(b) (1) on the race meet app to amount in purse account
17 earmarked for purses.

18 MR. SINDLER: I think that works, yeah.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Does that require a regulatory
21 change to change that language or not?

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No, no, no. You could
23 make the change. If you decide to send this out for a 15-
24 day comment, you could send what's in your packet with that
25 change right now. I mean, we're making it in public in

1 front of the Board.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: and then it's going to
4 be out for a 15-day comment anyway.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: All right. So I move we do that.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I appreciate that.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Do I have a second?

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

10 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

16 Moving on to item number seven, discussion and
17 action by the Board regarding the proposed amendment to CHRB
18 Rule 1634, Claiming Option Entry; Rule 1656, Errors which
19 Invalidate the Claim; and Rule 1658, Vesting of Title to
20 Claimed Horse, to align with federal regulations regarding
21 claiming races.

22 Scott, please.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman,
24 thank you. These amendments seek to do a few different
25 things.

1 First, as HISA -- as everyone knows, HISA is
2 regulating in the safety space. They refer to bled as
3 epistaxis, which is the same thing. But in order to make
4 that clear that both their rules and our rules are referring
5 to the same thing, we suggest a few changes to make that
6 clear. Also to add it to the list of issues that a trainer
7 can check the claim box that he or she wants the claim,
8 regardless of bled or epistaxis.

9 The last and probably most significant one that I
10 should highlight for the Board is changing our claim
11 claiming waiver entry option, which we frankly pioneered
12 before my time, probably ten years ago. The concern was
13 that trainers and owners wouldn't give horses sufficient
14 vacation or layoff if they had minor or major injuries, for
15 that matter. So the Board came up with a rule that if your
16 horse has had 180 days between races, a trainer and owner
17 can bring them back at the same claiming price without -- or
18 higher, without the prospect of being claimed. And you have
19 to make that determination at entry time.

20 HISA, in their rules that went to effect, their
21 amendments that went to effect on July 8th, expanded that to
22 decrease the vacation or time off to 120 days and then add a
23 second free race, if you will, in which the trainer and
24 owner can elect to avail themselves of that possibility. Of
25 course, there are some conditions. If you win your first

1 start, obviously you're not eligible for the second, and
2 they're well defined in the rules.

3 So currently our thoroughbred population is under
4 this HISA rule. So this idea was that we would make uniform
5 thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Standardbreds. And I
6 believe, and I don't know if Dr. Blea thinks differently,
7 but I believe this strengthens animal welfare. And so, you
8 know, I think HISA, in some ways, has taken it a step
9 further to further protect horses, so that's why we bring it
10 to the Board.

11 And lastly, it changes our claiming card, which is
12 an official state document and to reflect all of these
13 changes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

15 Do we have any public comment on this?

16 Wayne Johnson? Do you want to make a comment,
17 Wayne?

18 MR. JOHNSON: Please give me a second and let
19 Heather go.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Go ahead. Go ahead.

21 Heather Wilson?

22 MS. WILSON: Regarding claiming races, putting
23 your horse up for sale in a claiming race is not how you
24 show love for an animal. That is a business transaction.
25 You can follow the results of any horse on Equibase and just

1 watch their value, their claiming tag, go down and down and
2 down.

3 Then regarding Rule 1658, I want to point out the
4 CHRB definition of a bleeder. You're using frank epistaxis
5 or visible bleeding from the nares as the definition of
6 EIPH. It is in the peer-reviewed scientific veterinary
7 medical literature that epistaxis is a poor indicator of
8 EIPH. And according to the Merck Veterinary Manual, it
9 states,

10 "Epistaxis is seen in a small proportion, five percent,
11 of horses with EIPH. Blood in the tracheobronchial
12 tree is identified in 45 to 75 percent of the horses
13 with EIPH via endoscopic examination. And hemorrhage
14 is detected by cytologic examination of
15 bronchioalveolar lavage in greater than 90 percent of
16 the racehorses."

17 So you are using the most insensitive indicator of
18 EIPH, which is frank epistaxis, visible blood coming from
19 one or both nares during or after a race. So you're using
20 the most insensitive indicator for bleeding, and this is the
21 criteria that you are using for scratching horses.

22 Your definition of a bleeder is going to miss the
23 vast majority of horses that should be scratched or that
24 should be voided from a claim when they are up for sale in a
25 claiming race. The most insensitive indicator, bleeding

1 from the nares. And it's the easiest way to tell, oh, look
2 at that, there's blood coming out of their nose. It's the
3 most insensitive indicator of exercise-induced pulmonary
4 hemorrhage.

5 Most of your bleeders will be missed using this
6 criteria, whose claims should have been voided. And then
7 these horses pop up month after month after month as
8 bleeders with a little star next to their name on the vet
9 list, and then they develop fibrosis. And then you cannot
10 exchange and extract oxygen and eliminate CO2 when your
11 alveolus are full of scar tissue or fibrosis, which happens
12 when the EIPH heals. We don't exchange gas through scar
13 tissue.

14 So these horses that bleed are at grave risk of
15 becoming poor performers because they're not able to extract
16 oxygen, but we put them up in claiming race after claiming
17 race, and they should have been voided.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Samantha Prado?

19 MS. PRADO: I'm Samantha Prado, an animal rights
20 activist, and this is regarding claiming races where horses
21 are sold depending on how used and aged they are determines
22 their price range.

23 These sentient animals are bought and traded as if
24 they are vehicles. Even HISA has rules which obviously
25 express the high dangers that come with racing these

1 sensitive animals. Horses die from injuries or are killed.
2 They are drugged, distressed, hemorrhaged, and end up in
3 ambulances.

4 Under 2262, Void Claim, HISA states,

5 "The claim shall be voided and ownership of the horse
6 retained by the original owner if, one, the horse dies
7 on the racing track, two, the horse is euthanized
8 before leaving the racing track, three, the horse is
9 vanned off, four, the horse is bleeding, physically
10 distressed, medically compromised, unsound or lame, and
11 five, the horse has a positive test for a prohibitive
12 substance."

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Jane Cartmill?

14 MS. CARTMILL: This is from the recent Jockey Club
15 roundtable as reported in the *Paulick Report* on August 1st.

16 "A pilot handicap system of races could be coming soon
17 to U.S. tracks. Several stakeholders have called for the
18 claiming race system to be replaced with an alternate form
19 of rating or handicapping horses in hopes the removal of the
20 claiming price element could improve safety in lower end
21 races.

22 "Jockey Club President and Chief Operating Officer Jim
23 Gagliano announced that Equibase is working on such a
24 system which would allow horses to stay with the same
25 connections for longer if claiming races are reduced or

1 eliminated."

2 Frequent changing of barns is known to be
3 associated with a higher risk of fatal injury according to
4 data from the Equine Industry Database. This rating system
5 would be provided to tracks at no cost and they would have
6 the option of whether to change their race conditions to
7 include it.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

9 Wayne, your turn.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm going to pass.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Very well.

12 Any further comments or questions from the Board
13 regarding this issue? Do we have a motion?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis move.

15 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Hudnut seconds.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

21 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

23 All right, number eight, discussion and action by
24 the Board regarding the proposed amendment of CHRB Rule
25 1497, Confidentiality of Applications, and CHRB Rule 1548,

1 Rulings by the Stewards, to align with current practices
2 regarding the confidentiality of information and compliance
3 with the Information Practices Act.

4 Amanda --

5 MS. BROWN: Good morning, Commissioners.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: -- can you explain this, please?

7 MS. BROWN: Yes. Amanda Brown, Staff Counsel with
8 the CHRB.

9 So this item would update two rules, the first
10 being Rule 1497, Confidentiality of Applications. And so
11 these proposed amendments are meant to better align our rule
12 with our license application.

13 So I just want to be clear that it does not change
14 the fact that licensees can keep their personal addresses
15 and personal phone numbers confidential. That specification
16 will now just be covered under proposed subsection (d) as
17 information marked as confidential. So again, no
18 substantive changes. It's more for clarity and consistency
19 between our application and our rule on what is public and
20 what is private.

21 The second amendment pertains to Rule 1548,
22 Rulings by the Stewards. This is an old rule and it
23 requires stewards to put a social security number on a
24 ruling. Frankly, we don't need that information on there,
25 we don't want it, and we have to redact it when we release a

1 ruling. So we would like to strike that from the rule.

2 So with that, I'm happy to answer any questions
3 you may have on either rule.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: So this basically improves the
5 safety of our applicants, right, and complies with state law
6 on the other?

7 MS. BROWN: Correct.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?

9 Do we have a public comment on this one? No?

10 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: So we have a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move approval.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

19 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: And the chairman votes yes.

21 Now, what we've all been waiting for, California
22 Horsepower Coalition will present findings from the 2024
23 American Horse Council's Economic Impact California Breakout
24 Study, which covers the impact of the industry to the state,
25 both economically and culturally.

1 Welcome, Amy.

2 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Good morning, Commissioners.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Josh.

4 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Good morning.

5 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Good morning, Commissioners. I'm
6 Amy Zimmerman, on behalf of Josh -- along with Josh
7 Rubinstein, presenting here today on behalf of the
8 California Horsepower Coalition. Our coalition is made up,
9 as you know, of 15 equine organizations from across the
10 state, representing thousands of individuals, owners,
11 breeders, trainers, jockeys, veterinarians, to aftercare
12 providers, backstretch workers, and racetrack employees like
13 myself.

14 We want to take this opportunity to shed a
15 positive light on the industry's financial impact on the
16 state of California. Our goal is not to gloss over the
17 realities of our financial challenges, but to emphasize that
18 finding a sustainable revenue model for racing unlocks
19 incredible potential for our industry.

20 Earlier this year, the American Horse Council
21 released a report detailing the results of their most recent
22 economic study. The California part of this surveyed
23 thousands to provide the most comprehensive industry study
24 to date. It measured the equine industry's direct impact on
25 the state's economy, as well as its total impact on other

1 sectors, like job creation, tourism, and consumer spending.
2 The report looked at many sectors of the industry, from
3 recreational activities, equine-assisted therapies, to
4 competitions. And the racing continues to be the greatest
5 economic contributor to our state.

6 Josh?

7 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Yeah, good morning,
8 Commissioners. Some really positive numbers here.

9 In 2023, the California horse racing industry
10 sector added \$2.5 billion in total value to the state's
11 economy, with a direct contribution of \$1.5 billion to
12 California's GDP.

13 Closer to home at Del Mar, many local businesses
14 such as hotels and restaurants depend on the eight weeks of
15 summer racing and five-week fall season to make their year.
16 The economic impact from horse racing at Del Mar is
17 significant. This year with Breeders' Cup, Del Mar is
18 projected to generate over \$300 million in positive economic
19 impact for the region.

20 And here on track at Del Mar, it takes over 3,600
21 employees each day to put on our world-class thoroughbred
22 racing product.

23 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Most importantly, the American
24 Horse Council report shows significant growth since the last
25 study was conducted five years ago. One area where growth

1 is particularly clear is employment. According to the
2 study, racing employees in this state are nearly 25,000
3 industry workers. That's up from just 17,000 workers in the
4 last report. In total, horse racing supports nearly 37,000
5 jobs across the state, illustrating just how integral racing
6 continues to be for the other industries it touches.

7 We've overcome quite a bit of uncertainty over
8 these last five years, and while we continue to face new
9 challenges, it's clear we have a strong foundation. These
10 key stats reinforce our longstanding contribution to the
11 state of California.

12 It also underlines how popular horses remain to
13 Californians themselves. The American Horse Council study
14 found that 30.4 percent of households contain at least one
15 horse enthusiast. Yes, 4.1 million households in California
16 have someone who actively participates in horse events.
17 Those include Team USA's Karl Cook, Park, a part of the
18 Olympic silver medal jumping team, whose hometown of Rancho
19 Santa Fe is just a few miles up the road from where we are.
20 What's more, 38 percent of those horse enthusiasts are under
21 the age of 18, which is a great sign for our future.

22 The report goes on to detail the economic
23 significance of other sectors of the equine industry besides
24 racing, much of which, as we know, are financially supported
25 by the racing group. In many ways, the American Horse

1 Council study tells us what we already know, that horses are
2 intrinsically tied to California's culture, and that's not
3 likely to change anytime soon.

4 But what has changed is the environment and
5 circumstances in which we continue to operate. The closure
6 of several racetracks over the last 15 years only emphasizes
7 that racing and breeding are the key to sustaining our
8 economic impact. We need help to open funding streams that
9 will support racing's financial stability and the long-term
10 survival of our state's robust equine industry.

11 We hope that by understanding the areas where we
12 have the greatest impact, we can continue to use this report
13 to guide the larger discussion about the future of the horse
14 and the sport of horse racing in California.

15 Thank you again for your time.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Dr. Ferraro, just a couple
18 of reactions.

19 First, thank you very much for your leadership and
20 what you're doing. I know there's an extended team that's
21 not here directly in front of us. This takes resources,
22 time, obviously, and leadership. You know, I really support
23 what the American Horse Council does. I know my previous
24 job at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, they kind of lean
25 on that data but also kind of bring some other important

1 facts and figures together.

2 You know, I think it's an economic driver. It's a
3 bridge builder. I just think we have to use this as kind of
4 an organizing or a rallying point about the things that are
5 positive with what we're doing as horse enthusiasts and
6 advocates for horses across the Board.

7 I know that report has made its way into the state
8 legislature. In fact, I've gotten a few phone calls from
9 staffers that have seen it and just said, wow, they just
10 were not aware.

11 And Josh, I know you're accustomed to making the
12 rounds up there, so any reactions or any plans to really do
13 even more with getting this out there in front of
14 policymakers, not just at the state level but at the
15 different levels?

16 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Yeah, in working with Amy and the
17 team with the Horsepower Coalition, we are creating some
18 short videos and graphics that can be forwarded to
19 legislators and staff to communicate this really positive
20 economic image.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: That's great. Thank you
22 Josh.

23 And, you know, I know Mr. Balch, a couple meetings
24 ago, had advocated for there being some kind of convening.
25 And if there's anything that we could do on the CHRB end,

1 because among, I believe, the levers that we have, the
2 ability to deploy are just convening people, helping with
3 follow-up. Executive Director Scott Chaney has a tremendous
4 staff. So whatever we could do that you feel would be
5 helpful with elevating these numbers, the stats, the
6 figures.

7 It goes without saying, you know, we have a lot of
8 room for improvement in many areas. We all know that. But
9 we are dealing with, I believe, a beautiful animal that has
10 helped build this country. And I wish more and more people
11 knew about, you know, the virtues of what horses have done
12 and will continue to do.

13 So just keep up the great work. I just really
14 appreciate this partnership and, you know, promises being
15 delivered when this coalition was launched. It was to do
16 exactly these kinds of things. So I find it uplifting and
17 motivating, to be quite honest. So thank you for what
18 you're doing.

19 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

20 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other comments from the Board?

22 We have some public comments.

23 Jennifer, let's start with you.

24 MS. BORGES: (Off mic.) Hi. I would like to
25 thank the presenters for the time and effort that they have

1 made. Thank you.

2 I'd like to thank the presenters that are here
3 today for their time and effort in collecting this
4 information and coming here today to present it. And I'd
5 like to thank the Board member for the comments that you
6 made. And I would like to see dissemination of that
7 information as well.

8 I would also like to add that in addition to the
9 benefits that have been presented here today of the industry
10 to the state itself, I'd like to point out that there are a
11 number of other industries that are directly affected by
12 horses here in the state. And I would like to see if it's
13 possible some further investigation of the benefits that we
14 provide to those industries. And namely, I'd like to say
15 that our horses eat a lot of food, a lot of very high
16 quality grain and hay that is produced by American farmers.
17 And obviously, we are going to be a benefit to those
18 farmers.

19 In addition, all of our horse farms, they purchase
20 a lot of farm equipment. Most of that equipment is produced
21 by American companies, like John Deere and others. We also
22 buy a lot of fencing. We do a lot of building construction
23 of our stables and other outbuildings at horse properties.
24 I don't know if those statistics include also persons that
25 are employees at farms, but we also have a lot of persons

1 that are employed in all of the above-mentioned industries
2 including on the breeding farms themselves.

3 Also the breeding farms and other large farms that
4 produce the hay and grain, they maintain beautiful open
5 space in the state of California and provide a habitat for
6 wildlife and beautiful scenery for our tourists as they
7 drive on our highways.

8 All of these things are really nice benefits, side
9 benefits to maintaining the horse industry here in
10 California. And I would like to, you know, again, I'd like
11 to see some more information coming forward about how we
12 affect these businesses in terms of dollars and other
13 assets.

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you. Thank you very
17 much

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Jane Cartmill?

19 MS. CARTMILL: Joining an investment advisory firm
20 after 35 years in the horse racing industry was a smart move
21 for Craig Fravel as the U.S. horse racing industry continues
22 to downsize. Twenty-seven tracks closed since 2013, 47
23 since 2000, including Golden Gate Fields under his tenure at
24 1st Racing.

25 Fravel was President and Chief Executive of the

1 Breeders' Cup World Championships from 2011 to 2019 and
2 worked at Del Mar Racing from 1990 to 2011, rising to the
3 role of President and General Manager according to *Daily*
4 *Racing Forum News*. As aptly reported by the *San Francisco*
5 *Chronicle* on the closure of Golden Gate Fields this past
6 June, quote,

7 "Wiped out by an epidemic of declining interest that is
8 eliminating tracks all over the country, big-time
9 racing is struggling. Bay Meadows shut down in 2008,
10 26 tracks have closed down nationally in the past ten
11 years, now 27."

12 This, quote, epidemic of declining interest that
13 is eliminating tracks all over the country reflects the fact
14 that no legitimate sport would tolerate the deaths of 49 of
15 its athletes in 30 weeks of competition in just one state,
16 as in California, and that the public is increasingly not
17 interested in risking and taking the lives of horses for
18 gambling and entertainment.

19 Thanks.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

21 Samantha Prado?

22 MS. PRADO: I'm Samantha Prado, an animal rights
23 activist.

24 There has been a steady downward shift in horse
25 racing popularity. Whipping these beautiful animals in full

1 view and being aware they are killed for this alleged sport
2 shows the public eye exactly how heinous obsolete horse
3 racing is.

4 In a June 2024 *Horse Racing Nation* article, it
5 even states a 64 percent plunge in the U.S. and Canada foal
6 population, dropping from its 1986 high of 51,296 to last
7 year's estimated 18,500. Also, the Jockey Club reported the
8 State went from 1,695 registered foals in 2013 to 1,303 in
9 2022, the most recent for which it has an exact count. That
10 represents a 23 percent fall in the past decade. And with
11 the erosion of racing's popularity in California, racing
12 faces the daunting task of persisting in the face of a
13 shrinking revenue footprint.

14 Consequently, this Board should be intent and
15 invested in rehoming thousands of racehorses in state, being
16 certain they find comfort in authentic sanctuary.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

18 Martha Sullivan?

19 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan with Kill Racing
20 Not Horses.

21 As a third-party view of the horse racing industry
22 in California, the Fitch Bond Rating of the Del Mar
23 Racetrack Authority Bonds at BB-, published on January 25th
24 of this year, is useful. The BB-, quote,

25 "The BB- rating reflects the elevated vulnerability of

1 Del Mar Racetrack Authority's operating profile to the
2 declining popularity of horse racing in California and
3 across the country. Longer-term historical declines in
4 racetrack attendance have resulted in lower margins by
5 racetrack net revenues, ultimately leading to declining
6 net racetrack revenues and increased reliance on
7 concession revenues to support debt service."

8 While Fitch recognizes that Del Mar will host the
9 Breeders' Cup in 2024 and 2025, Fitch's rating case assumes
10 continued declines in gross racetrack revenue in 2026 and
11 net concession revenues serving as the sole source of
12 revenue to service debt after 2027.

13 Continuing,

14 "The declining nature of the California horse racing
15 industry as well as exposure to adverse events, such as
16 equine deaths at horse racetracks, has led to a long-
17 term trend of reduced attendance and uncertainty in fan
18 support, despite recent improvements coming out of the
19 pandemic.

20 "Racetracks also face increasing competition for
21 gamblers from both internet gaming and regional
22 casinos. These weaknesses are somewhat offset by an
23 affluent service area combined with semi-diverse
24 revenues from wagering and concessions generated from
25 other events at the fairgrounds.

1 "However, given the industry's continuing
2 deterioration, the sustainability of racetrack revenues
3 becomes less viable over the longer term."

4 This is not news to you, but this was from early
5 this year, 2024, confirming it by a third-party bond rating
6 firm. It's not happy talk, but it's real talk. You need to
7 listen to it.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

9 Lynn Freudenberg

10 ?

11 MS. FREUDENBERG: Hi there. Lynn Freudenberg,
12 Kill Racing Not Horses.

13 Let the horses off the hook for legal gambling in
14 California. Annually, Native American casinos and the
15 California lottery have three times the wagering on live
16 horse racing without risking and taking the lives of
17 sentient animals.

18 Horse racing in California dates to the 1850s.
19 Seven fairs host horse racing. There are 4 commercial
20 tracks and 16 satellite betting sites. \$3 billion in total
21 wagering. This is in-state and out-of-state in July 1, 2022
22 to June 30, 2023, per the California Horse Racing Board.
23 California started a lottery four decades ago, and state
24 officials expect ticket sales to \$9 billion and the fiscal
25 year that started July 1.

1 From the 500nations.com California casinos,
2 California is the nation's largest Indian gaming state in
3 the nation with total revenues of \$9 billion annually. The
4 76 California Indian gaming casinos are owned by 73 of the
5 state's 109 tribes. Non-casino tribes receive a share of
6 the casino revenues through the state-managed Indian Gaming
7 Revenue Sharing Trust Fund.

8 The California lottery and the Native American
9 gambling keep growing, while the California horse racing
10 keeps shrinking. After almost 90 years of legal betting on
11 live horse races, put the horses out of horse racing's
12 misery.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

15 Heather Wilson?

16 MS. WILSON: So I'm curious about the sampling
17 methods used for this survey. Was it a stratified random
18 sample? Was it representative of the entire state of
19 California? And was there IRB approval? Because it looks
20 like you're surveying minors under the age of 18, so was
21 there parental consent involved?

22 The survey seems terribly flawed. You equate
23 loving horses with income. I might be a horse lover with a
24 horse rescue calendar in my kitchen. It doesn't mean I'm
25 ever going to set foot on a racetrack to gamble on a horse's

1 life.

2 Popularity, it might seem like a lot of money,
3 \$1.5 billion, ooh, that's a lot of money, but when you look
4 at a pie chart of the direct contribution to the California
5 GDP, \$1.5 billion doesn't even register as a sliver. The
6 smallest sliver in this pie chart is \$14.6 billion, which is
7 mining, quarrying, oil, and gas. So sports, entertainment,
8 abusing horses doesn't even register this pie chart. The
9 biggest contributions to the California GDP are financial
10 services, real estate, information technology, and
11 manufacturing, nothing about gambling on horses' lives.

12 So that's just something to consider. This report
13 seems like it's a little bit propped up.

14 I also wonder, since we're talking about equine
15 welfare, I mean, how much money has this Horsepower
16 Coalition donated to bailing out horses from slaughter?
17 I've personally donated thousands of dollars, and I'm proud
18 to say that. I am a stakeholder because I bail horses out
19 from being slaughtered. How many spent broodmares and
20 racehorses that can't cut it at the top tier tracks or
21 otherwise that land in these feedlots that are doomed for
22 slaughter are bailed out by the California Horsepower
23 Coalition?

24 I would like to see you make a calendar of each
25 and every single horse that has been rescued from slaughter

1 in this state. It is happening right now as we speak.
2 Auction Horses Rescue just published nine horses, broodmares
3 and former racehorses, plus a gelding, and one of those
4 broodmares had a foal at her side, all in a feedlot in
5 California that were doomed for slaughter. How much did the
6 Horsepower Coalition donate to help these horses that were
7 going to be slaughtered?

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

9 Wayne, your turn.

10 MR. JOHNSON: I'd like to -- (clears throat)
11 excuse me. I'd like to thank the Vice Chairman, Mr.
12 Gonzales, for reminding us what beautiful animals horses are
13 and their contribution to America and the building of
14 America. You might have added also their contribution to
15 winning two World Wars.

16 If you ask the question, do you consider yourself
17 a horse enthusiast if horses -- being a horse enthusiast
18 means racing horses to death, you'd get a different answer.
19 These are athletes. But LeBron James chooses to play
20 basketball. Steph Curry chooses to play basketball. These
21 horses don't choose to die. Handsome Red, Savannah Lady, an
22 give and take -- Giver and a Taker, they didn't choose to
23 die.

24 Finally, Amy, thank you very much for bringing up
25 the Olympics. We just finished this magnificent Olympics in

1 Paris. We're looking forward to LA 28, everybody; right?
2 You won't see any horses coming here in the pentathlon.
3 That's what the Olympic Committee decided, that the abuse of
4 horses in the pentathlon, including the punching out of a
5 horse in Tokyo 2021, was just too much. Can you take a
6 lesson from that International Olympic Committee that has
7 banned horses in the pentathlon for LA 28?

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Wayne.

10 Amy and Josh, thank you very much for your
11 presentation.

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Good work.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number ten, discussion and
14 action by the Board regarding the request for approval of
15 nominated members to the Board of Directors of the
16 California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation Incorporated,
17 pursuant to CHRB Rule 2049(a), Designation and Approval of
18 the Horsemen's Welfare Fund/

19 This Board is obligated to approve the members of
20 the Board. It's my understanding that these This is not
21 regarding new members, but approval of re-upping the old
22 members; is that correct, Mr. Chaney?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, the law requires
24 that the Board approve the CTHF Board members. The three
25 that they're proposing are actually continuations of terms,

1 or re-upping their terms, rather than completely new
2 members. I think it's Commissioner Castellanos is one, Mr.
3 Rubenstein is another, and Tom Bell III, I think, is the
4 third, if I'm not mistaken.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

6 Any comments from the Board? These are great
7 volunteers, these guys.

8 Heather Wilson, do you have a comment about this?

9 MS. WILSON: Yes, I do, actually.

10 The industry loves to brag about how vital they
11 are to the economy. The big players are millionaires and
12 billionaires, yet they have to form a nonprofit and pass the
13 basket to help the workers. It's shameful.

14 In a 2016 publication titled, "The Battle to Right
15 the Wrongs Suffered by Racing's Backstretch Workers," Santa
16 Anita is frequently referenced in this article. I quote,
17 "Belmont Park and Santa Anita were singled out by the
18 grooms questioned for being among the worst, with
19 issues like rats and cockroaches in cramped shared
20 rooms, as well as bed bug infestation."

21 Sounds lovely, doesn't it?

22 So what has changed since 2016? The article
23 describes workers sleeping in aging wooden barns, not having
24 communal cooking facilities, which means that they have to
25 pay for their own meals because they cannot have hot plates

1 in their rooms because that's a fire hazard. Quote,

2 "This isn't the first time Santa Anita has come under
3 fire. At the turn of the millennium, an inspection by
4 state officials lifted the lid on labor law violations
5 and unsanitary living conditions at the track.

6 Billionaire Frank Stronach, who owned Santa Anita, was
7 reported at the time as saying that he planned to
8 rebuild the entire stable area at some point."

9 Then last July, so July of 2023, "the DRF
10 published a story about the new uphill turf shoot at Santa
11 Anita, and it seems that the backstretch has yet to be
12 upgraded. So perhaps Mr. Stronach is spending too much
13 money fighting those sexual assault charges.

14 Commissioner Castellanos, I wish he was here, he's
15 been a Teamster for 30 years. He should be encouraging
16 these backstretch to unionize so that they don't have to put
17 up with this garbage and be treated worse than the horses.
18 The backstretch needs to be unionized.

19 And I wish the horses would unionize. When the
20 horses refuse to run, that's always a beautiful sight, when
21 that gate opens and they just stand there. If they would
22 only unionize and all refuse to run.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: All right, I move we approve the
24 designation of the new sessions for our new --

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Board members.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: What?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Board Members.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Board members, excuse me --

4 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Second that.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: -- for the Horsemen's Foundation.

6 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Second that.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

12 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Chairman votes yes.

14 We have some reports to go on now.

15 Mr. Chaney, do you want to start?

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr.

17 Chairman, and good morning, Commissioners.

18 I will begin with the handle report. As the Board

19 is aware, we did not hold a Board meeting, a July Board

20 meeting, so I have data from June, July, and year to date.

21 For the month of June, day racing was down five percent,

22 night racing was down two percent, and total handle was down

23 four percent as compared to June 2023. For the month of

24 July, day racing handle was down 17 percent, night racing

25 handle was down 15 percent, and total handle was down 16

1 percent as compared to July 2023. Year to date, day racing
2 is down seven percent, night racing is down three percent,
3 and total handle is down six percent as compared to the
4 first seven months of 2023.

5 Next, there was a fair amount of discussion today
6 regarding trends and fatalities. I wanted to point out that
7 those statistics are on our website. California is the most
8 transparent in reporting these and became even more so in
9 July with the 72-hour regulation that you passed.

10 I also wanted to be sure that the Board and those
11 listening have an accurate picture of the current numbers.
12 To wit, Santa Anita has recorded three less fatalities to
13 this point this year than the same point last year. And the
14 entire state has recorded three less to this date compared
15 to last year at this point. While we still have work to do,
16 the overall trend based on our hard work is clear.

17 Next, as the Board knows, we engaged worker
18 advocate Oscar De La Torre to assess and aid in the
19 transition of worker licensees from Golden Gate Fields to
20 Pleasanton. Mr. De La Torre is here and agreed to give the
21 Board a brief report on that transition. He did provide
22 some hard copies this morning. It is also being uploaded to
23 the public packet as we speak.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead, Oscar.

25 MR. DE LA TORRE: Yes, sir. Thank you, Chair.

1 Good morning, Board members and staff. Oscar de la Torre
2 with Holistic Strategies.

3 As was stated, I was engaged to work in the
4 transition with Golden Gate Fields and the closure and the
5 transition of workers.

6 And, you know, I'm very proud of the work that we
7 did. Thank you to Vice Chairman Gonzales for spearheading
8 the effort. He started organizing stakeholders. It was a
9 total of ten different individuals and organizations that
10 were a part of the weekly meetings that Chairman Gonzales
11 facilitated with staff, CHRB staff. And we realized that we
12 had more of a need to get on the ground at Golden Gate to
13 understand and to assess the needs of the workers and to
14 understand exactly what was happening and where were they
15 going to transition to.

16 The Racetrack Chaplaincy of America Associate
17 Pastor Rob Cochran has obviously been working there for many
18 years, so he was an anchor for this effort, along with CTT
19 Representative Bill Patterson. So I had the privilege of
20 working with both of these gentlemen on the ground in
21 organizing in a town hall meeting where 62 workers showed up
22 and we were able to assess, answer questions, give them
23 timelines.

24 There were various concerns about, you know, were
25 they going to continue to work in the industry or not? How

1 housing was going to be provided for them? And also for the
2 families, for those that had families, those that had
3 children, there was concerns about, where are my children
4 going to go to school?

5 So we were able to address all of their concerns,
6 not just through the worker town hall, but by translating
7 documents, giving my personal phone number so they can call
8 me if they had any further questions, and also both Bill and
9 Rob were there, as well, providing just multiple avenues for
10 them to get their questions answered.

11 We also conducted surveys of these workers,
12 especially those that have children, because we wanted to
13 really identify those most vulnerable in the workforce at
14 Golden Gate. and as many of us, you know, can conclude
15 looking at the report, employment and housing were the two
16 most important concerns for these workers.

17 And with working with the trainers we were able to
18 assess how many trainers were going to transition to
19 Pleasanton. And I want to say that by you all allocating
20 race states at Pleasanton and the Alameda Fairgrounds, you
21 provided a lifeline for these workers. And so I'm happy to
22 report that the vast majority of these workers were able to
23 transition to Pleasanton or Sacramento, the majority to
24 Pleasanton.

25 In terms of housing, I'm also very proud to report

1 that the Joe Brook Trust was created. Now, Joe Brook was a
2 former trainer who passed on and donated some funding to
3 support the backstretch at Golden Gate in particular. And
4 so more than \$125,000, I don't have, you know, the final
5 count so far because there's more than that, but at the time
6 of this report concluding, the conclusion of this report,
7 \$125,000 was provided by the Joe Brook Trust to reimburse
8 workers for the purchase of an RV, a functional RV. And the
9 RV provides immediate affordable housing for these workers.
10 It also gives these workers the opportunity to own a mobile
11 home, giving stability for them and also preventing
12 homelessness.

13 In terms of education, we had a number of parents
14 who needed to transition their schools and we were very
15 happy to work with the Pleasanton Unified School District.
16 They were able to work with us, provided bilingual staff to
17 make sure that all those children were able to transition to
18 Pleasanton Unified School District.

19 So, in conclusion, I just want to say that this is
20 really, I think, a best practice and really it shows an
21 industry, you know, prioritizing the needs of workers,
22 especially our most vulnerable workforce, the backstretch
23 workers who are the foundation of the horse racing industry,
24 to center their needs in this transition process. And I'm
25 happy to report that we were able to help many of these

1 workers and their families, especially those that had
2 children, secure housing, secure jobs, and also make sure
3 that the students were enrolled so that they experienced a
4 smooth transition moving on to Pleasanton.

5 And so I just want to answer any questions that
6 you may have regarding this report. And the report is in
7 front of you, hard copies in front of you, acknowledging the
8 various organizations that were involved. There's a lot of
9 them to list, but I have ten that I've identified in terms
10 of helping in this effort.

11 And by the way, the meetings transitioned from
12 weekly meetings to biweekly meetings that Vice Chairman
13 Gonzales is still facilitating with our staff, CHRB staff.
14 I'm happy to be a part of that process to just continue to
15 assess and respond to the needs of backstretch workers at
16 Pleasanton.

17 So thank you very much and I'd like to answer any
18 questions you all might have.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Nice work.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Go ahead, Oscar.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Executive
22 Director Chaney, for allowing a few minutes of your time to
23 make this presentation known.

24 And Councilman de la Torre, I just want to say
25 thank you very much for helping on behalf of the CHRB. I

1 know it was just a small contract that we were able to give,
2 but your facilitation, along with the leadership of the
3 other groups, really went a long way. And I do know there
4 was probably a handful of workers that chose to, you know,
5 find other occupations outside of the industry, but for
6 those that wanted to remain, they were accommodated. I
7 think it was probably maybe 15 straight weeks of regular
8 coordination.

9 A big thanks also to Jerome from Pleasanton and
10 his team. Without their flexibility and willingness to make
11 these arrangements, we would have seen a huge gap for
12 workers as it relates to both housing and employment.

13 But you're right, I think this could very well
14 serve as a best practice. I mean, not just for California,
15 but we know there's transition happening across the entire
16 country. And if we place the workers first throughout, I
17 think that we can really, you know, demonstrate this
18 industry's commitment to workers.

19 So a lot of work remains. So I know there's
20 always room for improvement, no doubt, but as it relates to
21 this particular transition, which was somewhat short notice,
22 but with some flexibility we were able to make sure that
23 horses were taken care of and workers, as well.

24 So Councilman, I just want to say thank you for
25 also lending a hand wherever else we need it. You know, I

1 know you do support work for other parts of this industry
2 and I just want to say thank you very much.

3 MR. DE LA TORRE: Yes. No, thank you all. Thank
4 you for the opportunity, you know, to serve the men and
5 women that are the foundation of this industry, very hard-
6 working people. You know, they love doing what they do,
7 taking care of horses in California. So thank you very
8 much.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

11 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I would just like to echo
12 Commissioner Gonzales's remarks and thank you. I'm
13 satisfied that without your efforts and intervention, things
14 would not have worked so smoothly for those who were
15 involved. And having them well settled at Pleasanton is
16 certainly a major step forward, I believe. Thank you.

17 MR. DE LA TORRE: Yes. Thank you. Thank you very
18 much.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Thanks very much.

20 You want to continue your report?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Sure. I guess I'd be
22 a little bit remiss in not thanking Deputy Executive
23 Director Cynthia Alameda, who, along with Vice Chairman
24 Gonzales and Oscar de la Torre, really spearheaded this
25 effort. So I really appreciate that. She did great work.

1 That concludes my report.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Dr. Blea? Sorry to wake you.

3 DR. BLEA: Mr. Chairman, Dr. Ferraro, Vice
4 Chairman Gonzales, Board members, Executive Director Scott
5 Chaney, my name is Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director.

6 CHRB Rule 1866.3, Intraarticular Injections
7 Restricted, went into effect on July 1st, 2024, whereby any
8 intraarticular administration of corticosteroid into a
9 fetlock or carpus now requires diagnostic imaging within
10 seven days preceding the treatment. Diagnostic imaging
11 procedures shall be documented and EquiTAPS, our electronic
12 reporting system for CHRB and must fulfill both HISA and
13 CHRB regulations regarding reporting.

14 CHRB Rule 1846.5, Postmortem Examination, and
15 1846.6, Postmortem Examination Review, also went into effect
16 on July 1st of this year. The amendments to this rule
17 require a CHRB postmortem examination of every horse that
18 dies or is euthanized in California within 72 hours of
19 leaving a facility under the jurisdiction of the Board, and
20 expands the authority or the scope of the authority under
21 1846.6 to require a postmortem examination review on each
22 equine fatality in California under the jurisdiction of the
23 Board.

24 HISA's Racetrack Safety proposed rule changes to
25 its Racetrack Safety Program also became effective on July

1 8th, 2024. Most notably, the stand-down time to race
2 following intraarticular administration of a corticosteroid
3 into a fetlock joint will now be moved from 14 days to race
4 to 30 days to race, which essentially mirrors the California
5 rule prior to the HISA Safety Program going into effect.

6 In June, there was one musculoskeletal fatality in
7 racing and one musculoskeletal fatality in training. There
8 were four other fatalities in June including one accident,
9 two gastrointestinal disease conditions, and one sudden
10 death in training.

11 In July, there was one musculoskeletal fatality in
12 racing and one musculoskeletal fatality in training. There
13 were four other fatalities including two accidents in
14 racing, one suspect cardiac disease, and one sudden death in
15 training.

16 Regarding the Maddy Lab, in CHRB testing in June,
17 the Maddy Lab tested 230 primary blood and urine samples,
18 including seven work bloods. Furthermore, 149 out-of-
19 competition samples were tested. There was one Class 3
20 violation for minoxidil.

21 In CHRB testing in July, the Maddy Lab tested 246
22 primary blood and urine samples, including two work bloods.
23 An additional 147 out-of-competition samples were also
24 tested. There were no positive findings for CHRB testing in
25 July.

1 Regarding fiscal year 23-24 and CHRB testing at
2 the Maddy Lab, the Maddy Lab tested 4,392 primary blood and
3 urine samples, including 87 official work bloods.
4 Additionally, 2,542 out-of-competition blood, hair, and
5 urine samples, postmortem samples, and evidence samples were
6 also submitted and tested. The Maddy Lab tested 844 TCO2
7 samples, and 60 samples were tested for cobalt.

8 In fiscal year 23-24, from all CHRB samples
9 tested, the MATI lab reported 29 positive findings. These
10 included four Class 1, nine Class 3, and 16 class 4
11 findings. And just for reference, recall, under the HIWU-
12 HISA Program, these samples are relegated to CHRB-only
13 samples, which essentially incorporates quarter horse
14 racing, standard bred racing, and mixed breed racing, so for
15 clarification.

16 And this concludes my report, and I'm happy to
17 answer any questions if you have any.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

19 And we have public comment, I'm sure. Okay, thank
20 you.

21 Ellen Ericksen?

22 MS. ERICKSEN: Ellen Ericksen, I have a few
23 comments to make about the Director's report.

24 But a little sidebar I want to state is that the
25 Board is not a reliable source in reporting horse deaths,

1 and neither is the news media. So we have to go by facts,
2 and most of those facts we find and report at these
3 meetings.

4 So if this Board truly seeks to reduce other horse
5 deaths, it should heed this prescription in the *Paulick*
6 *Report* a year ago, very much worth consideration when seeing
7 other deaths reported of racehorses who are generally
8 stalled for about 23 hours a day.

9 "Racing fatalities are the big problem, but they are
10 not the only problem. Veterinarians and academic
11 researchers alike will tell you that part of the remedy
12 for the so many common medical problems in horses, such
13 as colic, ulcers, stereotypical behaviors, arthritis
14 and more, is to increase turnout time.

15 "Horses' bodies are evolved to graze on forage in mixed
16 social groups for most of the day, and the way we
17 manage them is counter to all of this. This has been
18 shown over and over in research and in practical
19 effects for years.

20 "The fact is, it really is not something that people in
21 equine sports question anymore. Race horses are not
22 the only horses that experience these health problems,
23 and they don't experience them only because they're
24 stalled for prolonged periods."

25 And I'd just like to talk about a horse that was

1 so cruelly treated at Los Alamitos in 2023. Her name was
2 Flying Cowgirl 321, and she was injured in the tenth race,
3 August 12, 2023, at the Los Alamitos Juvenile Challenge
4 Stakes, in which two other horses displaced their jockeys
5 and did not finish. She finished the race in seventh place.

6 Then she ran August 12th, came back, tied up per
7 her trainer.

8 On August 14th, 2023, she was found down in her
9 stall unable to rise. She had complete displaced fractures
10 of the fifth and sixth lumbar vertebrae with subsequent
11 compression of the adjacent spinal cord. Flying Cowgirl 321
12 had broken her back and wasn't even euthanized for two days.

13 How can this Board sit up here and say that these
14 horses are well taken care of? Are we the only ones that
15 care about the pain and suffering, like what happened to
16 this girl at Los Alamitos? And yet you still issue a
17 license to race. You never say no. When we give you these
18 facts on what happens to the horses and the backstretch
19 workers, you just say, fine, we vote yes, go ahead and make
20 all this money, which is a lie because we know that the
21 numbers are Decreasing not just in California, but all
22 throughout this country. Tracks are closing.

23 I'm at Del Mar every weekend for years. I can see
24 the low attendance when I'm out there on Saturdays. In
25 fact, it's so low, I can almost count how many people are

1 entering the track, and I'm very close to that number from
2 being out there.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. Your time is up.

4 Martha Sullivan, please?

5 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan with Kill Racing
6 Not Horses.

7 Del Mar racing wagering handle was down 7.8
8 percent the week ending Sunday, August 11th, '24, on the
9 same number of races in 2023, continuing the downward trend
10 since opening day with it down 8.3 percent the week of July
11 22nd to 28th on the same number of races last year and down
12 4 percent the first two days of the 2024 summer meet from
13 those days in 2023. This continues the negative trend in
14 Del Mar wagering handle from last year, which resulted in
15 its cutting its purses about eight percent for this year's
16 meet.

17 For an industry which exists for the purpose of
18 gambling, this two-year trend of declines in wagering handle
19 is an existential indicator. Recalling, you know, I'm just
20 going to repeat it again because it captures it so well, the
21 *San Francisco Chronicle's* observation on the recent closure
22 of Golden Gate Field in the San Francisco Bay Area as,
23 quote, "wiped out by an epidemic of declining interest that
24 is eliminating tracks all over the country to the tune of 27
25 since 2013."

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

2 Jane Cartmill?

3 MS. CARTMILL: NBC 7 reported on July 24th that,
4 quote,

5 "A three-year-old filly from Florida has died at Del
6 Mar, the track's second fatality in three days.

7 Savannah Lady collapsed and died after a workout at the
8 track Tuesday, according to the California Horse Racing
9 Board, which described it as a sudden death. CHR
10 defines sudden death as an acute collapse and death in
11 a closely observed and previously apparently healthy
12 horse.

13 "Savannah Lady had five career races all at Gulfstream
14 Park in Hallandale Beach, Florida, including one first
15 place finish. She completed an official workout at Del
16 Mar's dirt track Tuesday with no apparent problems
17 according to the industry website, Equibase," end of
18 quote.

19 I believe CHR has confirmed three other sudden
20 deaths of racehorses this year, with two more suspected but
21 not yet confirmed. Last year, CHR confirmed 13 sudden
22 deaths of racehorses.

23 From *Blood Horse Daily* in June, quote,

24 "When you look at healthy, exercising thoroughbred
25 racehorses, about 82 percent of them have at least one

1 premature depolarization during exercise, said University of
2 Minnesota professor and researcher, Dr. Sian Durward-
3 Akhurst. Quote,

4 "Many have multiple premature depolarizations, and
5 about 20 percent of them have some kind of complex
6 arrhythmia. Trying to say which horses are safe and
7 which horses are not is really quite difficult," end of
8 quote.

9 The answer, just stop risking and taking horses'
10 lives for gambling and entertainment.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

12 Heather Wilson?

13 MS. WILSON: I'd like to talk about the vet list.
14 Maybe Dr. Blea could address some of these concerns. These
15 are horses from Los Alamitos in 2024, several horses that
16 were not on the vet list after significant incidents or
17 injuries.

18 On January 7th, a horse named Chasing Fame,
19 clipped heels, fell, DNF. Not on vet list. The head-on
20 replay never aired because it was too gruesome. And I just
21 checked, this horse has not been entered in a workout or to
22 race since. Never on the vet list.

23 April 7th, a horse named Echo Alpha Six, now this
24 horse has been raced since. However, on this date in April,
25 she appears to flip in the starting gate after having a

1 complete freakout. She flips over, she was a late scratch,
2 and never made the vet list.

3 On April 20th, a horse named Jesses Kiss bled,
4 vanned off after placing third, not on vet list. Then a few
5 months later, on August 4th, Jesses Kiss made the vet list.
6 The horse was scratched, listed as sick other.

7 June 22nd, at the thoroughbred meet, Dothraki, a
8 Bob Baffert horse, wins the race, bled, vanned off, or now
9 the new euphemism is equine ambulance. Sounds nicer than
10 van. This horse was vanned, never made the vet list. after
11 winning the race, bleeding, and not making any sort of
12 winner's circle ceremonies or photographs.

13 June 23rd, a horse named Maycee Jo flipped in the
14 paddock. And I heard this on the overhead, okay? The track
15 announcer said the horse flipped in the paddock, scratched
16 before the post parade, never made the post parade, and
17 never made the vet list. Two months later, on August 9th,
18 the horse is now on the vet list. It says treated for IA.
19 I guess that's intraarticular injection. Then two days
20 later, the horse is scratched in the sixth race on August
21 11th. Now the horse is on the vet list for unsoundness. So
22 that's just two days after being on the vet list for an
23 intraarticular injection.

24 What is going on with this vet list? Why is this
25 so disorganized? Why am I the one pointing out these horses

1 that should be on the vet list, and they are never, ever on
2 your website? I'm the one digging up this information.

3 This should be the job of the Horse Racing Board.

4 You should be the ones watching these races every single
5 weekend and making lists of horses that you are concerned
6 about, and then cross-referencing and seeing if they make
7 the vet list and what is happening with these horses.
8 Instead, it's us, the real animal advocates, showing up the
9 once a year that you have the nerve to come to Southern
10 California.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

12 Wayne Johnson?

13 MR. JOHNSON: Dr. Blea, I just do not understand
14 why you don't show respect for the horses by giving their
15 names. Please clear that up for me. They have names. They
16 are not things. They are not inanimate objects.

17 With regard to the Executive Director reports, Dr.
18 Chaney -- excuse me, I didn't mean to promote you there --
19 Mr. Chaney, thank you very much for the clause, "We have
20 more work to do." The point is, you are doing the work.
21 Your federal partners are doing the work. Everybody's
22 trying to make things safer, but they're not safer.

23 That's our point, that you cannot reform your way
24 out of this epidemic of deaths on horse tracks all around
25 the country. You say you have some of the most progressive

1 laws in America. You do. And horses are still dying.

2 Forty-nine are still dead.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Wayne.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: You know, Dr. Blea, I just
5 want to again thank you for your leadership and what your
6 team does. I wanted to thank you.

7 Last week or two weeks ago, I joined Dr. Knowlton
8 (phonetic) in the morning as he went barn to barn doing the
9 morning inspections. I found this to be very insightful. I
10 spent two hours. We probably visited maybe 15 barns, you
11 know, from the technology uses on his iPad to questions, and
12 from the trotting to make sure that they were sound. I
13 think if any commissioner has an opportunity to do that, if
14 you haven't done so, it's really eye-opening. So I want to
15 say thank you for that chance.

16 The second thing is, is it, as horses that -- we
17 are obviously raising the bar and horses make their way out
18 to places like Arizona and New Mexico. we have the ability,
19 if you don't, to communicate with your counterpart; right?
20 So if a horse, I think there was one horse brought up, Older
21 Brother, that went to turf paradise and things turned out
22 pretty tragically, or maybe we don't know the whereabouts,
23 but what can we do with these other jurisdictions like New
24 Mexico to Arizona, and it looks like Wyoming is also going
25 to be doing racing, just to make sure that as horses exit,

1 that you are available to answer any questions about a horse
2 that's being shipped to run?

3 DR. BLEA: That's a good question. And there's a
4 couple things we can do and we do.

5 First and foremost is the vet list, the control of
6 the vet list. And we put a lot of horses on the vets list
7 requiring diagnostics and so forth and so on. In the past,
8 those horses would disappear to other states. And they were
9 able to get off their vet list and run, and, subsequently,
10 no one knows really what happen to him for sure.

11 But we can control the vet list to require a horse
12 to work off the vet's list for unsound, for example, and we
13 require diagnostics to indicate why that horse is unsound.
14 So that horse travels to state X and he completes the
15 workout a year later, or six months later, or three months
16 later, that's all well and good. We won't remove him to
17 clear him to race until he's provided the connections that
18 provided that diagnostic imaging to indicate why that horse
19 was unsound to begin with. And that's one avenue.

20 Another avenue is a network of veterinarians,
21 specifically regulatory veterinarians. We meet once a
22 month, quite frankly. But more to that, I can tell you
23 there's been several instances in California where horses
24 have shipped out, and I'm not sure of the history on it, but
25 two particular instances.

1 A horse disappeared, went to a different state,
2 was an allowance stake calendar horse, was entered for
3 \$10,000 claiming tag. The attending veterinarian contacted
4 me. I contacted the veterinarian in that state. That horse
5 was scratched and was retired.

6 So there's different avenues that we, we not
7 necessarily have jurisdiction, but internally the attending
8 vets, the regulatory vets have procedures that we can do not
9 only from the vets list, but somewhat indirect kind of. If
10 we're aware their horse has a problem, that's the first
11 thing we have to be aware that that horse has a problem.
12 Then we can at least facilitate the safety and welfare of
13 that horse.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent. Thank you for
15 that. And, you know, maybe Scott Chaney and I can discuss
16 how we can approach that more formally. Again, I'm just
17 thinking the neighboring, the not quite neighboring states,
18 but states that are, let's say, within a 12- to 15-hour van
19 drive, if that's, you know, what the threshold would be, but
20 just to make yourself available, your team is available,
21 sharing our database.

22 And I also like maybe three months ago when Scott
23 Chaney brought up, which I never knew that, an owner can
24 actually officially retire a horse through some paperwork.
25 That way, that horse is off the market and can be used for

1 recreation and other purposes. So, obviously, some more
2 state-to-state collaboration. But, yeah, we'll explore
3 that, if that's okay with you, Mr. Chaney and Dr. Blea.

4 So but thanks again for all the work you do, sir.
5 Appreciate it.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Dr. Blea.

7 Now it's time for our public comment period, which
8 we'll begin. Reminding you, we have 30 minutes. Each
9 person has two minutes.

10 And we'll start with Allison Prater. Take your
11 time, take your time. Welcome. This is your first time?

12 MS. PRATER: Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon. My
13 name is Allison Prater. I'm with Kill Racing Not Horses.
14 We greatly appreciate you having your meeting down here
15 today. And we encourage it in the future.

16 I am new to Kill Racing Not Horses, and I am
17 heartbroken and frustrated. I have now personally witnessed
18 several, too many, horses die or be injured at various
19 racing meets. It is one of the most horrific things I've
20 ever seen.

21 As for statistics, comparison with newspaper
22 articles, we at Kill Racing Not Horses, we watch and keep
23 track of our presented list of deaths, injuries, and missing
24 horses. One of the reliable news sources referred to in a
25 recent incident had reported the wrong horse name and the

1 wrong jockey that had fallen and the horse actually died.
2 They had to issue corrections and the news sources have
3 issued corrections on several occasions.

4 So I do not trust statistics from these news
5 sources. And even if I did, who cares? One horse death is
6 too many. One injured horse is too many. One missing horse
7 is too many.

8 There have been three horse deaths at the current
9 Del Mar Summer Meet in just two weeks; 49 deaths total in 29
10 weeks of competition in 2024 in California horse tracks.
11 The public is showing they are no longer interested and
12 risking the lives of horses from your gambling, as they
13 should. Twenty-seven U.S. racetracks have closed since
14 2013, 47 tracks have closed since 2000, so get ready. These
15 magnificent animals deserve so much better.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

17 MS. PRATER: Thank you.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Emily?

19 EMILY: Hello. Good afternoon. Thank you,
20 esteemed Board, for your presence in So Cal. Once again, it
21 is great to see everyone. I'm Emily, and I'm a merely
22 concerned constituent. So I would like to address the
23 overall concept of horse racing.

24 Horse racing by definition is the act of enslaving
25 another being in competition without consent or compensation

1 of said being in order to ossify the profits of another. We
2 have seen this slavery in this country's history multiple
3 times. And there is not any single other way to define
4 these travesties outside of these parameters.

5 Time and time again, we have witnessed the
6 Oversight Committee fail in their assigned duties to report
7 and ensure proper care for these animals. Instead, we
8 witness concepts of vanned off, so-called retired to other
9 states, or merely disappearing from all rosters, no necropsy
10 reports, just gone.

11 This is not the ascribed duty of the CHRB. The
12 Board is an elected entity that is to report health and
13 welfare to the public, to police horse owners, breeders, and
14 trainers, and to hold them accountable. Once again, you
15 have continually failed.

16 Personally, as an active rescuer, and yes, an
17 equestrian, I would never subject those in my care to the
18 daily onslaught of such rigorous and debilitating training,
19 regimes of performance enhancing drugs, and the callous
20 discard of them when they are no longer of use to me.
21 Championing statistics showing a supposed lower number of
22 deaths is not an acceptable unit of measurement. The only
23 proper measure is not racing or training a single one to
24 their grave.

25 In regards to our esteemed antagonists, do you

1 wish me to beat you a little less than I did last year, or
2 would you prefer I completely cease whipping you now, today?
3 Merely food for thought.

4 If you really want to shore gaming profits for
5 owners and for the state and in keeping everyone in jobs,
6 maybe take a page from Florida and the regulated poker
7 rooms. They have found a way to secure gaming licenses
8 without the excessive monetary strain of caring for so many
9 animals. Are we really that far behind Florida?

10 I know that appealing to compassion is not
11 appealing. I know that we need to discuss profits and
12 wallets. And I know that there are alternatives within
13 capitalism. We can always bet on humans, not horses.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

15 Sam?

16 SAM: Board members, I heard your concerns about
17 economic impact of the horse racing industry, but I do not
18 hear any concern for the environmental impact on how
19 breeding and maintaining animals exacerbate climate change.

20 The heat will get worse. Horses will suffer from
21 heat strokes and heat illnesses. Climate change is real.
22 So why are you still continuing this antiquated activity
23 that adds to the destruction of the planet and ecosystems?

24 Just remember this, this will be the coldest [sic]
25 summer for the rest of our lives. Please include

1 environmental impacts of the horse racing industry in your
2 assessment and not just solely on economic impacts.

3 Again, thank you for your time today. My name is
4 Sam, and I am an animal defender because they cannot speak
5 for themselves. But we all know that they do not want to be
6 abused, beaten to race, exploited for human entertainment,
7 and they definitely do not want to be killed or slaughtered
8 when they're only five years old.

9 I came here today to speak against the very
10 specific actions that were heard today by the Board. I want
11 to take this opportunity to speak about horse racing in
12 general.

13 I know that those with vested money interests in
14 sport racing, like the owners of the horses, the owners of
15 the tracks, and the gambling lobby writ large will try to
16 paint those of us speaking out against horse racing as being
17 extremists. If it is extreme to care about horses and not
18 want to see them be catastrophically injured or killed, if
19 it is extreme to want to see these beautiful horses live
20 free, if it is extreme to want to see these wonderful
21 animals be sent to a sanctuary, if it is extreme to think
22 that we shouldn't abuse horses to force them into these
23 disgusting spectacles, then I will gladly wear the label of
24 being called an extremist. However --

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Please, I think you're

1 wrapping up now. There we go.

2 SAM: Oh, thanks.

3 However, I think history will show that I'm not an
4 extremist. Just as how we looked at bullfighting,
5 dogfighting, cockfighting, and now more relevant, dog racing
6 as being animal abuse, I believe that very soon people will
7 see horse racing in the same light.

8 There is nowhere to hide. No one that supports
9 horse racing is -- no one -- anyone that supports horse
10 racing is the real extremist. And I will continue to call
11 them out for the cruel and exploitative behavior.

12 And finally, in closing, to everyone here, the
13 Board members, the people who came here to profit off of
14 horses, I hope that life treats you the way you have treated
15 animals, especially horses.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Samantha Prado?

17 You be quiet back there or I'll ask you to leave.

18 MS. PRADO: I'm Samantha Prado, an animal rights
19 activist.

20 As long as horse racing continues, needless equine
21 deaths will follow. In this year alone, 49 horses have
22 already died and the percentage of the ones sent to
23 slaughter remain unaccounted for. This mystery includes
24 those who are shipped out of California to Canada or
25 elsewhere once they are done being used for racing or they

1 have dropped in class. How many horses will have to lose
2 their lives next year? How many horses will go missing and
3 be swept under the rug as if they never existed? This fact
4 is disturbing, unprofessional, and proves there is something
5 very wrong in this industry of animal abuse.

6 I will be protesting the horse races on Saturday,
7 telling the few attendees the truth.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

9 Lynn Freudenberg?

10 MS. FREUDENBERG: Hi. It's Lynn from Kill Racing
11 Not Horses.

12 This information is from
13 thoroughbredaftercare.org, \$82 million just spent at the
14 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale on one-year-old colts
15 and fillies for thoroughbred horse racing, yet the industry
16 has claimed since it's founded the Thoroughbred Aftercare
17 Alliance in 2012 its intent to provide for the horses, this
18 includes broodmares, but has utterly failed, as the
19 Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance itself has pointed out, with
20 \$3.5 million in grants annually when the operating costs,
21 budgets of the grantees is \$45 million annually.

22 Prominent Thoroughbred owner Mike Rapole recently
23 posted on X, quote,

24 "In slightly more than 24 hours more than \$82 million
25 was spent on yearlings. I personally spent \$4.5

1 million. Pat Cummings and I are extremely baffled as
2 to how an industry that can trade this many dollars in
3 such a short period does not have a proper funding
4 model or an effective strategy to ensure we have the
5 programs, initiatives, and facilities for our amazing
6 equine athletes in their post-racing lives.

7 "When racing breeding careers are done, the options for
8 rehoming, retraining, and encouraging others to enjoy
9 the wonderful, majestic thoroughbred should be clear.
10 While much has been done to date, which includes the
11 establishment of the thoroughbred aftercare, it's clear
12 that far more must be done.

13 "This has been a massive miss and embarrassment of the
14 industry for too long. The blame falls on everyone as
15 a whole, but groups like the Jockey Club, the closest
16 thing to a governing body in the sport, has completely
17 disappointed and dropped the ball here. They want to
18 do a victory lap for the implementation of HISA, but in
19 50 years still haven't solved the thoroughbred
20 aftercare issue that the industry has.

21 "The National Thoroughbred Association is seeking the
22 buy-in of sales companies, the breeding farms, the
23 racetracks, the Breeders' Cup, and the Jockey Club to
24 be leaders with us in improving thoroughbred
25 aftercare," end quote.

1 Where does the Board stand on this?

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 MS. FREUDENBERG: Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up.

5 Ellen Ericksen?

6 MS. ERICKSEN: Thank you. I thought you forgot
7 about me. Ellen Ericksen. A couple comments.

8 I have a suggestion for the Board. Instead of
9 being called the California Horse Racing Board, let's rename
10 it the California Gambling Board, because in all the years
11 coming to these meetings, we never talk about horses. So
12 let's just strike that out of your name because all I've
13 heard today is about wagering and profits off of the horses.
14 No one talks about the horses.

15 And there's one other thing I'd like to talk about
16 which never gets discussed at these meetings, is horses that
17 are taken, even here locally at Del Mar from a broker here
18 in Southern California, who takes these horses to New
19 Mexico, transports them to Juarez, Mexico, to be slaughtered
20 for meat and other body parts. No one's talking about the
21 20,000 to 25,000 horses in this country that go to
22 slaughterhouses. So I think that's something maybe for your
23 next monthly meeting that you should research and talk
24 about.

25 I also want to talk about Del Mar's opening day.

1 That weekend was chaotic to say the least. I was out there
2 all weekend. So opening day at Del Mar, race five, three-
3 year-old filly, Charm Your World, raced for the third time
4 in Del Mar's racing opening day race, was ambulated from
5 the track after placing fifth, pulled up on the backstretch
6 and was transported off the track via the equine ambulance.
7 Charm Your World was on the CHRB list with unsoundness.

8 Del Mar opening day, race 11, three-year-old colt
9 Fausto (phonetic) clipped heels and fell on Del Mar's racing
10 opening day, bumped into another horse who was bumped by The
11 Old Nine, who was disqualified from the fifth place for
12 interference. Per the chart, the outrider captured Fausto
13 after the race who was on the vet list with unsoundness on
14 July 20th. Four other horses were placed on the vet list
15 from July 20th at Del Mar. Excuse me.

16 On July 20th --

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up, Ellen.

18 MS. ERICKSEN: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

20 MS. ERICKSEN: Please research the slaughter of
21 horses for their bodies.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Martha, you're up next.

23 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan with Kill Racing
24 Not Horses.

25 I was totally blown away by the revelation in a

1 written report by the CEO of the Del Mar Fairground just
2 earlier this week that the fire panel in the grandstand is
3 not operational during the grandstand's most intensive use,
4 the eight weeks of Del Mar horse racing this summer. Quote,
5 "The grandstand fire panels were past their lifespan,
6 resulting in the alarm panels not functioning properly.
7 The project is currently underway and is estimated to
8 be completed by mid-September. As required, district
9 staff remain in fire watch mode while the work is
10 underway to replace the outdated panels."

11 The cost for this project is \$554,567. This is
12 just mindboggling to me. And I know maybe you don't care so
13 much about the spectators in the grandstand, but that the
14 fire panel and the alarms aren't working during the Del Mar
15 summer meet, that's just incredible.

16 I also just want to -- I'm sure you probably read
17 about this or heard about this, but you need to have on your
18 radar that the fairgrounds is one of three routes that is
19 looking -- is being evaluated in an environmental impact
20 report for relocating the train off of the crumbling Del Mar
21 Bluffs. And the fairgrounds for a lot of people is a
22 logical route because it jeopardizes fewer homes that would
23 have to be taken for a route that goes through downtown Del
24 Mar.

25 So you need to have this on your radar. This is a

1 very likely outcome.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: All right. Thank you, Martha.

3 Next, Heather Wilson?

4 MS. WILSON: I'm going to share something
5 personal. On February 21st, I broke my ankle. I was
6 helping to adopt a sweet pit bull that was rescued off the
7 streets of South Central, and she stopped in front of me,
8 and I fell over her, and I landed on a twisted foot. My
9 foot was snapped off my leg. I had a hind foot dislocation,
10 and I broke my ankle on both sides. It was horrific.

11 As I lie on the gurney in the emergency
12 department, it occurred to me that if I was a racehorse, I
13 would have been killed. That was a catastrophic injury. My
14 foot was snapped off my leg and broken, bimalleolar
15 malleolus fracture, just from landing on a twisted foot.
16 And I'm 130 pounds.

17 Imagine a 1,200-pound or 1,000-pound racehorse
18 snapping one of their ankles, and they're running 40 miles
19 an hour, and they can't stop. And they're forced to keep
20 going because there's so much momentum. And they're running
21 on a snapped ankle.

22 If somebody would have told me, you need to get up
23 and walk into the ambulance -- and I didn't take an
24 ambulance, I hopped on one foot and I threw myself in the
25 back of a car. But if somebody told me, you need to walk to

1 the car or walk into the ER, I would have said kill me,
2 there's no way. The pain that I experienced is
3 indescribable.

4 And now I have a little bit of an idea of what
5 these animals endure. When these horses are
6 catastrophically injured, why are they being made to walk
7 into the van? Why? Why don't we put up the tarps and do it
8 right then and there and spare them a second longer of their
9 suffering, their pain, their misery.

10 It happened on January 27th at Golden Gate, a
11 horse named Oh Bees (phonetic). The video is still up. You
12 can see this horse. His ankle is literally snapped. His
13 foot is backwards. His foot is off of his leg and there's
14 nothing in the chart about him being euthanized. This horse
15 was made to walk into the van and his foot was snapped off
16 his leg.

17 If you care about horses, you will not do this to
18 them.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up.

20 MS. WILSON: The very least you can do is --

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up, Heather.

22 MS. WILSON: -- decrease their suffering.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Wayne Johnson?

24 MR. JOHNSON: My father, Anthony Johnson, taught
25 me that if you have a disagreement with a man or a woman,

1 find out what you have in common. Well, we all love horses,
2 don't we? We have that in common.

3 I had a conversation yesterday with one of Dr.
4 Blea's colleagues who mostly works the California fairs.
5 His name is Dr. Franklin, Forrest Franklin. I was talking
6 to him about the nine horses that have died at Pleasanton
7 and Cal Expo respectively. And he said, "Look, Wayne, we're
8 doing our best."

9 And that's my point, you're doing your best and
10 they're still dying.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

13 Jennifer Borges? She left? Jennifer Borges?

14 MS. BORGES: Hopefully, we can close the meeting
15 with a few positive thoughts.

16 The first thing I'd like to mention is that
17 anatomically, a horse is not the same as a human being.
18 And, like most animals, it has four legs, not two. So there
19 are three other weight-bearing structures on a horse other
20 than a leg that is injured.

21 So it's difficult to stand by, to listen to
22 multiple persons make statements that are really not
23 factual. The pain that a horse may accept from an injury is
24 not the same as a human on many levels, and especially since
25 they do have four legs, not two. So that is incorrect, what

1 was stated.

2 Also, a person stated that they were not a
3 radical. I don't agree with that when we have organizations
4 being represented here named Kill Racing Not Horses. That
5 person stated that in two weeks of racing we've had three
6 deaths at Del Mar, that is incorrect.

7 First of all, we haven't had two weeks of racing,
8 and that is very evident in the fact that the race meeting
9 opened on July 20th, and we've already completed four weeks
10 of racing, and we are now entering the fifth weekend of
11 racing.

12 I'd like to encourage other persons to come
13 forward at the meetings to refute multiple inaccurate
14 statements that are being made about racing.

15 And I would also like to say that I was able to
16 follow up on the condition of a horse named Refuse.
17 Apparently, he doesn't like to refuse jumping fences.

18 I was able to speak to multiple stakes winning
19 trainer, Jamie Thomas, who is indeed the trainer of this
20 horse, and Mr. Thomas has been training horses for almost 30
21 years, and as I stated, he's been a very successful trainer.

22 As I previously pointed out, I think that his training
23 decisions to bring a winning horse to Del Mar was a good
24 one, and once he realized that the horse wasn't able to
25 compete at this level, he took him to a lesser competitive

1 track and he told me that the horse was not that scratched
2 and that the horse has since that -- excuse me, it is not
3 your turn to speak.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up, so get to the
5 point.

6 MS. BORGES: The horse, I'm happy to report, is an
7 extremely good condition. He was given to a mother and
8 daughter team that retrain animals and he is happily jumping
9 fences. And Mr. Thomas has offered to provide us some
10 photos of the horse in --

11 CHAIR FERRARO: All right.

12 MS. BORGES: -- his happy state.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Jennifer.

14 MS. BORGES: Yeah, you're welcome.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: We have to go into closed session
16 now, everyone, so we ask you to clear the room so we can do
17 that. And if you're interested in the adjournment, we'll be
18 back online for that.

19 (The Board went into to closed session from 12:28 p.m.
20 until 12:47 p.m.)

21 CHAIR FERRARO: All right, can we have a motion to
22 adjourn, please?

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: So moved.

24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Second.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Commissioner Hudnut?

5 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chair votes yes.

6 Closed. Adjourned.

7 (The regular meeting of the California Horse Racing Board
8 adjourned at 12:47 p.m.)

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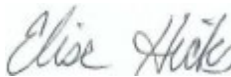
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 19th day of August, 2024.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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 transcribed by me, a certified transcriber 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.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

August 19, 2024