

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HORSE RACING BOARD

In the Matter of:)

)

Regular Meeting)

)

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION AND STATE FAIR GRANDSTAND

1600 EXPOSITION BOULEVARD

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Martha Nelson

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory Ferraro, Chair

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner

Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner

Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner

Thomas Hudnut, Commissioner

Peter Stern, Commissioner

STAFF

Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

ALSO PRESENT

Orlando Gutierrez, Los Alamitos Race Course

Josh Rubinstein, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

David Jerkens, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Eric Sindler, Los Angeles Turf Club MR. INCIARDI:

Rick Baedeker, SCOTWINC

Andy Titus, Humboldt County Fair

George Schmitt, Bernal Park Racing, LLC

Jim Morgan, Special Counsel, Humboldt County Fair

Bill Nader, President & CEO, TOC

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rex Bohn, former Supervisor, Humboldt County

Cindy Olson

Michelle Bushnell, Supervisor, Humboldt County

Aiden Molinaro

Renne Greiner

Sandy Anjo

Justin Oldfield

Francis O'Leary

Johnny Taboada

Sandra Rios

Patrick Brogan

Jamey Thomas

Steve Wood

Rob Smolich

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10. Closed Session: For the purpose of receiving --
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- A. The Board may convene a Closed Session to
 confer with and receive advice from its
 legal counsel regarding the pending
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 Litigation," and as authorized by
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- B. The Board may convene a Closed Session
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Closed Session:

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).

Adjournment

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:36 A.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

CHAIR FERRARO: Ladies and gentlemen, this meeting of the California Horse Racing Board will please come to order. Please take your seats. This is the regular noticed meeting of the California Horse Racing Board on Thursday, May 15th, 2025 at the California Exposition and State Fair Grandstand, 1600 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento, California.

Present at today's meeting are: myself, Dr. Gregory Ferraro, Chair'; also Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair; Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner; Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner; Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner; Thomas Hutt, Commissioner; and we welcome our new Commissioner, Peter Stern.

Welcome to the Board. We're glad to have you.

(Applause)

COMMISSIONER STERN: Thank you so much. It's an honor to be here.

CHAIR FERRARO: And we have, I should have mentioned him before, Scott Chaney, our Executive Director.

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

1 The Board invites public comment on matters
2 appearing on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, the Board
3 will first hear from those directly involved in the agenda
4 item. I will then invite public comment on the agenda item.

5 The Board will not answer questions, however. This item is
6 for comments only.

7 Unsolicited speakers are limited to two minutes
8 during all public comments. A tone will sound -- (clears
9 throat) excuse me -- to indicate the speaker's time is up.
10 The Board may ask questions of individuals who speak, which
11 may extend their two minute time limit.

12 There are public comments, sign-in sheets at the
13 located designated table to my right, please, for each
14 agenda item on which the Board invites comments. There's
15 also a sign-in sheet for those wishing to speak during the
16 public comment period for matters not on the Board's agenda
17 if it concerns horse racing in California. (Clears throat.)

18 Excuse me. Please print your name legibly on all sign-in
19 sheets.

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

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

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

14 And with that, we'll proceed.

15 Can we start with a motion to approve the minutes
16 on the last meeting, please.

17 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move approval.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Can we have a second.

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

25 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

2 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

4 I will move us on to item number two, discussion
5 and action by the Board on the Application for a License to
6 Conduct a Horse Race Meeting of the Los Angeles County Fair
7 at Los Alamitos, commencing June 18th and continuing through
8 July 8th, inclusive.

9 Gentlemen.

10 MR. GUITIERREZ: Good morning, honorable
11 Commissioners, honorable CHRB Board. My name is Orlando
12 Gutierrez, here on behalf of Los Alamitos Racecourse in the
13 L.A. County Fair at Los Alamitos, humbly asking for approval
14 of our license for the upcoming meet for the L.A. County
15 Fair meet.

16 As Dr. Ferraro mentioned, the meet will open on
17 Friday, June 20th, and continuing through Sunday, July the
18 6th. We will have nine days of racing. This is one
19 additional day from what we had last year during the meet,
20 this in anticipation of having a new influx of horses from
21 Northern California, and we're looking forward to having a
22 solid-solid meet.

23 Our condition book is ready to be posted online as
24 soon as we get the approval for the meet. So we are all
25 ready to go. No changes on our marketing plan, similar to

1 last year. So we are investing on our marketing, just like
2 we've done all the time. No changes to our stakes' schedule
3 either with the Great Lady M being our feature race on the
4 final Saturday. We are going to run on a Friday, July the
5 4th, as we do on the holiday and looking forward to an
6 outstanding meet.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to present our
8 application, our completed application. And once again,
9 humbly request approval of the application and the license.

10 Any questions?

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes, the application
12 is complete, Mr. Chairman.

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll move.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I think Commissioner
15 Stern, did you -- Oh.

16 COMMISSIONER STERN: Oh, no.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Sorry.

18 COMMISSIONER STERN: I was going to second the
19 motion. I second the motion.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

21 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

25 A/V REPRESENTATIVE: Is your microphone on --

1 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

2 A/V REPRESENTATIVE: -- Doc?

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

6 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. GUITIERREZ: Thank you so much.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Congratulations. Good luck.

11 MR. GUITIERREZ: Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number three, discussion and
13 action by the Board on the Application for a License to
14 Conduct a Horse Race Meeting of the Del Mar Thoroughbred
15 Club at Del Mar Racetrack from July 9th, 2025 through
16 September 9th, 2025.

17 Gentlemen.

18 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Good morning, CHRB Commissioners
19 and staff, Josh Rubinstein with the Del Mar Thoroughbred
20 Club.

21 In your meeting package is DMTC's license
22 application for our 31-day summer race meet from July 9th
23 through September 9th. We're very pleased to offer an eight
24 percent increase to overnight purses. And the vast majority
25 of horsemen and horsewomen will be competing in maiden

1 special weight dirt races with a purse value of \$100,000.

2 Once again, our summer meet will provide industry-
3 leading horse recruitment programs, such as Ship and Win,
4 that have resulted in Del Mar being among the highest field
5 sizes in the country.

6 David Jerkens, Del Mar's senior vice president,
7 will discuss details of our racing program shortly.

8 On the marketing side, an aggressive plan, led by
9 social and digital media, will support our summer season.
10 The program will largely focus on promoting Del Mar's high
11 liquidity wagering pools and payoffs to bettors, and
12 highlighting lifestyle promotions such as craft beer events,
13 local artists and food festivals, and college days to drive
14 attendance and promote Del Mar to non-core horse racing
15 fans.

16 We're also doubling down on social media
17 influencers with approximately 60 individual partnerships
18 that will focus on all aspects of Del Mar.

19 Our database program, the Diamond Club, has over
20 350,000 opt-in members and will be used extensively to
21 communicate to our core customers and offer compelling
22 promotions.

23 On the wagering side, we're adding three new bets,
24 a Middle Pick 4 with a \$0.50 minimum, a Late Pick 3 with a
25 \$3.00 minimum, and a Late Daily Double with a \$5.00 minimum.

1 The Late Pick 3 and the Late Double are offered at a reduced
2 takeout of 15 percent.

3 Lastly, before I turn things over to David, we're
4 proud to continue our popular Backstretch Meals Program.
5 Last summer, we provided over 20,000 free meals to the
6 hardworking men and women of the backstretch community.
7 Meals are served five days per week and are offered in a
8 communal setting to encourage socialization. We'd like to
9 thank the Oak Tree Racing Association and CTHF for their
10 generous contributions to this very meaningful program.

11 I'll now turn things over to David and we're happy
12 to answer any questions after his report.

13 MR. JERKENS: Thanks, Josh.

14 David Jerkens, Del Mar Racing Secretary.

15 We will be presenting 38 stakes races during our
16 31 day meet, which is highlighted by the Pacific Classic on
17 August 30th. On that day, we will be offering five total
18 stakes races, including three Breeders' Cup win-in-your-in
19 races, as we expect increased participation since we are
20 hosts of the Breeders' Cup this fall.

21 As Josh mentioned, overnight purse levels will be
22 increased from last summer.

23 On the subject of purses, we are in a competitive
24 environment as Kentucky and New York, as well as others in
25 the Midwest and the East Coast offer lucrative programs. So

1 we need to put our best foot forward from a purse
2 perspective this meet. Our popular incentive programs, Ship
3 and Win and Maiden Dirt Bonus, which are so vital to our
4 success, will return with increases from last year.

5 We also look forward to welcoming more Northern
6 California trainers and owners to Del Mar this summer. And
7 in conjunction with the TOC and conversations with horsemen
8 that have been ongoing for three to four months, we will be
9 offering a Northern California incentive program, which will
10 provide a 15 percent purse bonus in all starts for those
11 particular horses that were based at Pleasanton since early
12 December.

13 We also plan -- in our conversations with TOC, we
14 spoke about some new categories similar to what Santa Anita
15 has offered that we will sprinkle into our program this
16 summer. We're encouraged by the success of the current
17 Santa Anita Meet, and we hope to carry that momentum this
18 summer.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: I see Santa Anita (indiscernible)
20 handles (indiscernible) estimation is 14 percent increase.
21 Are you confident you can keep that increase going?

22 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Yeah, those are projections. I
23 mean, we're certainly -- this is a new era for California
24 racing with a single circuit. So we'll see after the eight
25 weeks, but we feel relatively confident in these

1 projections.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, I've got just a couple
4 quick ones here, Mr. Chairman.

5 Thank you. Appreciate the presentation as always.
6 I know we look forward to what is always an outstanding
7 meet, so thank you both.

8 The first question I have is the eight percent
9 purse increase. Is that predicated on no Northern
10 California racing happening? In other words, if we approve
11 Humboldt today, what happens to that eight percent you just
12 mentioned?

13 MR. JERKENS: So our projections are based on the
14 continuation of the single circuit structure that is
15 currently in place. If that were to change, we would need
16 to sit down with our partners at the TOC to see what the
17 impact would be on purses.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay, great.

19 The question I now have is for David again. I
20 think we have one of the best racing secretaries in the
21 country, so thank you. And also, you're very savvy about
22 Northern California. Could you do both, run the program
23 you're describing and allow for Humboldt to race and
24 allowing trainers just to decide where their horses fit
25 best?

1 MR. JERKENS: I think we feel at the lower level
2 categories, and we've stated, that we wouldn't interfere
3 with fair level-type of racing. Just given the population
4 for some of the lower level categories, we just feel that
5 there's not sufficient inventory for both. So we would
6 definitely have to look at that.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Anyone else on the Board? Do you
9 have any? No?

10 Can we have a motion.

11 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: I move approval.

12 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

14 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

20 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

22 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

24 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Congratulations gentlemen.

1 You want to tell us about your charity donations?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Sure. Really quick
3 for purposes of like the webcast and the audience, we're
4 moving on to agenda item four. Sorry.

5 MR. RUBINSTEIN: No problem. In your meeting
6 package is DMTC requests for our charity days allocations
7 from our 2024 summer and fall race meets as well as the two-
8 day Breeders' Cup.

9 It should be noted that in 2024 at Del Mar,
10 \$123,606 was generated in charity days funding. DMTC is
11 allocating an additional \$90,898 so the total distribution
12 for the year will be over \$214,000.

13 Happy to answer any questions.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions? Questions? You have
15 anything for this? No?

16 Can we have a motion.

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll so move.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman seconds.

19 Commissioner Stern?

20 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

1 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

3 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

5 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

7 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you.

8 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you.

9 Item number five is discussion and action by the
10 Board regarding distribution of Race Day Charity proceeds
11 the Los Angeles Turf Club Race Meeting 09/25/24 to 10/29/24.

12 MR. SINDLER: Good morning. Eric Sindler on
13 behalf of Los Angeles Turf Club II.

14 As is noted in the CHRB analysis, we propose to
15 donate \$13,776.85, all of which are to horse and/or horse
16 racing-related charities. And again, this is just the
17 statutory distributions we make. This is not including the
18 voluntary distributions that we make, which are
19 substantially more.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

21 Rita, do we have anything on this? No?

22 Motion?

23 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: So moved.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: A second?

25 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second. Second.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Commissioner Stern?

2 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

8 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

10 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: And Chairman votes yes. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. SINDLER: Thank you.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number seven --

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Six.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Six, excuse me, excuse me,
17 discussion and action by the Board regarding the amendment
18 of the application for a license to operate a minisatellite
19 wagering facility of Chilfruits, Incorporated, pursuant to
20 Board Rule 2066.

21 My understanding is it's just a name change; is
22 that correct?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, we certainly
24 appreciate Mr. Baedeker turning up. I don't think this
25 minisatellite is overly happy about having to amend their

1 application, but it is a material change, so we ask that you
2 do.

3 MR. BAEDEKER: No, we understand. Rick Bedeker
4 from SCOTWINC, representing the owner here today from
5 Chilfruits. As your packet indicates, this is simply a
6 remodeling of the facility, a rebranding of the restaurant,
7 thus the change in the name. But there is virtually no
8 change to anything related to the waging, to the
9 minisatellite operation. There's been no structural change
10 or any other kind of change.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: And how long have you been in
12 operation?

13 MR. BAEDEKER: They've been in operation for 11
14 years.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah? Okay.

16 Any questions from the Board? Do we have a
17 motion?

18 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Motion.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: A second?

20 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Second. Second.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

22 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

3 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

5 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

6 MR. BAEDEKER: Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Good luck.

8 Okay, the item number we've all been waiting for,
9 discussion and action by the Board regarding the request for
10 allocation of racing dates by Humboldt County Fair at
11 Ferndale from August 13th through September 2nd.

12 Good morning, gentlemen.

13 MR. TITUS: Good morning. Thank you for allowing
14 us to be here.

15 Peter, I'd like to congratulate you on being
16 appointed to the CHRB Board.

17 COMMISSIONER STERN: Thank you.

18 MR. TITUS: Thank you.

19 After our last time up here, there were some
20 things that needed to be addressed, so I just want to cover
21 those first.

22 There is a signed agreement between the Humboldt
23 County Fair and Bernal Park Racing. The funds are in an
24 account, and our business plan has been turned in to you
25 guys as well.

1 Talking about some other things with Humboldt, you
2 know, we started Cream City Racing Stables last year, the
3 year before, to get people involved. It is where we go out
4 as a group of community members and try to get people
5 interested in horse racing and promote the industry in our
6 area by buying horses as a group and bringing those to the
7 fair to run. So it's getting more fans, more people
8 involved.

9 The other issues I wanted to address where we
10 talked about a two-week fair, well, on our third week this
11 year, we will be, once we're granted the dates, bringing an
12 ice rink to the fairgrounds, as well as potentially having a
13 battle of the bands or other events that will take place on
14 that third week. So it will not be just horse racing on our
15 third week.

16 You know, something else that I was thinking
17 about, you know, being in these positions, being appointed
18 or being elected, we have a responsibility to have
19 everyone's voice heard and represent everyone equally and
20 fairly. And I feel like right now, after listening to Mr.
21 Mathis and Mr. Green last month realize that there really is
22 no voice for the north, I feel like that the team at
23 Humboldt is the voice for the north. Bernal Park Racing is
24 the voice for the north. And, you know, with getting the
25 congressmen and senators and all the political supervisors,

1 all the political letters that have come in to you guys for
2 support shows that everyone realizes there needs to be a
3 voice for the north and that everyone needs to be
4 represented equally and fairly.

5 And I printed out some information and we
6 presented it to you guys. We went and printed off Golden
7 State Fields last month or last year from December of '23 to
8 June of '24, and then Golden State Racing last fall. And
9 then we printed off current Santa Anita meet, current Los
10 Alamitos meet, because I want you guys to have it in black
11 and white. Don't take anybody's word for it. The Northern
12 California horse trainers and owners are not doing well and
13 not succeeding. If you look at what they did at Golden Gate
14 Fields and at Golden State Racing and how they're competing
15 right now in the south, it is not working for them.

16 What is working is the \$18 million that is
17 represented from north money is going to the tracks in the
18 south and it is helping -hem. But as far as the horse men
19 and women from top to bottom, the owners, the breeders,
20 everyone that's involved in the industry in the north, it is
21 not benefiting the north. There needs to be a venue in the
22 north that runs so they have an opportunity to come and
23 collect some revenue that is bet in the north and is
24 generated in the north.

25 And the million dollars that we pay out in purses

1 will go a long way for the 30 plus trainers that typically
2 come to Ferndale, Humboldt County, from California. That
3 money will go a long way towards helping them sustain for
4 the year. And then hopefully we can get the other fairs
5 running next year.

6 Like I mentioned last month, we pay out over
7 \$300,000 in wages or around \$300,000 in wages. That goes a
8 long way towards helping those families, those workers,
9 everyone.

10 You know, as far as everything else goes, I feel
11 like we pretty much touched on all of it last month, so I
12 don't want to go into great detail. I'm assuming you guys
13 will have questions, but I know these two fellas here also
14 have some things to say. So thank you for the opportunity
15 to speak to you this morning.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

17 MR. SCHMITT: Good morning, George Schmitt,
18 managing partner of Bernal Park Racing, LLC. I want to just
19 talk about a few things that we talked about last month and
20 some issues that were brought up.

21 You'll notice that the people who spoke last month
22 from the TOC, at least the board members, are not here
23 today. They're not here today because I called up Ty Green
24 and said, Ty, if you have a compromise to offer Humboldt
25 County that you said last month they would not accept, give

1 it to me and I will go to Humboldt County if it's a fair
2 deal and they will accept it. Ty tried. There is no
3 compromise available for us to accept. And so it is the way
4 that Andy has described it, we're going for the three weeks
5 the same way that we have in the past.

6 There was a question about whether or not the
7 money was in the bank. And I told you last month that we
8 had \$10,000 in the bank. Today it's over a million and a
9 half and we paid out about \$100,000 in various fees and to
10 buy equipment to take care of what's needed up in Humboldt.

11 Another question last month was, and Andy Mathis
12 said, that trainers were not going to send horses. Well, a
13 lady named Sandy Rios is here in the room and I can provide
14 this to you if you wish has contacted trainers from around
15 the state and up in Washington, and 28 of them, and we have
16 254 horses committed, of which at least 85 are Cal-Breds, to
17 go to Humboldt County. That does not include horses that
18 will come up from the south. And as you know Doug O'Neill
19 shipped up the winner from Southern California of the
20 Humboldt County Marathon last year.

21 I don't know what else to say. John Harris and I
22 have put our money where our mouth is. We believe that it's
23 critical not just for horse racing but for the fairs
24 themselves to succeed and for organizations like Future
25 Farmers of America and 4-H to continue to educate our young

1 people on how the world works, where our food comes from,
2 how hard it is to raise the food that we eat every day are
3 all critical parts of the fair infrastructure.

4 We're hopeful that you will see fit to grant the
5 dates to Humboldt for this year. That fair will be a
6 success. I'm hopeful that we can be back here next month
7 with another request from you from the north, although I
8 cannot guarantee that at this moment. And hopefully next
9 year we'll have a full fair circuit going again with Bernal
10 Park Racing replacing CARF and providing the infrastructure
11 that's needed for the county fairs to be successful.

12 Thanks very much for listening. I look forward to
13 answering questions if you have any.

14 MR. MORGAN: Jim Morgan, Special Counsel, Humboldt
15 County Fair.

16 I think we have to look at the quality of the
17 people that have backed Humboldt financially with a signed
18 agreement to joint venture and cover our expenses. That
19 would be George Schmitt -- thank you very much for your
20 participation, George -- who's invested himself, his
21 resources, in breeding horses in California in the north,
22 and John Harris, probably the largest breeder of horses in
23 California, who have recognized the value of perpetuating a
24 race meet in Northern California for the benefit of the
25 breeders, the owners, the trainers, the employees, and the

1 racing community.

2 I think it's important to note that Humboldt
3 County Fair is not CARF, it's not GSR, it is an independent
4 county-owned fair that has 129 years of experience of
5 running a successful horse race meet. When I say
6 successful, last year was the first week -- first time that
7 we had three weeks without overlap, without shared
8 commissions. We generated approximately a million dollars
9 in commissions and purses. That purse money goes back to
10 the horsemen. It doesn't go to the Humboldt County Fair.
11 And the million dollars in commissions is sufficient to
12 sustain an independent racing venue.

13 I'd like to quote Bill Nader from last week where
14 he said, "I've never heard anybody say a bad word about the
15 Humboldt County Fair. The reputation of the Humboldt County
16 Fair is first class and there is no doubt about it." We
17 should receive your consideration for the dates.

18 But there's more. We have a Business and
19 Professions Code that governs horse racing, specifically
20 19401. It says two components that I think merit your
21 consideration today; (b) is we're supposed to make decisions
22 encouraging agriculture and the breeding of horses in this
23 state. No one has dedicated more to the breeding of horses
24 in this state for the benefit of the state and the racing
25 industry than George Schmitt and John Harris.

1 The second provision of that 19401 Code is, in
2 your decision-making, we're trying to provide the maximum
3 expansion of horse racing opportunity in the public
4 interest. So public interest is a component, and maximum
5 expansion is.

6 Humboldt County is a compliment to the racing
7 opportunities here in the state, not a detriment. Did you
8 know that Del Mar Race Track is closer to El Paso, Texas
9 than Ferndale? We are not establishing a second circuit.
10 We are helping the people who, years ago, decided to breed
11 horses in this state to try to earn the stallion awards and
12 the breeders awards that we enacted to encourage breeding in
13 this state that otherwise would be disenfranchised.

14 As to the public interest, Andy's touched a bit
15 about our endorsements. They include Mike McGuire,
16 California Senator, President Pro Tem, Chris Rogers,
17 California State Assembly, Jared Huffman, U.S. House of
18 Representatives, Damon Connolly, State of California
19 Assembly, who indicated that, in his letter, that he was
20 impressed with the leadership, history and impact on the
21 community, crucial to preserving rural communities and local
22 economies.

23 We also have the support of our Board of
24 Supervisors who are here today in support of our request,
25 Guy Fieri, and undisputable that this is in the public

1 interest to continue.

2 Commissioner Hudnut, I think you alluded to the
3 fact that this is an ADW-motivated, potentially motivated
4 request. If it was ADW motivated, we would ask for dates
5 before the Breeders' Cup, which Del Mar is privileged to
6 host for the better of California racing this year, or the
7 Kentucky Derby. This is a 129-year tradition in this
8 county. I'm not sure how many of you who have, like myself,
9 gone to do the Kentucky Derby. The town is alive. The
10 restaurants are full. The hotels are full. It's a festive
11 time. I've also been back in the week after the Kentucky
12 Derby. Everything's empty.

13 Our 129-year history of racing in Humboldt is
14 comparable for Humboldt County to the Kentucky Derby. The
15 hotels are full. The restaurants are full. The shops are
16 full. The supervisors of our county have estimated that
17 over \$7 million in revenue goes to this county for this fair
18 hosted in a town of 1,500 people in a county of 130,000
19 people. It's huge for the economic impact of this
20 community.

21 Some have suggested that Humboldt County is
22 irrelevant with respect to the horse racing interest in
23 California. Let me remind you that the owners and breeders
24 of California Chrome ran their first race in Humboldt
25 County. Travis Boersma of Dutch Brothers Coffee, who ran

1 Owen Almighty, who won the Tampa Bay Derby and was fifth in
2 the Kentucky Derby, his first races were at Humboldt County.
3 Alan Aldrich, who supported breeding and racing in this
4 county, in this state for 40 years, has always gone to
5 Humboldt County, and he was more upset that he lost the
6 Humboldt County Marathon by a nose than he was pleased that
7 She's a Tiger won the Del Mar Debutant on her way to being
8 Eclipse Award winner.

9 The money that is in dispute here is built on the
10 goodwill that has been established from generations of
11 having racing in Northern California. We had Golden Gate,
12 we had Bay Meadows, we had Stockton, we had Solano, we had
13 Sacramento, we had Sonoma County. All of those things
14 generated fan base in Northern California.

15 We're not talking about taking the dime from the
16 money's bet in Southern California, but the fan base
17 predicated on the goodwill from decades and generations of
18 having live horse racing here in California are the ones
19 that are doing the betting that creates the commissions that
20 we would be entitled to if, as the legislature intended, we
21 conduct a live race meet for our 129th consecutive year.
22 And that million dollars would go to purses, and it would go
23 to sustaining our operation and the cost of running a
24 business, all of which has been guaranteed through the
25 philanthropy and a signed agreement with George Schmitt and

1 the participation of John Harris.

2 Let me address what I think is a very critical
3 issue to your decision. In January, there were over 800
4 horses at Pleasanton when things shut down abruptly, much to
5 the dismay of the track workers, the trainers, the owners,
6 and the breeders, depending on California Breeders' Rewards.
7 Less than half of those horses, I think the figure was given
8 last month at 380, took the free ride to go down to Southern
9 California where they're appropriately, and to their credit,
10 allowed to race one race a day. More than half the horses
11 did not go, did not take the free ride. More than half the
12 horses went east to Turf Paradise or north to Emerald Downs.

13 I invested in a racing forum for Saturday at
14 Emerald Downs. More than half the horses are California-
15 Breds. Half the races have more California-Breds than any
16 other race. The trainers up there, Isidro Tamayo, Mr.
17 Trujillo, Blaine Wright, McCanna, Jamey Thomas, Gary
18 Greiner, and others are Northern California trainers with
19 California-Bred horses that are disenfranchised due to the
20 abrupt termination of all racing in Northern California.
21 And when we run our three week meet, as I hope you will
22 approve, we will bring them back with higher purses, higher
23 level of participation. They will be entitled to breeders
24 awards.

25 What about the stallion owners when we encouraged

1 breeding in California over the last few years? Every horse
2 of racing age today was bred and they procured a stallion
3 fee at a time when there was a Golden Gate Fields and five
4 racing fairs. We're going to bring that back and we're
5 going to support the industry, the breeding, encourage the
6 breeding by providing access to the awards for breeding,
7 stallion awards, and ownership that California intended to
8 have.

9 As to the 380 horses that went to Del Mar, great,
10 I think it's wonderful. If Del Mar has established -- and
11 it's a good program, and I have no criticism for that --
12 \$4,000 for a horse coming in from out of state, those 380
13 horses that went down there is the equivalent of \$1.5
14 million at \$4,000 a head. And they do fill up the cards.
15 And it was a glory report for Del Mar and I have nothing but
16 respect and admiration for what they're able to do at Del
17 Mar. But we're not a threat to Del Mar.

18 What never was addressed last month was, yes,
19 Ferndale's asking to earn, not charity, earn the commissions
20 and the purses from racing conducting the live race meet.
21 That's what we're asking to earn. What's not addressed is
22 that Del Mar, and they deserve it, they should get it, they
23 get the benefit of there being no Golden Gate Fields, no
24 Santa Rosa, no Sacramento, no Fresno, no GSR. All that
25 money back in the north is money that Del Mar never had

1 access to. And I'm glad they got it. But that shouldn't be
2 the impetus to keep Humboldt from three weeks of running
3 129th year of live racing at a location that is 740 miles
4 away from Del Mar.

5 What I'm trying to say is our meet does not take
6 away from Del Mar. They're mutually complimentary and
7 they're consistent with the Business and Professions Code
8 directive to encourage breeding, racing, and maximize live
9 racing opportunities.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excuse me, Jim. Jim, you
11 may want to save some time for the Commissioners to ask
12 questions. If you can just wrap up?

13 MR. MORGAN: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

14 What I'd like to say, what we've asked today is we
15 do have a signed agreement, we do have money in the bank,
16 thanks to Mr. Schmitt. We'd like our dates approved today.
17 You may scrutinize our license and our agreement next
18 week -- next month, excuse me. We'd also like to have on
19 the agenda next month an item for the Board to exercise its
20 discretion to approve a license for Humboldt to race, even
21 if there's no agreement with TOC.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?
24 Commissioner Davis?

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

1 Thank you very much for your presentation. I
2 think you've covered a lot of ground here and given us a lot
3 of thought. And I think you answered my question, Mr.
4 Morgan, as far as whether Humboldt cares if Del Mar is
5 running competing races.

6 MR. MORGAN: Humboldt wants to support racing at
7 all levels in California and the horsemen have chosen, less
8 than half, to go down to Del Mar and support that program.
9 We want them to be able to have access to that first money.
10 But that doesn't address the 500 horses that didn't go
11 there, which we're trying to address in part.

12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay. And it's my
13 understanding that 80 percent of the breeding in the state
14 of California happens in the north, or north of Kern, is
15 that --

16 MR. MORGAN: That sounds correct to me. And the
17 farmers and the stallion owners and the farm owners are
18 mostly located in the north. The land's a little cheaper
19 and the grass is a little greener.

20 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Anyone else?

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Can I ask a few
24 questions?

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Yes, go ahead.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm kind of the nuts
2 and bolts guy, so sorry to bring this back down to just
3 logistics.

4 Mr. Schmitt, obviously this would be a new
5 experience operating a racetrack. What's the situation with
6 the equipment? I understand that CARF sold most of theirs
7 to Wyoming, if I'm not mistaken. So like how do you -- how
8 are you going to tackle that?

9 MR. SCHMITT: CARF sold everything that they had.
10 The Oak Tree-donated ambulance will go up to Ferndale. That
11 belongs to Northern California, not to CARF. It was donated
12 by Oak Tree many years ago, so that takes care of the horse
13 ambulance. I have a tractor that I purchased from Golden
14 Gate that will supplement the tractors that they have there,
15 so they'll have sufficient tractors. I have an agreement to
16 purchase a couple of large harrowers to take care of the
17 harrowing at the track. And if I can't find another water
18 truck somewhere else that can be used up in Humboldt, we've
19 made arrangements with a company in Seattle to build us a
20 new one. That takes care of all the equipment needs up
21 there.

22 Mr. Woods is here. He will take care of the track
23 for us, as he has in the past. Tom Doutrich and his crew
24 will be back, as will all the folks that took care of
25 handling the wagers in Humboldt. We've made arrangements.

1 Monarch has sent us a letter saying that they will support
2 all the requirements that we have up there. Hopefully, we
3 will get a signed contract with Elite Racing so that they
4 will be allowed to wager on races in Humboldt.

5 As you know, there are only a couple of stakes races in
6 Humboldt. We may go to three this year. I've talked with
7 Tom about that. It would be okay with me if a few horses
8 from Southern California flew up to run in the Marathon and
9 in the yet-unnamed filly and mare stakes that we will have.

10 And there will be a Quarter Horse stake, which is not your
11 problem.

12 But we believe we have everything covered now,
13 which last month I could not say when we were talking about
14 Pleasanton. We didn't have everything covered then, but
15 we're in pretty good shape for Humboldt now.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: What's the state of
17 the track, and then how many usable stalls do you have?

18 MR. TITUS: We don't normally start working up the
19 track until the middle of July. We have 200 stalls, and we
20 normally bring in anywhere from 100 to 150 portables,
21 depending on what our stall applications require us to
22 bring.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: And one other
24 question, and maybe this is unfair, but it just occurs to me
25 that bringing horses back to California is important and

1 good and something I think we all want to do. My question
2 is like, then what? What happens when Ferndale closes,
3 assuming those horses go back to, because I think, as you
4 pointed out, it fits into like a Pacific Northwest kind of
5 circuit, if you will, and so does that --

6 MR. SCHMITT: Well, we'll --

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- bring them back
8 temporarily, I guess, is my question?

9 MR. SCHMITT: Well, that depends on the trainers
10 and owners, doesn't it? There are also a number of horses
11 that will be coming to Humboldt from Wyoming, because
12 Wyoming closes just before Humboldt opens. Some of those
13 horses are for sure going to end up at Turf Paradise. If we
14 can get the right kind of an agreement with Santa Anita, I
15 believe that, and not the one that we have today, for sure,
16 because that one is being abused, but --

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm sorry, what
18 agreement? I know of no agreement.

19 MR. SCHMITT: The agreement with Northern
20 California that you're well aware of, Mr. Chaney, on having
21 races dedicated only to horses from Northern California?

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay. I actually --

23 MR. SCHMITT: If we want to --

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- want to correct the
25 historical record here. There is no agreement about which I

1 know. That went away when the Northern California interests
2 decided to close Pleasanton on March 25th. Frankly, we had
3 to --

4 MR. SCHMITT: Well --

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- highly encourage
6 Southern California to continue to fund the training
7 operation, because that was news to them. They had
8 originally planned on staying open through June to the fair
9 season. And so while they clearly intended on writing a lot
10 of races and would love to write a fourth day, I just want
11 to correct the record, because it's been repeated
12 incorrectly many times in Board meetings that some agreement
13 currently exists. It does not.

14 MR. SCHMITT: That's fine. If they want to have
15 the horses stay in California, things will have to change,
16 because the low-end horses, as you well know, will go
17 somewhere else, unless they have races written for them, or
18 if Los Alamitos is fortunate enough to get their legislation
19 passed where they can run thoroughbred racing at night, they
20 will all stay in California. If we don't do that, they will
21 go somewhere else.

22 I very reluctantly ended up having to ship horses
23 out of the state, because playing down in the south is not a
24 fair game for people like me. I just don't have the horses
25 I had 10 years ago when I was running graded stakes

1 everywhere. Maybe this year I will, but right now it is
2 what it is and --

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Hope springs eternal;
4 right?

5 MR. SCHMITT: -- I got to put up with what I got
6 to put up with. But those horses can stay here. They can't
7 stay here in the current environment with the current way
8 that the south is doing things. We're trying to get these
9 horses back. There are 500 of them that disappeared from
10 Pleasanton to other places, 500 of them.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay. Thanks.

12 MR. SCHMITT: -- and it's bigger than that now.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you.

14 MR. MORGAN: Executive Director Chaney, can I
15 answer your question about what happens to the horses
16 afterwards? Yeah, they're up in Emerald Downs right now.
17 In the last three weeks, 200-plus horses went from Turf
18 Paradise when it closed a few weeks ago up to Emerald Downs.
19 There was van after van of full horses. I happened to own a
20 Cal-Bred that was up training in Emerald Downs and the van
21 that went up to Emerald Downs had 12 horses in it. The van
22 taking my horse down to Santa Anita had one horse in it
23 because there's an exodus of horses.

24 We did orchestrate with Oregon to have our meet
25 between Tillamook and Grants Pass. Those horses are mostly

1 Cal-Bred as well. It is not intended by this Board to have
2 Oregon and Washington support our California invested
3 owners, breeders, and trainers. And they're up there now.
4 They will come back down.

5 And in answer to your question, if a trainer has a
6 history and a clientele that has 20 to 30 horses that are
7 used to running the Golden Gate and the fair circuit that
8 don't fit in with the programs, the admirable programs of
9 Santa Anita and Del Mar, they have been disenfranchised.
10 They have been forced to leave the state because of the per
11 diem rate.

12 Commissioner Alfieri, last month you indicated
13 that, geez, what happens if we pause for a year, just let it
14 go for a year? The problem with that, the crop of foals is
15 already on the ground. The stud fee has been paid. The
16 training expenses have been made. They're ready to run now.
17 We have a track that's willing to go. We have funding that
18 doesn't impose on the public interest. We have public
19 interest galore. And we have a 129-year history. And
20 perhaps most importantly, last year when we had three weeks
21 without overlap, it was our best year ever. And we can and
22 will do it again.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Look, may I say something?

25

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, gentlemen, let's hear --

2 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: May I say something, Mr.
3 Chaiman?

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, go ahead.

5 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: But you have an unknown
6 entity, an unknown operator. I'm concerned about the
7 operations, you know, this kind of willy-nilly put things
8 together. I'm very concerned. I'm uneasy with this entity.

9 MR. MORGAN: I understand your concerns.

10 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I understand about the
11 people behind it, the horsemen and things. They're
12 experienced.

13 MR. MORGAN: So we're going to --

14 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: You're not experienced
15 running a racetrack.

16 MR. SCHMITT: Commissioner Alfieri --

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: That's my concern.

18 MR. SCHMITT: -- if I may? Larry Swartzlander
19 will be our racing director. He's done that for the last 15
20 years or so for CARF and he will be doing it for us. So I
21 think that that is adequately addressed.

22 MR. MORGAN: Steve Wood is our track man. We have
23 Tom Doutrich, who's been our racing secretary. We have
24 Sandra Rios, who's been in charge of the stalls. We have
25 the infrastructure of personnel to make it happen. But for

1 today, Commissioner, we're asking the dates. And then these
2 hard questions, and we can obliterate the cloud of willy-
3 nillness when we consider our license next month, but
4 today, we think we're entitled, or we would like to think
5 we're entitled to your approval for three weeks without
6 overlap.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, gentlemen. Thank you very
8 much. We have other people who want to hear from.

9 So does TOC want to make a comment, Bill?

10 Go ahead and return to your seats, please.

11 MR. NADER: Thank you, Chairman, Commissioners.

12 Warm welcome to Mr. Stern. Bill Nader from the TOC.

13 Much of what is said here today will be a replay
14 of last month's meeting. So with that in mind, I did not
15 ask the Chairman of the TOC North Racing Committee and TOC
16 Board member, Mr. Ty Green, or trainer Andy Mathis, a TOC
17 Board member, with a distinguished record training horses in
18 Northern California over the last 25 years, to appear here
19 again today. Instead, I'll provide a short recap of what
20 they said last month as TOC North board members on the
21 subject of the allocation of race states for Humboldt County
22 Fair.

23 I would like to briefly recap the circumstances
24 that led us to where we are today as an industry.

25 If I can take you back to January of last year, 16

1 months ago, when we provided a 20-year look back and noted
2 California's sharp declines in foal crops, a number of
3 races, a number of runners, average field size, which
4 collectively resulted in declines in handle. We talked
5 about the difficulty we faced in trying to maintain two
6 full-time circuits. We talked about our Achilles heel, no
7 secondary source of gaming income to help support purses and
8 track commissions and how this made us uncompetitive with
9 states like Kentucky, New York, Arkansas, and many other
10 states. And we talked about how we were suffering as an
11 industry from purse overpayments in declining purses in both
12 the north and the south that drove both regions into very,
13 very weak positions. We talked about how the California
14 horse racing industry was under serious pressure.

15 So the TOC spoke to everyone in this room
16 repeatedly about our concerns on the financial projections
17 put forward by Golden State Racing as a successor to Golden
18 Gate and for the continuation of racing in the north. We
19 said that those projections were unrealistic and
20 unattainable. We were open to Golden State Racing based on
21 agreed criteria, but stopped short of jumping on the
22 bandwagon.

23 This was not because we were anti-north, as a
24 narrative that some in this room continue to play, but
25 because, as we said then and as we say now, California has

1 limited resources and that our income comes from a single
2 source, parimutuel wagering, nothing else. We need to be
3 very careful with how we govern and how we go forward to
4 protect and preserve California racing.

5 One lesson that we learned from Golden State, the
6 Golden State Racing experiment, which I think we can all
7 agree, was that the decision to license Golden State Racing
8 for race dates last year was a sincere attempt to give the
9 north an opportunity to see beyond a shadow of a doubt how
10 the market would respond. Now we know the results and it
11 wasn't pretty.

12 Some of the people in this room have pledged their
13 support and financial backing for 2025 race dates, last
14 month for Alameda County Fair and Humboldt County Fair, and
15 now this month for Humboldt County Fair. They were also
16 here last year supporting the dates, allocation, and the
17 licensing of Golden State Racing. It was said to this
18 Board, if we fail, that's our problem, not yours. We just
19 don't want you in our way. They said, we've got the
20 funding.

21 But when GSR did fail, the funding wasn't there.
22 The racetracks in Southern California had to step in, write
23 a check in the amount of \$600,000 to help CARF and Alameda
24 County Fair secure the purse account. It was messy and it
25 placed both CARF and Alameda County Fair in a horrible

1 position.

2 But I need to remind everyone in the room today
3 that the failed Golden State Racing experiment cost
4 California industry participants much more than the \$600,000
5 bailout. It also cost owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys,
6 and the racetracks an additional \$5 million in money that
7 was not redirected during the months of October, November,
8 and December to support live racing in our state. That was
9 the opportunity cost. We gave them the opportunity, it came
10 at a cost, and it failed.

11 It cost Alameda County Fair \$1.9 million. Some
12 report the loss to be \$5 million. All up, those 25 race
13 days, all up, cost somewhere in the range of \$7 million to
14 \$10 million. We provided the opportunity, it was costly,
15 and it ended abruptly with only 10 days' notice to owners,
16 breeders, trainers, employees, and the state regulator that
17 GSR was out of business.

18 Now the redirect is tied to the consolidation to a
19 single circuit. The redirect is not a gift, it's a
20 mechanism to take our limited resources and act responsibly
21 to derive maximum benefit. We are not playing with house
22 money. There is no house money. The California horse
23 racing industry at every corner is fighting to survive,
24 fighting to rebuild, fighting to regain its status. And
25 here in 2025, we are now doing that.

1 If we've learned nothing else from the Golden
2 State Racing debacle, it's the need for full visibility and
3 a comprehensive, reliable business plan when considering any
4 new entity. I believe most of us have learned that lesson.

5 Now moving now to a short recap of what was said
6 last month by TOC Board Members Ty Green and Andy Mathis.
7 Ty Green, the Chairman of the TOC North Racing Committee
8 appeared before you last month and said he did not support
9 the Humboldt County Fair request for allocated race dates
10 because it was not in the best interest of California horse
11 racing and it would hurt Northern horsemen that have made
12 the transition to Southern California. Here is what Mr.
13 Green told you last month, word for word.

14 "When I'm sitting here representing the north and I
15 look at what would happen if Ferndale is approved and
16 the insignificant benefit, I can't help but come to the
17 conclusion that I can't support it. I say that knowing
18 that it might have a big impact on Ferndale, but I'm
19 here representing horse racing. I'm not here to fund
20 Ferndale's Fair."

21 Now in response to the comments that Mr. Schmitt
22 made a few moments ago, reaching out to Mr. Green for a
23 compromise, look, when Mr. Green spoke to Mr. Schmitt and
24 asked, would it still be three weeks, the answer was yes.
25 I'm not sure how much there would be to compromise. And the

1 compromise is not with the TOC, it's with all of the south,
2 including the track partners. So there was really nothing
3 to discuss.

4 Andy Mathis, a highly regarded north trainer with
5 a distinguished record over a period of 25 years in Northern
6 California, and a North Board Member of the TOC said last
7 month that he pulled 17 different trainers that have
8 relocated from Northern California to Southern California
9 and not one had any interest in participating in racing at
10 Ferndale. He noted that the last two years have been a
11 difficult time for horsemen and horsewomen in Northern
12 California with the latest blow being that short-notice
13 stoppage of racing at Pleasanton in December.

14 He noted that people have since made the move to
15 Southern California, they move their horses, their families
16 and their businesses and 11 of the 17 trainers that Andy
17 spoke with gave their consent to put their names on a list
18 to help measure their record at Santa Anita as compared to
19 their record at Ferndale. He noted that these 11 trainers
20 accounted for 312 starts this year at Santa Anita during the
21 winter meet alone for purse earnings of \$1.26 million.
22 Again, that's 312 starts, \$1.26 million in money won. By
23 contrast, these same 11 trainers made a combined five
24 starts, five starts last year at Ferndale for earnings of
25 less than \$5,000, not even close.

1 Now to the question of who are the north and where
2 are the north, to a very large extent, the north has made
3 the transition to Southern California to remain part of the
4 newly introduced California circuit. There's a need to
5 preserve and protect the new business model for California
6 racing. Consolidation and transition to one circuit has
7 been inclusive and has produced the desired results.
8 There's renewed life, business results have improved, purses
9 have increased, largely because of consolidation and the
10 redirect of our limited single source income. Inclusive
11 does not mean that we've captured everyone, but we have
12 captured a very high percentage.

13 The consolidated single circuit is working. The
14 key metrics at Santa Anita from December 26th through
15 Sunday, March 11th illustrate the success. Every key
16 economic indicator is trending favorably, most with double
17 digit increases; race days, races, starters, field size,
18 handle and attendance.

19 We have something here that we haven't seen in a
20 long time. We have momentum, optimism, a glimmer of hope
21 for a lot of people, owners, trainers, breeders, jockeys,
22 employees, hoping for job security, people who have stayed
23 loyal to California during challenging times.

24 To imply that the proposed allocation of Ferndale
25 dates would represent only three weeks or \$2 million of the

1 redirect and think it's okay, well it's a tough pill to
2 swallow to California industry participants when
3 Californians, including those at Humboldt County Fair,
4 acknowledge that Ferndale is part of the Oregon Racing
5 circuit, sandwiched between Tillamook and Grants Pass. A
6 hard pill to swallow when everyone in this room knows that
7 the income derived from horse racing during the proposed
8 three weeks at Ferndale has almost nothing to do with
9 Ferndale horse racing and everything to do with horse racing
10 conducted at Del Mar and out-of-state tracks. And a hard
11 pill to swallow when three weeks at that time of year is
12 actually the equivalent of five weeks of redirect money
13 because those weeks are so lucrative.

14 We just witnessed the Kentucky Derby, which was a
15 huge success for the image of our sport. The horses that
16 ran one/two in the Santa Anita Derby had never run a race
17 outside of California. Their prior races were at Del Mar,
18 Los Alamitos, and Santa Anita. They went to Kentucky as
19 true representatives of California racing, flying the
20 California flag, and they ran two/three in the Kentucky
21 Derby in a field of 19. It was a great reflection on
22 California horse racing, which has so much to offer.

23 But we can't forget or dismiss the economics and
24 the reasons that drove us to consolidation in a single
25 circuit. We must remember that the 2025 Arkansas Derby,

1 Arkansas, is worth three times the 2025 Santa Anita Derby in
2 purse money. Derby preps in many other states leading to
3 Kentucky are worth double or more than double that of
4 California.

5 We are showing renewed life for the first time in
6 a long time. There is some optimism and there's some hope,
7 but we have not fully transitioned from a position of
8 survival to a position of strength. Far from it. Every
9 dollar and every decision matters.

10 It's no fun sitting here before you and going
11 through these great lengths to drive home that point that we
12 are fighting hard to rebuild California. But in doing so,
13 we need to recognize that we do not have the luxury of
14 tossing away \$5 million here and \$2 million there when it
15 has little to no benefit of what our mission statements ask
16 us to do as custodians of the sport here in California.

17 While we all appreciate the great attributes of
18 the Humboldt County Fair, we cannot support a transfer of
19 funding from the California horse racing industry
20 participants to the Humboldt County Fair. Not now, when we
21 are finally moving in the right direction.

22 This concludes my remarks. I'm happy to take any
23 questions.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I've

1 just got a quick question for Bill.

2 Bill, there was an article that came out in the
3 *Thoroughbred Daily News* written by Dan Ross about foal crop,
4 data-driven, a lot of information in there with some quotes
5 from a combination of folks, including Scott Chaney, who I
6 hope touches on what his thoughts were. I mean, we are well
7 below 1,000 foals being born with projections of 20, 30
8 being down into the, let's just say under 700 with a CTBA
9 representative really expressing concern.

10 So for me, Northern California racing is very
11 important in terms of the fairs, the jobs, but it also helps
12 support what I believe is a growing and increasing
13 percentage of Cal-Breds that Santa Anita and Del Mar rely
14 on.

15 So I see your point, and I also see Del Mar's
16 point, but we also have to see the point of view of the
17 north. But I think you guys must be really torn, to be
18 honest, because you're really taking one hell of a gamble
19 and risk here by thinking very short-term, rallying around
20 the momentum you described, when in just a few short years,
21 these are farmers and ranchers. And me having been a long-
22 time employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, State
23 Executive Director for Farm Service Agency where I am in
24 very close contact, and I continue to be with a lot of these
25 small farms, that this country tells them to diversify their

1 revenue streams, to piece it together, willy-nilly, as some
2 people may say. But part of what they do is they will have
3 a broodmare or two.

4 So what I'd like for you to go on record about,
5 because this is a very important day, I think, for what
6 you're saying, because you literally are putting every
7 single chip that the TOC has on the square of the next two
8 years, not leaving a few chips in case. So what are your
9 thoughts about that article that was written of which you
10 were quoted in, and what's your honest opinion about the
11 prospects of the foal crop beyond this year?

12 MR. NADER: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman.

13 First, I would like to address that question by
14 saying, consolidation was not really a choice for California
15 Racing. It was driven out of desperation. The north and
16 South were sinking and sinking fast when compared to other
17 states across the country. The downward spiral was real,
18 and it had to be reversed. So consolidation was the answer,
19 and it was the right answer, and it was really the only
20 choice.

21 Now, with that, we've been able to see purses come
22 up. As of February 28th of this year, purses at every track
23 in Southern California will go up as compared to last year,
24 from February 28th all the way to December 31. That
25 motivates the breeding industry. You have to get the purses

1 up. You have to get the foundation right.

2 So the consolidation and the reset that we've been
3 able to implement and introduce in 2025, as I said earlier,
4 is working. The rebuild is working. If you can't get the
5 foundation right, everything is going to be torn down, not
6 just the breeding industry, the racetracks and racing in
7 California all across the Board.

8 Now, with respect to foal crops and breeding, what
9 I would stress here is this is not isolated to only
10 California. This is all across the country. It's not an
11 issue that plagues California and California alone. Every
12 state across the country is facing the same problem. The
13 foal crop will get to 1,000 for this particular year.
14 Currently, it's at 983, and there will be others that will
15 trickle in, and it will get to 1,000. The number of races
16 this year will be about 1,512. Last year it was 2,517. So
17 they're 40 percent less races.

18 But the foal crop and how we go forward, and in
19 the story that was written by Dan Ross in the *TDN* yesterday,
20 I think if we can continue on the path that we're on and get
21 the purse side addressed, which is the key concern, to
22 motivate breeders because money makes the mare run, that's
23 the old expression, and get California back on firm footing,
24 that we can continue that rebuild and address the foal crop
25 going forward.

1 The one thing I would like to note, in 2025,
2 average field size in California is 7.6. In New York, in
3 the first four months of the year, the average field size is
4 6.72, dramatically less than California at this stage of the
5 game in 2025. That's a turnaround. That's a win for
6 California. That's part of the rebuild. So with that, we
7 try to bring everybody back up together.

8 But the way we're going, and if you look at the
9 foal crop through the years, and it was back to the report
10 that we did in front of this Board in January of last year,
11 and you look at the decline over the last 20 years, you talk
12 about 1,000 folds this year, 20 years ago, it was 3,800. So
13 it's been dropping for 20 years. But the reset that we're
14 trying to do now, and everything that we're doing through
15 consolidation in a very systematic way is to rebuild, be
16 very careful with our limited resources, make sure we
17 allocate them correctly to drive the maximum benefit and
18 lift California back up. And I believe we're on that path.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Bill. One other
20 just quick point. You mentioned in the article that there
21 may be a policy, some policy support coming in the form to
22 support the breeding program. And I'm just going to mention
23 something here, because I also grew up in the world of
24 politics, for those who know me, is we have in front of us a
25 stack of elected officials who are supporting Humboldt.

1 This could easily be replicated at each of the fairs. So
2 can you imagine multiple state senators, multiple members of
3 Congress, supervisors? I think the south needs to realize
4 their missed opportunity is never really looking at the
5 north as a full honorable partner. Because any policy
6 proposal that you are thinking about probably has less of a
7 chance by going crossways with just a handful, because a lot
8 of people are listening to this call.

9 So not only are you putting all of your financial
10 chips on one square, you're putting all your political
11 chips, Bill, on one single square. Because if I was an
12 elected official from Humboldt, and I had the ability, and I
13 was pressing a button, yes or no in Sacramento, and I knew
14 that the TOC and others came to shaft and undermine my
15 constituents, it's just politics 101 here, Bill. So I'm
16 just saying as a matter of fact. I don't want you to reply
17 to that because I believe there's still an opportunity to
18 bring everyone together, because we're talking policy.

19 And, okay, the final thing I'm going to say, Bill,
20 is this coming Tuesday is a really important webinar that I
21 think you probably heard about, sponsored by a lot of people
22 who we know. So Agri-Pulse is doing a webinar this Tuesday.
23 For those who are listening, you may want to make sure you
24 register. This is the name of this webinar, Economic
25 Stakes: How Thoroughbred Racing Fuels Rural Economies.

1 Let me just share with you who the speakers are.
2 Congressman Andy Barr, probably somebody you've dealt with
3 from Kentucky. Lisa Lazarus from HISA. Drew Fleming, a
4 real close partner and ally of Del Mar coming up. And a
5 gentleman by the name of Joby Young, Executive Vice
6 President of the American Farm Bureau. Their message is
7 going to be about what horse racing does for rural America,
8 for rural California. But here you're coming with the
9 message saying, no, horse racing is no good for rural
10 California, Bill.

11 So just, I'm just trying to just kind of have the,
12 have, you know, something makes sense here, because there's
13 something that just doesn't add up for a guy like me.

14 MR. NADER: We're trying to protect the 90, almost
15 100-year history of California racing and protect the
16 status, the jobs, everything that we built, including
17 breeding. But we have to remember that horse racing in
18 California was on its knees. We're struggling to survive.
19 It isn't about north and south, it's about California.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right.

21 MR. NADER: California is struggling to remain
22 relevant, struggling and fighting for its survival, and we
23 have to rebuild the foundation. And that's where the
24 emphasis is now, we're trying to rebuild that foundation
25 that we can lift everybody back up together. But we were

1 not in a position of strength. We were in a position where
2 it was a struggle. It's a struggle at every corner. And so
3 trying to bring it back up, I believe is the right thing to
4 do. And then we can lift everyone back up together and work
5 together to do that. But we were in no position, and are in
6 no position, even as I speak today, to be playing around
7 with house money. Because, as I said earlier, there is no
8 house money.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Understood, Bill. Thank you
10 for your presentation.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other commissioners have a
12 question?

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I have a question.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead.

15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: -- Mr. Chair.

16 So, Bill, I appreciate what you're saying and we
17 see the momentum. How big of an effect would Ferndale
18 running their race meet have on handle and your concerns
19 there?

20 MR. NADER: On handle, no. Ferndale last year ran
21 eight days over three weeks. This year they're proposing to
22 run seven days. Last year their handle was \$440,000 a day,
23 all sources, everyone betting from across the country. So
24 it's really probably maybe the lowest handle racetrack in
25 the month of August across the country. It doesn't really

1 have an impact. And it wouldn't have much of an impact on
2 racing in Southern California.

3 But what it does do is it takes those commissions
4 and the purse money, which we've talked about is about \$2
5 million, away from being redirected to the south where it
6 can then go to California participants, owners, breeders,
7 jockeys, trainers, and support the value chain that really
8 contributes to California racing.

9 But handle-wise, no, it doesn't really generate
10 much handle, and so I think it's insignificant.

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: And even if they're taking
12 the \$1.7 or \$2 million from the commissions, you're getting
13 what, about \$18 million in redirect?

14 MR. NADER: If you're talking about the money they
15 take in purses and commissions, I think that, as I said
16 earlier, that's really, those three weeks are really the
17 equivalent of five weeks or 10 percent of the total. And it
18 does hurt. It hurts Del Mar. It hurts Los Alamitos. It
19 hurts Santa Anita. And it hurts the purses that really go
20 to the true participants in California racing, the ones that
21 are there 52 weeks a year. So it does hurt.

22 But now, to your point, I would say, yeah, it's
23 about 10 percent of the redirect.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Anyone else?

25 Thank you, Bill.

1 MR. NADER: Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: We have public -- time for public
3 comment on this item. I have quite a list here, so I'm
4 going to really enforce the two-minute time limit for
5 everybody.

6 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: How about a break.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'd like a break.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, you want to take a break?

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: That would be great.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, okay, we'll take a 10-minute
11 break.

12 (Off the record at 10:51 a.m.)

13 (On the record at 11:04 a.m.)

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Alright, we have a list here,
15 quite a long list, actually, of people who would like to
16 speak. So I'm going to hold the two minutes pretty tight.

17 The prior agreement I had with Mr. Bohn, I'm going
18 to let him say his two words, and then I'm going to let him
19 read a letter. But it's kind of out of line, but we're
20 agreed to do it, so go ahead.

21 MR. BOHN: The podium or here?

22 CHAIR FERRARO: The podium is fine.

23 MR. BOHN: I'm going to read the letter first from
24 Guy Fieri. He apologizes, he's filming in Texas. He was
25 going to cancel the day of filming to be here because of the

1 importance, but he just couldn't work it out. So,
2 paraphrase, my name isn't Guy Fieri, but I'm not.

3 "My name is Guy Fieri, and I'm a proud son of Humboldt
4 County, California, specifically the idyllic town of
5 Ferndale. I appreciate you all taking the time to hear
6 me out and consider my testimony as why I and many
7 others like me, are passionate about the future of
8 horse racing at the Humboldt County Fair.

9 "Every August, I take a short break from a relatively
10 chaotic schedule that I keep to attend the Humboldt
11 County Fair. My Guy Fieri Foundation and I work with
12 the fair to create an experience each year that's
13 delighted -- designed to enrich their programming and
14 help them build upon 129 years of a beautiful tradition
15 that has very much become part of the fabric of not
16 just our community, but all of the surrounding counties
17 as well."

18 Chili cook-offs, barbecue cook-offs, battles of
19 the bands, he hosts them for a couple days as a donation,
20 and he so mildly reminded me that he gets \$150,000 for
21 appearance fees. Now, I've known Guy long enough that we
22 used to give him a dollar to get away from us when he was a
23 child, so this is kind of funny.

24 "As a small-town kid who grew up cowboy boots and
25 riding a horse named Rebel around town, I didn't have a

1 lot of exposure to the big city. We didn't have social
2 media. We didn't have cable. Maybe we'd make a few
3 trips down south to the mall for clothes shopping when
4 we did. And for me and my many others, the biggest
5 thing in our rural universe was the Humboldt County
6 Fair. It's where I got my journey started with a
7 pretzel cart. It's where 4-H and FFA kids learned and
8 taught about agriculture, horticulture, veterinary
9 science, raising livestock, and our food system. It's
10 where they learned about leadership. The fair is where
11 families gather to spend time with each other.

12 "You're probably now wondering what all of this has to
13 do with horse racing; right? Well, let's be honest, we
14 all love our family time and looking at show pigs, but
15 there's nothing like a dead heat, a winning trifecta to
16 get the blood pumping, and for 128 years, that's what's
17 been happening at Ferndale.

18 "As the oldest continually racing fair and track in
19 California, horse racing and the Humboldt County Fair
20 are forever tied. In a day and age where small towns
21 across America are fighting for their culture, their
22 values, and their kids, the Humboldt County Fair meet
23 is more important than ever. To put it very bluntly,
24 taking this meet away from Ferndale could be a bullet
25 to the heart of the fair in our community. There's no

1 other way to say it.

2 "My writing to you is not a political act or a favor
3 for my hometown. My beliefs, advocacy for the cause
4 are deeply rooted and I hope I'm able to shed a little
5 bit more light on what I consider to be a dire
6 situation. I appreciate you listening and welcome any
7 and all conversation that may help the cause.

8 "Love, peace, and taco grease, Guy Fieri."

9 Thank you for that indulgence, Chair.

10 Now I come to you, starting over again, I come to
11 you as a five-term supervisor in Humboldt County whose
12 middle of his district is the Humboldt County Fair. I've
13 ridden mules, wagons, camels, I can name a bevy of other
14 things, into the opening day fair parade. This year will be
15 my 66th Humboldt County Fair I've attended. That's what
16 happens when you live next door to a gambler, horse owner,
17 Jack Rutzloff (phonetic), and I got to ride to the fair
18 every day there was racing with him, and that was probably
19 the highlight -- some of the highlights of my life. It's a
20 great event. And as Guy mentioned, it's a family event.

21 Earlier today, and I hear this a lot coming down
22 from rural Humboldt County, I heard three times we were
23 insignificant. To hell we are, we were the first one.
24 We've been here 129 years. He's trying to build on 100 --
25 he said -- TOC said we're trying to build on 100 years. You

1 better worry about the other 29 years that got us here,
2 started and got a breeding program started in California.

3 You don't tear the bottom of the house down when you're
4 adding onto it or when you're building onto the house. You
5 make it stronger. And with that, we have a plan in place.
6 There was a question: You've never done this before. Ask
7 Bill Gates. Ask everybody that is on the verge of making
8 something different. They've never done it before. Ask the
9 guy that started AI who I think I'm going to hate but he'd
10 never done that before but look what happened. He's going
11 to have your job here pretty soon, guys.

12 The overall effect is, it was mentioned \$6 million
13 to \$7 million dollars to our county, we own the fairgrounds.
14 Our county owns the fairgrounds. We had an earthquake a few
15 years ago, you probably heard about, damaged the fair -- the
16 grandstands. We took a gamble, like you guys are, and I'll
17 tell you what, my butt was handed to me, we spent \$1 million
18 dollars to rebuild our grandstands for other events, it's
19 not just for fair, but it's basically for fair racing but
20 for other events because we were making -- was that two
21 minutes?

22 Then I'll stop, and I will appreciate the
23 indulgence. I thank you for your time and your distant
24 nephew, Guy Fieri, said hi, Dennis Alfieri.

25 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Can I ask him a question?

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Can I ask you a question,
3 Mr. Supervisor? How many people attend the fair on that?

4 MR. BOHN: I think the number is 45,000 to 60,000,
5 45,000 to 60,000, about double on race days in the 4-H
6 auction, which coincide the same day.

7 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: We'll get 12,000 people,
8 12,000 to 13,000. Ten percent of our county will attend the
9 fair on the day of the 4-H FFA auction. In an area of
10 137,000, we're topping over a \$1 million at our 4-H FFA
11 auction, which are our future leaders, our veterinarians,
12 our cattlemen, everything like that, so --

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Oh, thank you.

14 MR. BOHN: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Thank you.

16 MR. BOHN: Anything else? I'm sorry, I didn't
17 ask.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

19 MR. BOHN: I appreciate your time, you guys.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Cindy Olson out here?

21 Michelle Bushnell?

22 And you are?

23 MS. OLSON: Cindy Olson.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Oh, okay. Go ahead.

25 MS. OLSON: Honorable Board members, my name is

1 Cindy Olson and I'm an owner, breeder, and a 24-year Board
2 Member of the Humboldt County Fair. Today is the most
3 important day of the Humboldt County Fair's 129-year
4 history, as we are seeking dates for our annual fair in
5 August.

6 The Humboldt County Fair is the smallest racing
7 fair with the biggest heart. We are the fair that everyone
8 remembers when they were growing up. Humboldt County is not
9 just about the annual fair in August. We are invested in
10 breeding and racing horses. This was made possible by this
11 small country fair. I can't tell you how many people in our
12 area fell in love with horse racing by attending our fair.

13 I would like to name just a few of the many horses
14 that have come on to success and have run at both north and
15 south tracks. For example: Our Payday, multiple Sprint
16 Stakes winner; Cables Comet, multiple stakes winner, Mr.
17 Double Down, winner of \$738,000, who was second in the Los
18 Angeles Handicap, Grade 3, and winner of the \$200,000
19 Hollywood Turf Express, Grade 3; Sway Away, second in the
20 Best Pal Stakes, Grade 2, and ran in the Preakness in 2011;
21 and finally, the great mare, True Kiss, who produced
22 Chancelot, who ran second in the Breeders' Cup Sprint and is
23 owned by one of the local breeders in our area.

24 We are totally committed to racing, breeding, and
25 the marketing of horse racing. Over the past five years,

1 the horse population has declined. Our racing committee
2 claimed horses to run at our meet so that we could have
3 people be able to buy them for \$100 a share and experience
4 the ownership of horse racing.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, Cindy, you have to wrap it
6 up.

7 MS. OLSON: Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: You're two minutes are up.

9 MS. OLSON: Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Michelle Bushnell?

11 MS. BUSHNELL: Good morning, California Horse
12 Racing Board members. Thank you for the opportunity to
13 address you today. My name is Michelle Bushnell, Second
14 District Supervisor for Humboldt County. I have spent 50
15 years going to our fair and horse racing events. Humboldt
16 County is where the spirit of horse racing runs deep,
17 intertwined with our community's identity and 128 years of
18 history. I am here to passionately plead for the horse
19 racing dates that will allow us to continue this cherished
20 tradition in our beautiful county.

21 Humboldt County is not just a place on the map.
22 It's a vibrant community filled with families who have
23 dedicated their lives to horses and horse racing for
24 generations. Our local trainers, jockeys, and owners have
25 poured their hearts into this sport, fostering a culture of

1 dedication, resilience, and love for the animals that bring
2 us joy.

3 The horses are not just athletes to us. They are
4 family members, companions, and partners in our journey. We
5 cherish the bond we share with them and with our neighboring
6 horse racing community. However, this connection is at risk
7 of fading without racing dates.

8 In recent years, our county has faced challenges
9 that have threatened our ability to hold races, including
10 last year with the earthquake, which our board was able to
11 come up with a million dollars to repair. If we lose more
12 than just the horses on the track, we lose our local
13 livelihood, the excitement of race days and the gatherings
14 that bring our community together. Races are events where
15 friendships are forged, families celebrate, and memories are
16 made. They are moments of laughter, anticipation, and
17 sometimes heartbreak. But above all, they are our unity.

18 By granting Humboldt County its racing dates, you
19 will offer us an economic lifeline, an opportunity to
20 revitalize not just our local racing scene, but the entire
21 community. This is about more than just horses running
22 around a track. It's about creating jobs, supporting local
23 businesses, and encouraging families to participate in a
24 tradition that has been part of our identity for so long.

25 MS. BUSHNELLS: Thank you.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

2 MS. BUSHNELL: Thank you.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up.

4 MS. BUSHNELL: Thank you for the opportunity to
5 address you today.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Supervisor, I got a quick
7 question, if I may, Mr. Chairman?

8 First, thank you very much --

9 MS. BUSHNELL: Sure.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: -- for both you and Rex.
11 But two supervisors, I don't think I've ever seen anything
12 like this in terms of leadership showing up here, so I
13 wanted to say thank you. It's not the shortest drive in the
14 world.

15 A question I have is: Do you think that there's
16 other like-minded supervisors who represent the other fairs
17 that would be willing to come together, kind of like whether
18 it's under a Cal-NASCO, which is your umbrella organization,
19 just to get a conversation going, you know, yes, specific to
20 the county fairs, but more broadly about horse racing?
21 Michelle, Rex, do you think there would be a desire on the
22 part of the other supervisors to do something like that?

23 MS. BUSHNELL: I do, yes. And if I -- could I
24 have my fellow supervisor come up?

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, sure. Just for -- I'm

1 sorry, this will just take a minute, but --

2 MS. BUSHNELL: Thank you so much.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Because there's room for
4 organizations. As you heard Mr. Nader come up, we're really
5 in a tough situation, horse racing is in general, so --

6 MR. BOHN: I'm past Chair of rural counties --
7 RCRC, Rural Counties Representing California, which is now
8 40 rural counties, which represents all of these small
9 fairs. And we have talked immensely about this. We have a
10 lobbyist on staff that deals with fair issues, and they were
11 actually short-sighted. I asked them yesterday, you know, I
12 said, hey, could you send somebody, but they little
13 understaffed.

14 But I also had, we've talked earlier, I had
15 breakfast with Assemblyman, our Assemblyman Chris Rogers,
16 who has Sonoma County, and also Humboldt. And I said, could
17 we do something like that? In a tight budget time, there is
18 those options, Senator McGuire, you mentioned our
19 congressional, we have the backing of quite a bit of the --
20 of most of the elected officials. And a lot of them don't
21 care for horse racing. But in this time and everything
22 else, a \$7 million influx into our economy, which is an
23 overall with everything that's going on.

24 And my history is, I was, I served on the 9th
25 District Ag Association for 12 years, 10 years as president.

1 So, and I, when it -- my first meeting, we had to -- I had
2 to loan it \$15,000 to meet payroll. So I said, what the
3 hell, I got a free trip on the Titanic. But I'm just
4 saying, there is that idea that we could do something
5 together, especially in the small fairs.

6 So I just -- we're not insignificant, we're
7 powerful.

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

9 MR. BOHN: And we get things done. Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both. And I
11 appreciate you both saying that other county supervisors
12 would do the same for their county fairs. And together, I
13 think there may be a collective voice there for fairs, but
14 maybe horse racing more broadly.

15 MS. BUSHNELL: I'm also the voting member for
16 CSAC, and I have talked with other supervisors about this
17 issue. This is not a -- you know, this has been a lot of
18 conversation throughout Northern California counties with
19 other supervisors. Thank you for the opportunity.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both. Thank you
21 both for your leadership.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

23 Larry Oldenburg, or Ollenburg? Larry? He left?
24 Aiden Molinaro.

25 MR. MOLINARO: Hi, everybody. Thank you for the

1 opportunity to address the Board today. Like you said, my
2 name is Aiden Molinaro, son of longtime Northern California
3 trainer, Kent Molinaro.

4 Today, I first want to just address some things
5 that have been stated today about GSR. I first wanted to
6 state that GSR in Ferndale, this proposed late summer meet
7 in Ferndale that has been running for 129 years is not
8 comparable to Golden State Racing, which was a first time
9 venture and attempt at a new entity, which is kind of
10 similar to a startup business. So comparing something like
11 a startup to 129-year running horse racing meet, I don't
12 think is comparable.

13 And also the numbers that were presented about the
14 trainers who also only started five horses at Ferndale, they
15 had never run at Ferndale in the past, so I don't think that
16 is really relevant to that either.

17 Another one is the importance of the 80 percent of
18 breeding farms being located in Northern California. I
19 think the boost that Southern California Racing has seen is
20 a little bit short-sighted as far as the long-term health of
21 California horse racing for the horsemen, the breeding
22 farms, the horse population, and the foal crop itself. So I
23 think that is very concerning if there is no NorCal Racing
24 going forward.

25 Another thing I wanted to mention is the New York

1 field size being lower than California. That is skewed, as
2 well, because that stat was presented for the first four
3 months of 2025, and that is a time of the year where a lot
4 of the New York horse population goes down south to Florida.
5 So that could be a little bit skewed, as well, as the
6 California field size was across the entire year.

7 And I also just wanted to say, it does nothing but
8 only good to grant Ferndale their race dates as the small
9 amount of OTB money that SoCal may potentially lose will not
10 be a deciding factor or cause the demise of Southern
11 California Racing's future. This action can only help and
12 benefit California horsemen, especially those who had to
13 shift their operations to Washington, as many have mentioned
14 today. This will give them a place to race back in their
15 home state. And like the numbers mentioned, 254 horses from
16 NorCal horsemen along with the 77 from Oregon, I think it's
17 plenty to have a very successful Ferndale meet.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

19 MR. MOLINARO: Thank you everybody.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up.

21 MR. MOLINARO: Thank you.

22 Renee Greiner?

23 MS. GREINER: Hello, I'm Renee Greiner. I'm a
24 horse owner and a breeder.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Please state your name please.

1 MS. GREINER: Renee Greiner.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead.

3 MS. GREINER: Okay. Ferndale, in my opinion, is
4 the best racetrack around. I've been going there for 45
5 years.

6 I want to address the TOC who are supposed to
7 represent the north and the south. It seems like they're
8 only representing the south. I think they need to stand up
9 and represent the north. Okay.

10 Ferndale wants to run and I think they should
11 deserve the opportunity to do so. The small town is a
12 Victorian little town and it's restaurants and gas and
13 shops, the revenue that the horsemen bring in there survive
14 them for all year.

15 The cheap horses like mine could not compete with
16 the south horses. That's why I moved all mine to Washington
17 and I'm waiting for Ferndale to run to bring them back. I
18 can't see that. There is a separation between the north
19 and the south horses. That's why all the horses from here
20 did not go down south. We cannot compete with the ones that
21 are there. The cheaper horses need their own races.

22 We already lost six racetracks in the last few
23 years and we don't want to lose no more. I say let them
24 run. And if it doesn't work, then come back and say we told
25 you so, it didn't work out, no money was wasted.

1 Why do they, Del Mar and the other tracks, offer
2 an incentive to go down there? We'd be there if we wanted
3 to be there.

4 Basically that's it.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, thank you very much.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Sandy Anjo?

8 MS. ANJO: Hello, I'm Sandy Anjo and I'm here in
9 support of Humboldt County Fair and racing in Northern
10 California.

11 I was referring to an article in the *BloodHorse*
12 that stated in 2024 that the last day of Golden Gate, 40 of
13 the 45 horses that ran there were all Cal-Breds. It also
14 stated that 76.4 percent Cal-Breds were running in Northern
15 California as opposed to Southern California at only 40
16 percent. And we really need our own racetrack and circuit
17 and management up here that supports the Northern California
18 racing.

19 I have a longtime owner, Larry Williams and
20 Marianne Williams. They own about 300 horses and they were
21 second leading owner by wins at the Santa Anita Classic
22 Meet, but seven of those wins were all in the restricted
23 Northern California races. So most of their horses that
24 they breed, they fit in Northern California.

25 Although their trainer, Steve Specht, won CTBA

1 Trainer of the Year and he trained their three-year-old
2 filly that they bred, Grand Slam Smile, she was the three-
3 year-old filly of the year. But most of their horses fit in
4 Northern California. Steve Speck, he quit training. He
5 turned all of his horses over to Southern California
6 trainers and those horses are the horses that won down
7 there. I was lucky enough to have every single one of those
8 horses at my farm.

9 I'm an owner, I'm a farm owner. In my
10 neighborhood, within a couple of miles of me, including my
11 farm, five thoroughbred ranches in Vacaville. There's a lot
12 of thoroughbreds in Northern California. The people that
13 have raced here for years want to stay here. They want to
14 stay in Northern California. And I know they do support
15 Humboldt County, all the fairs. It's really unbelievable
16 that there will be no racing at any of the fairs this year.

17 And it seems like the TOC and some of the fair
18 CEOs, they have their own agendas. We should have had an
19 attainable purse structure when they did GSR. They knew
20 there was going to be overpayment. They were set up for a
21 failure and nobody wanted to fail there.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, thank you.

23 MS. ANJO: So --

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Your time is up.

25 MS. ANJO: Thank you.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Justin Oldfield.

2 MR. OLDFIELD: Good morning, CHRB Commissioners,
3 Justin Oldfield, Northern California farm owner, breeder and
4 owner of quite a few horses.

5 There has been a considerable discussion about the
6 success and positivity surrounding a consolidated single
7 circuit in Southern California as a means not to support
8 racing in Humboldt. I'd like to offer a bit, respectfully
9 and humbly, I'd like to offer a bit of a different narrative
10 as to what the effects of consolidation has meant for
11 stakeholders in the north.

12 Since consolidation has occurred, nearly half the
13 horses stable at Pleasanton have left the state, not by
14 choice but necessity, and that trend continues today. As a
15 result, there have been many disastrous impacts to our
16 breeding sheds in Northern California. Many that did not
17 breed this year are hoping that signs of change will afford
18 an opportunity to breed next year. However, unless there is
19 a signal from this Board that racing can continue at some
20 level in Northern California, I do not believe that mood
21 will change. A continuing downward trend in breeding will
22 not just be a disaster for horsemen in Northern California,
23 but for the state.

24 I wish no one ill will or a lack of success, north
25 or south, but from the perspective of stakeholders in the

1 north, I'd like to share some statistics that are telling.

2 Five leading trainers in the Northern California
3 that in the past have consistently been towards the top of
4 the leaderboard have together made 169 starts at Santa Anita
5 since January and together have only chalked up 11 wins, 5
6 coming from one trainer. This includes Northern California
7 restricted races. The just handful of trainers that are
8 performing somewhat better have made approximately just half
9 of what they did when they were racing in Northern
10 California, and that considers the higher purses that are
11 now being offered in Southern California. However, this
12 figure also does not include a significant cost increase of
13 what it takes to raise and train a horse in Southern
14 California.

15 I would encourage you all as a Board to step out
16 and speak to trainers from Northern California directly to
17 get their side of the story. We all know that most people
18 are not inclined to be outspoken in the press. However,
19 they will share their thoughts with you and when you speak
20 to them one-on-one.

21 When consolidation occurred, I specifically
22 remember this Board being outspoken in their commitment to
23 protect the interests of our vulnerable stakeholders in
24 Northern California. Although it may not be your intent or
25 anyone else's intent, I can respectfully tell you that we

1 felt set aside. We need racing in Northern California to
2 keep stakeholders engaged and hopefully by time to work on a
3 permanent fix for a supplemental source of income for purses
4 to transition from what this Board in December called a
5 temporary situation and return to a viable two-circuit
6 system.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Justin.

9 Francis O'Leary?

10 MR. O'LEARY: Good morning, Commissioners. My
11 name is Francis O'Leary. I'm an owner and breeder here in
12 Northern California. I'm here this morning to support the
13 application from the Humboldt County for racing dates.

14 Over the past number of years, I have raced horses
15 at Humboldt County. And this year, I intend to race there
16 again if they get these racing dates. I have been breeding
17 horses for the, probably for the last 10, 12 years.

18 Currently, I only have one horse that I bred racing in
19 California. All the other horses are racing at -- they
20 raced in Turf Paradise, and they're currently in Emerald
21 Downs, and I want to bring them back here to California so
22 that I can support my breeding program. Otherwise, I'm
23 going to have to get out of the breeding because we cannot
24 support the breeding. How we support the breeding is by
25 breeders' awards. This year, I have literally earned zero

1 breeders' awards.

2 The one circuit is not going to work. You can't
3 have minor leaguers playing against major leaguers.

4 Del Mar are threatening that, well, they will have
5 to reduce their purse structure if we give these dates to
6 Humboldt County. The horses that are going to be running at
7 Humboldt County would never, ever race at Del Mar, period,
8 because these are the bottom level horses.

9 So I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of
10 these racing dates and let's move forward and keep some
11 symbol of racing alive here in Northern California so that
12 we can all survive, not just the people in Southern
13 California.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

16 Johnny Tadat [sic], your penmanship is worse than
17 mine.

18 MR. TABOADA: It's getting better, actually.
19 Hello. Hello, Board. My name is Johnny Taboada. I'm an
20 owner, I'm a breeder in the north. I happen to have the
21 most starts of any owners in California for the last two
22 years, you can confirm that with any statistics, but I'm
23 here for you to ask you to support the Humboldt County Fair.

24 And the reason of me telling you this, it's not
25 about me, it's about the industry. I mean, when I heard the

1 meeting last month, I was out of town, I was able to listen
2 to it, and so many things were said in this meeting that
3 brought me -- that actually make me come today.

4 And I put something -- clarify. When we talk
5 about the owners being represented, the owners were not
6 represented here. The owners for Northern California were
7 not represented. I am who they call all the time, all these
8 people from -- I mean, I happen to know many owners, and
9 they were calling me and telling me, who are these people
10 that are saying that they're representing the north?
11 They're not representing the north. In fact, through all
12 this time, we were never in the equation, we were never
13 asked, we were never even told what to do. We were in the
14 back side.

15 So things were done apparently in the south behind
16 doors, and our name was put in the equation and say, you
17 guys are supporting this. We were not supporting this.

18 I also hear from some trainers from the north,
19 telling me that they're not supporting all -- I mean, what
20 they were saying in the last meeting as far as supporting
21 the south, there were people looking forward to come back.

22 So I'm here to tell you that if -- to look at the
23 different things. And obviously, for us to keep raising the
24 north, let's keep the light on the north. And keeping
25 Humboldt would mean that for us. It will probably give us

1 enough hope so that Britain can come back next year and so
2 forth. But if you terminate the south -- the north
3 completely, it is basically going to -- I mean, in three or
4 five years, the whole industry is going to collapse. We
5 don't have the numbers. They say the numbers look good, and
6 hey, they do look -- because they kill the north. That's
7 basically the only reason. There was no difference between
8 last year and this year other than killing the north.

9 So, please, I'm asking the Board to review this
10 and to give the Humboldt County the dates for this year.

11 Thank you so much.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

13 Sandra Rios?

14 MS. RIOS: Sandra Rios. I'm coming to you --
15 thank you for listening to me on the Horse Racing Board.
16 I'm coming to you to let you know, I do three of the five
17 fairs as a stall supervisor in California. I have never
18 been to a fair that welcomes our horse racing, our owners,
19 our trainers, the community is just outstanding. You come,
20 they welcome you, you have your board members going all
21 through the grounds, making sure your horsemen are happy.
22 They take care of us. They literally take care of us.

23 This is the only place that I've seen that they
24 asked me for an owner, trainer, and jockey list to put in
25 each one of their storefronts, welcoming every one of our

1 trainers and some owners and the jockeys. They take care of
2 us up there. It's just an amazing time.

3 The minute you get in there, you have two or three
4 board members, you have Andy Titus, Greg Gomes, you have
5 them all welcoming you with a gas card. They take any
6 questions that you have. If I have any issues, those board
7 members, and that fairgrounds is there to take care of me.
8 If I have anything that breaks in a board where a horse
9 kicks a board down, that maintenance there takes care of us.
10 And we need to take care of Humboldt. And this is only one
11 way of doing it is, please, give us dates to get up there
12 and go there.

13 I have had horsemen, thoroughbred people call me,
14 say, save my stalls, save my stalls. I have reached out to
15 trainers. They said they're coming. We will have the
16 horses. We will take care of that racing. Under the new
17 entity that we're having with Bernal, I am not even worried
18 about anything. I am not worried about anything. We will
19 be taken care of.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Alright, thank you. Your time is
21 up. Thank you.

22 Patty Brogan?

23 MR. BROGAN: Good morning, Commissioner and the
24 Racing Board. My name is Patrick Brogan. Everybody calls
25 me Patty.

1 I'm from Ireland originally. I came here in 1986.
2 I bought my first horse in '88. And I started breeding
3 horses then, and I'm still breeding them. And I would like
4 the Commission to consider, really consider running the meet
5 at the fairs in Ferndale. I've had winners up there.

6 Nearly every year, I've had a runner up there. Not every
7 year I had a winner, but most years. I had winners in
8 Stockton, Vallejo, Pleasanton, Sacramento, and Fresno, also
9 Golden Gate, Bay Meadows, not too much down south, Arizona.

10 And now, most of my good horses that I tried to
11 run in Santa Anita couldn't get a race. Had to go to
12 Arizona. Didn't run well, ran second twice, and third,
13 which is pretty good. But anyway, I finished up selling the
14 mare. But now I still have enough horses to compete here in
15 the fairs, which I really loved. And I would really ask the
16 Board to consider renting the license of the dates for
17 Ferndale.

18 Thank you very much for your time, and I
19 appreciate it.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

21 Jamey Thomas?

22 MR. THOMAS: Hello, my name is Jamie Thomas. I'm
23 an owner, trainer, breeder. Thank you guys for letting me
24 speak to you. I'm here in support of Ferndale.

25 I was looking at some pictures a couple of days

1 ago, and I seen this old win photo of my dad training a
2 horse in 1968, and it was at Ferndale. And I was like, wow,
3 my dad's been doing this, you know, for a long time and, you
4 know, Ferndale's always been good to him, and the people of
5 Ferndale are really good, good to the trainers and owners,
6 the jockeys. They take care of us up there. And as my dad
7 would say, it would be a crying shame not to let Ferndale
8 race. It's a great meet. You know, they've been doing it
9 for 129 years. I mean, it's not a new thing to them.

10 So I'm just here in support of them, and hopefully
11 you guys can make the decision to let them run. And it's
12 not -- it will continue, you know, we'll continue. I have
13 horses up in Emerald. I'll be bringing them down, some of
14 them down to run at Ferndale. I currently have nothing at
15 Santa Anita.

16 And we got to have two things going. One, we got
17 to try to keep the fairs still alive, because it's not a
18 matter of when Santa Anita's going to -- or if Santa Anita's
19 going to close, it's a matter of when is Santa Anita going
20 to close, because, you know, it's just a matter of time, in
21 my opinion.

22 So thank you. Think about this and do the right
23 thing.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

25 Steve Wood?

1 MR. WOOD: Thank you. Thank you very much for the
2 opportunity to address you guys. I have a vested interest
3 in Ferndale because I work here. My track crew is here
4 also. We're all California residents. And we're also
5 California breeders. We bred horses for 20 years. That's
6 why I still work. Most of them are not very good. We start
7 them all at Santa Anita, all at Del Mar. We start one race,
8 and they usually, they're not eased, but they're not in the
9 forward front of the pack.

10 I'll end up at Ferndale. We were leading, my wife
11 was leading, or second-leading owner one year there. Even
12 though it doesn't keep you going financially, you get 10
13 percent of your money back, and we won two races in one day.
14 That was a highlight of our breeding career.

15 I have a vested interest in it. I work there.
16 It's a wonderful facility. They take really good care of
17 the people. It's actually a wonderful track. I started
18 track maintenance at Pomona with a half-mile track, so I'm
19 very familiar with it. It's just a big blessing. It's a
20 blessing all around. It's a blessing for us small owners
21 and small breeders. We'll stay in business, even though I
22 don't run, we don't run anything out of state, it's all
23 California.

24 If you guys have any questions about the track --
25 or the track surface will be as good as we can possibly make

1 it. It's a good place, and I have nothing but good positive
2 things to say.

3 Does anybody have any questions?

4 We will start on the track probably a month ahead.
5 We plant it with grass, and this is what Santa Anita used to
6 do 100 years ago when they only ran -- we plant it with
7 grass. We disc the grass in a month ahead of the race meet,
8 and we usually start on it three weeks after that, and get
9 it all mixed in. They've also been very good. Mr.
10 Swartzlander's been always good. One year we spent \$40,000,
11 \$45,000 on material for it. That's a lot of money for seven
12 days of racing. That's just the material to get it ready.

13 So as far as I'm concerned, it's a wonderful
14 place, and it gives a breeder a chance to at least win a
15 race. You'll never break even, but it gives you a little
16 bit of hope.

17 Thank you guys so much.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Steve.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Steve.

20 Jim Morgan?

21 MR. MORGAN: Jim Morgan, Special Counsel, Humboldt
22 County Fair.

23 I applaud and appreciate all the public comments
24 you have received. Basically, I wanted to spend my two
25 minutes kind of addressing a couple of things brought up by

1 Mr. Nader.

2 Humboldt County was underpaid in its purse account
3 by \$350,000. They're raising their purses 25 to 30 percent.
4 All that purse money goes back to the horsemen and the
5 breeders and the folks that have invested in the land and
6 the breeding in California.

7 We are not GSR. GSR was a collaboration between
8 CARF and the Alameda County Fair Association. It did not
9 work. We're different. We're fully funded as a result of
10 our agreement with Bernal Park Racing, LLC, and we have the
11 experienced personnel, the track manager, the stall manager,
12 the racing secretaries. We've got the experience to pull
13 this off.

14 We still are ignoring the more than 500 horses
15 that left the state. You've heard trainers and owners that
16 run horses at Emerald Downs and Turf Paradise because
17 there's no place for them here. They're missing out on the
18 breeders awards, the stallion awards. Those folks are
19 disenfranchised.

20 Mr. Nader referred to this as a redirect of money.
21 This is a direct of money wagered in Northern California for
22 the benefit of the horsemen and the agriculture that is
23 invested in Northern California. Not a dime that's bet in
24 Southern California comes here. It's money that has never
25 gone to Del Mar before, and I'm glad they get the other 11

1 weeks from the other fairs that have gone out of business
2 and Golden Gate Fields.

3 I think the final word is please examine and
4 consider the neutral directive contained in the Business and
5 Professions Code 19401. Our mission is to encourage
6 agriculture and breeding in the state, that's to bring the
7 horses that left the state back to get the breeders awards.
8 You're also directed to encourage the maximum expansion of
9 racing opportunities in the state. That's what Humboldt's
10 trying to do, 740 miles away from Del Mar. And you're also
11 pledged to do that in accord with the public interest. I
12 can't add to the public interest that's been stated here.
13 It's heartwarming, it's real, it's genuine. This is a 129-
14 year meet that deserves to go on.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Jim.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Just to jump in really
18 quickly because I think the Board should know, one of the
19 supervisors, apparently the Senate Pro Tem McGuire called to
20 see if he could call in. Unfortunately, we've noticed this
21 as a live meeting, and so that's not permitted under Bagley-
22 Keene. But I just wanted the Board to know that even though
23 he can't actually speak on the phone.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Wait, can you repeat? Did I
25 just hear you right? Who wanted to call in?

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Senator McGuire.

2 Senator McGuire.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And we're saying we can't
4 allow that to happen?

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: We don't allow call-ins.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I think it's a mistake,
8 personally, but if that's the decision, that's the decision.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I mean, it's the law.
10 I mean, it's not -- I'm not giving the Board the choice. I
11 got to keep you out of trouble.

12 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: We have his letter right
13 here.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah. Yeah.

15 Any questions or comments, anything? Anybody want
16 to say anything before we call for a motion?

17 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yeah, Chairman.

18 So for the committee from the Humboldt, I do have
19 a question that was asked before regarding when you have
20 these races, I know that we, the other fairs would run and
21 everybody else would go from one fair to another. What
22 happens with your labor when you guys are done? Do these
23 breeders kind of hire them to work for them? Or what
24 happens with the housing for these people that work in the
25 back? What do they do after your fair and between? Because

1 we're in a situation to where it's downsized up there too.
2 And I get what you're trying to do, but my other concern is
3 that we've all talked about the horses. What happens to the
4 people?

5 MR. MORGAN: The horses are cared for by the
6 people. Where the horses go, the people go.

7 In terms of our gate crew and stuff, we've been
8 using union folks from California. When (indiscernible)
9 goes out of business, we hire people from Oregon that are
10 experienced gate crew. But as the horses go, so do the
11 people go.

12 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: And then what about
13 their benefits and everything that they would hopefully
14 have? Does that get taken care of throughout the year?
15 Because it used to, of course, through the circuit that was
16 up there. Now what happens?

17 MR. MORGAN: I believe that's a byproduct of the
18 diminution of racing. They go up to -- if they're running
19 at Emerald Downs or Oregon, then they're covered up there,
20 as there's no place for their care if there's horses aren't
21 here. That's one of the reasons we want to bring the horses
22 back, because they are cared for while they're in
23 California.

24 MR. TITUS: But I think also we do want to
25 represent all the staff. When they're there, we want to

1 take care of them. We would love for there to be every fair
2 running next year. It would be great if there was a
3 circuit, at least a training facility in Northern California
4 that would allow these people to come back to work. Todd
5 Stevens and I, I mean, Todd's texting me today to say he
6 wasn't going to be able to be here. I know that, you know,
7 that's a Union Gate crew. They're out of work right now.
8 They're hoping that we can get something so they have a
9 place to come work, even if it's for three weeks.

10 I mean, numerous officials, people, I mean, you've
11 got -- Sandra's here, Steve's here. A number of people that
12 work up there are here today. And a lot of people have
13 reached out to me. And obviously, when you're talking about
14 workers as well, I mean, when the horsemen come, the grooms
15 come, the outriders come, the gallop people come, the
16 jockeys come, there's a lot of people that right now aren't
17 being able to work in the industry that they love and the
18 industry that they've chose to be a part of.

19 So I mean, at this point right now, as far as the
20 people that do it in the north, we're trying to give them an
21 opportunity to have three weeks this year. Their union dues
22 will be paid, their benefits will be paid for the time that
23 they're with us. But if there isn't anything after that,
24 you know, I don't know what's going to happen there. I
25 can't talk about something I don't know.

1 But I think that the idea is to keep something
2 going in the north so there's an opportunity. Maybe there's
3 another fair that decides to run when we're granted our
4 dates because the horses will be coming back. Maybe every
5 fair decides to run next year. I think that would be best
6 for the horsemen in the north, staff, right on down.

7 But I mean, as far as for this year, it looks like
8 there's -- we're looking for our dates and then you've got
9 maybe one other fair potentially.

10 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: That's understandable.
11 And again, I commend everybody for pushing and trying to do
12 something. As we mentioned earlier, GSR tried to do the
13 same, we understand that, to keep everybody working. The
14 issue comes down to contractual obligations that have -- now
15 are not being met moving forward ever since everybody pretty
16 much went out of business up there. And the contractual
17 obligations are not being followed and that concerns me,
18 because then now you got people that should be having their
19 benefits don't have benefits anymore because people just
20 wanted to walk away and leave it. That's my concern.

21 So I mean, I've already spoke to you about that
22 and you know that already, and that's my concern. And it's
23 disheartening to hear that everybody wants to take care of
24 the horses and everything else. But when it comes down to
25 the labor and the people that actually work at the track for

1 that time, for that short time, because some of these people
2 cannot move on into the breeders and the farms and
3 everywhere else they're at. They do specific jobs. So that
4 specific job is no longer going to go on to a next fair, the
5 next fair, the next fair, like it used to, so that's my
6 concern.

7 But most recently we have contractual obligations
8 that are no longer being met because people think they could
9 just walk away from them. And so now we got a bunch of
10 people that don't have their benefits that they should.

11 So my concern comes down to a lot. It's a big
12 picture. It's the industry that we have to look at. And
13 whether people think that Santa Anita is going to make it or
14 Del Mar is going to make it or not make it or you guys may
15 not make it, it all could come into question. But the
16 bottom line is, is that the industry, the horses, and the
17 people that work at those tracks and at these fairs, that is
18 a big concern because now they're out of the things that
19 they used to have and it's a concern.

20 MR. MORGAN: I couldn't agree more that the
21 responsibility goes to the people, as well as everybody else
22 related to the industry.

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: And that got dropped.

24 MR. MORGAN: And with the single circuit format,
25 the single circuit in Southern California could not absorb

1 the horses, and the horses are cared for by the people. And
2 so at Humboldt, we have three weeks, we take care of
3 everybody for three weeks and that's all we're authorized to
4 do. But your points are well made.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Alright. Do we have a
6 motion from the Board?

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes. Well, I think we have
8 to get a motion for opening up for discussion first; right?
9 That's --

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah. Yeah.

11 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And since we're a real
12 stickler for rules, and I'm still processing how on earth we
13 cannot let the president of the Senate speak. I just am
14 still -- you wonder why horse racing has its challenges. If
15 the governor, the assembly speaker, whoever wanted to come
16 here to help out this industry, we should allow them to
17 speak. So I just want to say it was a bad move.

18 So I move that we approve Humboldt County's
19 request for fair dates.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have a second?

21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Second.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Now --

23 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I have a question.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead.

25 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I wanted to -- there's a

1 representative, Executive Director of the Trainers of
2 California. I just wondered if he would be willing to give
3 us an update on what he hears from the trainers. And I
4 don't mean to put you on the spot, Mr. Balch, but I am --

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mr. Alfieri, I'm sorry, sir,
6 we've got a motion. We've already had public comment. You
7 did that the last time. I don't think Alan Balch is
8 comfortable coming up here. So I think what we have to do
9 is let's just debate this amongst Commissioners. We have a
10 first, we have a second. If you're ready to call the
11 question, let's do it. If not, I think you're going to have
12 to stand on your own here, Commissioner Alfieri. You're
13 either going to support this or you're not. You're going to
14 have an opportunity here momentarily to go on record. Do
15 you stand for statewide racing or don't you? It's that
16 simple.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Should we call a vote?

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Absolutely. You're the
19 Chair. Why don't you call the vote?

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

21 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Would you repeat the motion,
22 please?

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, my motion is to
24 approve as listed in the agenda that the California Horse
25 Racing Board approve the date requests by Humboldt County.

1 That's not moving the question.

2 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Thank you. I vote no.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

4 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: No.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

6 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I vote no.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

8 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

10 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes no. Motion
14 does not pass.

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Big mistake. Big, big
16 mistake.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Now we move on to item number
18 eight, which is the Executive Director's Report and the
19 Medical Director's Report.

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

22 I'll begin with the handle report. For the month
23 of April, day racing handle is down eight percent, night
24 racing handle is down two percent, and total handle is down
25 seven percent as compared to April 2024. This, of course,

1 is without Golden Gate Fields, which was racing during April
2 of last year. For calendar year 2025, day racing is down 7
3 percent, night racing is up 10 percent, and total handle is
4 down 5 percent as compared to total handle for the first
5 four months of 2024.

6 This past Sunday morning, a fire started outside
7 of headquarters building across the street here and spread
8 to the building itself. Fortunately, our offices were not
9 directly affected by the fire other than some office doors
10 that were breached by the firefighting crew and the super
11 strong smell of smoke. Power, internet, and our website
12 were disrupted for about 24 hours, and staff have not
13 returned to the building except for a few who are assessing
14 the ongoing needs. For those folks, I am extremely
15 grateful.

16 It is unclear when we may return. During this
17 period, all services should function normally with the
18 exception of the in-person licensing office at headquarters.
19 I will keep the Board and public apprised on any
20 developments.

21 Next, I'd be remiss in not mentioning the
22 cancellation of the lease between Cal Expo and Watch and
23 Wager who runs the harness meet here. Typically, harness
24 runs from sometime in November through early May, meaning
25 their meet has just concluded. There has been some

1 communication between the two parties regarding continual
2 lease for one more year, and in the meantime, Watch and
3 Wager is assessing alternative sites in Northern California
4 to run its meet in the future.

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

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes, I do have a question.

8 Mr. Chaney, we just experienced, I think, an
9 unfortunate situation here. And I want to ask you that,
10 since you're the gatekeeper and calling balls and strikes on
11 behalf of this Board, if we were to call an emergency
12 meeting and get back here once again in 10 days, what is the
13 process? What has to happen in order for us to bring this
14 back up, and what would this do or not do for any kind of a
15 time frame by which an application -- this would have to be
16 back up for reconsideration?

17 Because I will say this, I will say this, this is
18 a serious, serious, serious mistake that this Board made,
19 and I'm not singling out any individual Commissioner, I'm
20 just saying us collectively. And this is going to send a
21 hell of a message across this country about what we really
22 stand for as Californians. And I just want to ask you, Mr.
23 Chaney, probably would take you time, but what would have to
24 happen if we came back here in 10 days, what that would do
25 or not do for this process, to give Humboldt one more chance

1 at this? These individuals here are coming so far, and
2 they're giving so much for this Board to not understand not
3 just things on merit, but what just makes good horse racing
4 sense.

5 So please, Mr. Chaney, I want you to weigh in.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, I obviously kind
7 of got caught off guard a little bit. I think it wouldn't
8 be an emergency meeting if it were a 10-day notice. That's
9 actually the notice requirement, so an emergency meeting
10 would be, you know, a much shorter time frame. I'm not --
11 this is my recollection of the law. My lawyers, I'm sure,
12 will correct me, and I can see them typing furiously away
13 right now.

14 So my recollection is that this would probably not
15 fit the criteria of an emergency meeting. We'd have to look
16 at that. Ten days' notice is just a normal meeting, so it
17 depends on whether the Board is willing to meet, but I'd
18 like a little follow-up with the legal team before --

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- I'm completely
21 (indiscernible).

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: But it is possible to get
23 back? I mean, if this Board is instructed to get back
24 together --

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales, how many

1 votes do you want to have on this? You've lost twice. Do
2 you not accept the vote?

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: No, unfortunately, I don't.
4 I'm not -- I don't. I don't, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Well, that's your problem. That's
6 not the --

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay. Understood.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: -- that's not the problem with the
9 Board.

10 MR. JERKENS: Understood. Okay, I understand.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: There could be a
12 slight problem with quorum, too, depending on, you know, who
13 shows up. So obviously, we'd need four, you know, four
14 Commissioners to turn up, even if we carded them in. I
15 mean, just --

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And who would make that
17 call? Would that be the Chairman that makes the call? The
18 Vice Chair? How would we go about determining whether we
19 get back here in 10 days' time frame to reconsider this
20 here?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, I mean,
22 typically, the Chairman would make that decision.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I think he's pretty
25 open-minded with respect to the opinions of the Board,

1 though. So if --

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- you know, if four
4 Commissioners say they want to --

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Can you repeat that, Mr.
6 Chairman? You would not -- you --

7 CHAIR FERRARO: I would not approve a meeting in
8 10 days, no, to rehash this item over again.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Dr. Blea, let's go.

11 DR. BLEA: Good morning, Chairman Ferraro, Vice
12 Chairman Gonzales, Commissioners, new Commissioner Stern,
13 and Executive Director Chaney. My report today will be
14 quite brief, and I'm going to begin this morning's report on
15 fatalities.

16 In the month of April in California, there were
17 four musculoskeletal fatalities. All four occurred in
18 training, and all four involved shoulder fractures. There
19 were two gastrointestinal disease-related fatalities, and
20 one sudden death fatality in racing.

21 Regarding shoulder fatalities or shoulder
22 fractures that resulted in fatalities, two weeks ago, a CHRB
23 memo was sent out to stakeholders in California as a
24 reminder to horsemen and horsewomen to review continuing
25 education modules related to shoulder fractures to assist in

1 understanding, and more importantly, preventing these types
2 of injuries. A link to four continuing education modules
3 was provided in that memo. That information is also
4 currently available on the CHRB website.

5 Regarding the Maddy Lab, in April, for CHRB
6 testing, 640 primary blood and urine samples, including 19
7 official work bloods, were tested; 479 out-of-competition
8 samples were also tested for things like EPO and anabolic
9 steroids. Additionally, 221 TCO2 samples from Cal Expo were
10 analyzed. There were two Class 3 findings, detomidine and
11 butorphanol, and two Class 4 findings for
12 trichloromethiazide, a drug found in NAQUASONE.

13 Regarding TCO2, with the assistance of CHRB
14 investigators led by Chief Investigator Hunter Bartholomew,
15 Safety Steward Tom McCarthy, and Track Veterinarian Dr.
16 Jones, as well as Official Veterinarian Dr. Taylor Cruz,
17 enhanced TCO2 testing occurred in April due to the
18 observation of unusual and consistently elevated TCO2 sample
19 results. Following the implementation of the augmented
20 testing and investigations at Cal Expo, TCO2 sample results
21 returned to typically expected levels. No violations were
22 determined or identified.

23 This concludes my report. I'm happy to answer any
24 questions.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Jeff, the problem we seem to be

1 having continuously are these shoulder fractures. You know,
2 we've cut down on all the other injuries quite
3 significantly, but we don't seem to be getting anywhere with
4 the shoulder. Is it something we're not doing with the
5 trainers to educate them, or is it just that difficult to --
6 I know it's difficult to diagnose them, it's tough, but is
7 there something else we could do?

8 DR. BLEA: I do think we are getting somewhere,
9 it's just slow. If you look at the numbers from 20,000, --
10 or 2007 to 2025, there were 245 shoulder fractures in the
11 state of California. It averaged about 13.5 a year. If you
12 go back fiscal year -- or calendar year 2020 through 225,
13 we're averaging about 10 a year. So we are seeing a
14 decline.

15 What I do think has made a difference is a
16 training soundness examination. Anecdotally, that has
17 proven to be effective via communication with trainers and
18 attending veterinarians who have identified those fractures
19 based on training soundness examinations. That rule has
20 been impactful. It's only been in effect for about two
21 years.

22 The thing with shoulder fractures, as you well
23 know, 75 to 80 percent of them occur in training. The
24 majority of them are humeral as opposed to scapular. Those
25 humeral fractures are typically horses coming in off of

1 layoffs. So I think an increased awareness is important.
2 We keep having to, you know, bring that message out to
3 trainers if trainers are receptive about it.

4 The other thing I've noticed reviewing the data is
5 these shoulder fractures tend to occur in clusters. Since
6 January of this year, we've seen six. And to your point,
7 we've reduced other types of musculoskeletal injuries.
8 These seem to be constant if somewhat of a declining slope.
9 But there is still more work to be done with these.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Thank you.

11 Any other questions?

12 Do we need a motion to approve these two reports?

13 No?

14 Thanks, Jeff.

15 We move on to public comment. Do we have a sheet
16 for public comment?

17 Do we have a closed session?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No, we don't.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: I got it. Rob Smolich, where are
20 you?

21 MR. SMOLICH: Good afternoon now, Board. While I
22 save myself, I'm Rob Smolich from here in Sacramento,
23 Northern California, horse owner and breeder. Kind of
24 worried this was going to be the vote.

25 So now the question is: What can the Board, what

1 can the TOC do for us people from Northern California?

2 Number one, I have no interest in racing in
3 Southern California because it's just too far away. And
4 we're just getting crushed. So now my horses are up in
5 Emerald Downs, about 10 or 12 of them.

6 What can the Board, what can the TOC do for the
7 Northern California people from here on out? You know, Bill
8 Nader's gone. I still think we have a viable business up
9 here, a viable circuit, because Golden Gate Fields was doing
10 okay. The fair circuits were doing okay until Golden Gate
11 Fields closed. And then the public opinion was going in
12 favor of having a some type of racing in Northern
13 California.

14 So TOC backed up, said, okay, Golden State Racing,
15 we'll give you our chance, and then sunk it. They set those
16 benchmarks at a spot where we all knew Golden State Racing
17 would fail. The purses for an allowance race, \$29,000, was
18 more money than the money in the handle could handle. So my
19 horses have been racing for allowance races at Turf Paradise
20 for \$24,000. Now up at Emerald Downs for \$24,000. Why were
21 those benchmarks set at \$29,000? Can we still have a viable
22 Northern California horse racing?

23 We're not here to make money. I lost a lot of
24 money this year. We're just here to have fun. People up in
25 Ferndale, ah, the greatest place to go. I'm still going to

1 go this year. I'll walk through the fair one last time.
2 But I still think it's viable. What can be done to help us?
3 Because there has been no help from TOC. From the time
4 Golden Gate Field's closed, I've been part of this group
5 with Justin, kind of led our group. there's been no outreach
6 from anybody from TOC, from Southern California to help our
7 group. Well, a little bit from Andy Mathis and Ty Green,
8 but no help.

9 What can be done? Where can we go from here? We
10 want to. Where can we find some help?

11 CHAIR FERRARO: You know, Mr. Chaney and I have
12 been discussing this. You know, it doesn't matter how much
13 support we have from horsemen or people involved in the
14 horse industry to try to get something going in Northern
15 California. If the general public is not interested or
16 support it, I think the smart thing to do at this point in
17 time is to engage with the Board and with the legislature
18 and with the industry to try and do a feasibility study
19 amongst the public in Northern California to find out if
20 there's enough public interest in horse racing to make it
21 go. Because if there isn't enough public interest, we're
22 all wasting our time. We all should be doing something
23 else.

24 MR. SMOLICH: Yeah, and I get that. But I mean --

25 CHAIR FERRARO: So I think that's the next move.

1 You have no racing as it is. We take a year, we take a look
2 at this, we try and come up with a good feasibility study
3 and maybe some marketing experts that would be able to, you
4 know, get a feeling for where the public is on this.
5 Because without public support, we can't make it go.

6 MR. SMOLICH: Yeah.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: That's for sure.

8 MR. SMOLICH: And you've probably seen what just
9 they were talking about recently out of Louisiana and
10 fairgrounds.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

12 MR. SMOLICH: And we've kind of all realized that
13 horse racing just isn't the thing nowadays. People all like
14 to go to the casino and push the button all day and don't go
15 out and enjoy horse racing. I know I'm one of the few.
16 We're all part of the few. So from what you see from
17 fairgrounds, it just doesn't work. Horse racing is just not
18 working anywhere in the country without the historic horse
19 racing machines or something like that.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

21 MR. SMOLICH: And what can we do to maybe --
22 because it seems like everything's just been put into the
23 Stronach, you know, Santa Anita hands. Now I've heard that
24 there's more involvement from Del Mar with the tribes and
25 making sure there's some involvement. But is there some way

1 with it Northern California could be part of that?

2 CHAIR FERRARO: The problem with our game is the
3 younger generation of people have grown up on video games.

4 MR. SMOLICH: Yeah.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: And they want action, constant
6 action all the time.

7 MR. SMOLICH: You're right.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: As you know, horse racing doesn't
9 give it to them; right? They have to -- it take studying to
10 understand the horses and who's racing. And it's 30 minutes
11 of downtime waiting for the next race.

12 So, you know, one of the things that everyone is
13 sort of pushing now is this historical horse racing, but we
14 have a problem in California because of the compacts with
15 the governor from the Indians. So not to give up, we could
16 negotiate with them, which we are trying to do something,
17 you know, or -- you know, there was a time, I think about 10
18 years ago, a company from Australia came out here and talked
19 about setting up a system where you could bet on the races
20 while they were running. The odds change depending on the
21 position of your horse. And they did it in Britain for a
22 while. I don't know why it never went. It seems to me that
23 it would attract a lot of people. They don't bet much at a
24 time, but it gives them constant action. We need to do
25 something like that, I think.

1 MR. SMOLICH: Yeah. And the other thing that
2 seemed interesting that some people from Northern California
3 were talking about is that Calypso, where now my son that's
4 young, he likes betting on the different fantasy games,
5 which he could do right here in Sacramento through Draft
6 Kings.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Right.

8 MR. SMOLICH: But he has to bet on a few or more
9 athletes and their numbers. And they talked about mixing
10 in, you're going to bet this player to this player to the
11 eighth race. and something happened to that. I'm not sure
12 what happened to that idea.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

14 MR. SMOLICH: But, you know, part of it also, I
15 just remember, is just not too long before COVID came
16 around, I was at Golden Gate Fields on a Sunday and it was
17 Mexican American Heritage Day. And there's 10,000 people
18 there. So I'm just not sure that these racetracks, and even
19 the way trainers do their business, they haven't just done
20 the same thing since our parents' age. And do these people
21 running racetracks -- I don't see anything different.
22 Actually, last year, it was pretty sad going to Del Mar and
23 seeing how few people were there. But it doesn't seem like
24 anyone's trying to do anything any different, but just trying
25 in some of these different games --

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, correct.

2 MR. SMOLICH: -- and making it, so --

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excuse me, sir, we won't let
5 the president of the Senate speak, but we're going to allow
6 for debate back and forth between the Chairman and -- thank
7 you, and I love you, man, you're good, but --

8 MR. SMOLICH: Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: -- but I just think we ought
10 to be consistent here.

11 MR. SMOLICH: And somehow we need to stay
12 together.

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah.

14 MR. SMOLICH: (Indiscernible.)

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much. Yeah,
16 thank you very much.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Are you just particularly rude
18 today or are you having a problem?

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: No comment, sir.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

21 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion.

22 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

24 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

5 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

7 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Hudnut?

9 COMMISSIONER HUDNUT: Yes.

10 (The Board adjourned at 12:11 p.m.)

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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 28th day of May, 2025.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

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

May 28, 2025