

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HORSE RACING BOARD

In the Matter of:)

)

Regular Meeting)

)

DEL MAR HILTON

15575 JIMMY DURANTE BOULEVARD

DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Christopher Caplan

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory Ferraro, Chair

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner

Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner

Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner

Peter Stern, Commissioner

STAFF

Rita Baker, Executive Assistant

Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

ALSO PRESENT

Eric Sindler, Secretary and General Counsel, Los Angeles
Turf Club, Xpress Bet, LLC,

Nate Newby, General Manager, Santa Anita Park

Jason Egan, Racing Secretary, Director of Racing, Santa
Anita Park

Bill Nader, Thoroughbred Owners of California

Orlando Gutierrez, Director of Publicity & Marketing, Los
Alamitos Race Course

Richard English, Chief Financial Officer, Los Alamitos Horse
Racing Association

Jordyn Egan, Executive Director, Thoroughbred Owners of
California

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellen Ericksen, Kill Racing Not Horses

Lynn Freudenberg, Kill Racing Not Horses

Alison Prater, Kill Racing Not Horses

Martha Sullivan, Kill Racing Not Horses

Oscar de la Torre, Worker Advocate

Leonard Miranda, Integrity Thoroughbred Racing

Ed Cummings, President, Watch and Wager

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no further comments will be accepted. Each person will be limited to two minutes.

10. Closed Session: For the purpose of receiving advice from counsel, considering pending litigation, reaching decisions on administrative licensing and disciplinary hearings, and personnel matters, as authorized by section 11126 of the Government Code. 73
- A. The Board may convene a Closed Session to confer with and receive advice from its legal counsel regarding the pending litigation described in the attachment to this agenda captioned "Pending Litigation," and as authorized by Government Code section 11126(e).
 - B. The Board may convene a Closed Session to confer with and receive advice from its legal counsel regarding the pending administrative licensing or disciplinary matters described in the attachment to

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this agenda captioned "Pending Administrative Adjudications," as authorized by Government Code section 11126(e).

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

Adjournment

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:31 A.M.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

CHAIR FERRARO: All right, ladies and gentlemen, let's try and get this thing started. Welcome to all of you. Nice to see you all again, those of you we haven't seen in a while.

As you know, I have to read this thing before we start, so please be patient with me.

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, October -- August, rather, 21st, 2025, at the Del Mar Hilton, 15575 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, California.

Present at today's meeting are: myself, Dr. Gregory Ferraro, Chair; Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair; Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner; Damascus Castellano, Commissioner; Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner; Peter Stern, Commissioner. Our Executive Director, Mr. Cheney, unfortunately has COVID and will not be in attendance today, poor guy. And Thomas Hudnut, our other Commissioner, is unable to attend this month.

Before we go to the business of the meeting, I

1 need to make a few comments.

2 The Board invites public comment on the matters
3 appearing on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, the Board
4 will first hear from those directly involved in the agenda
5 item. I will then invite public comment on the agenda item.
6 The Board will not answer questions. This item is for
7 comment only.

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

13 There are public comment sign-in sheets located at
14 the designated table for each agenda item on which the Board
15 invites comments. There is also a sign-in sheet for those
16 wishing to speak during the public comment period for
17 matters not on the Board's agenda if it concerns horse
18 racing in California. Please print your name legibly on the
19 sign-in 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 will ask you to return to your seat so
25 that 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 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 nine, Public
10 Comment. There will be a 30-minute time limit for public
11 comment. In order to allow as many individuals to speak as
12 possible within a half hour, I will strictly enforce the
13 two-minute time limit.

14 And with that, we will move on to opening the
15 meeting with approval of the minutes of June 19th, 2025.
16 And I believe all the Commissioners present were at that
17 meeting.

18 So can I have a motion to approve?

19 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Motion.

20 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Second.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Commissioner Stern?

23 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Damascus?

4 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

6 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

8 Item number two, discussion and action by the
9 Board on the Application for License to Conduct a
10 Horse Racing Meeting of the Los Angeles Turf Club II, at
11 Santa Anita, from September 24th, 2025, through October
12 28th, 2025.

13 Gentlemen.

14 MR. SINDLER: Good morning.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: I've been told the packet is
16 complete; is that correct? Yeah, your packet is complete.
17 Go ahead.

18 MR. SINDLER: Good morning. Good morning, Eric
19 Sindler on behalf of Los Angeles Turf Club. I'm here with
20 Nate Newby, our General Manager, and Jason Egan, our Racing
21 Secretary and Director of Racing.

22 As the Chairman just noted, the packet is
23 complete. It's for a race meet from September 24th, 2025,
24 through October 28th, 2025. Everything has been turned in.
25 And as noted in the Board package, staff recommends

1 approval. But before we actually formally ask for your
2 approval, Nate is going to go over a few things about our
3 meet.

4 MR. NEWBY: Thank you. Good morning, Nate Newby,
5 Santa Anita. Just want to cover a couple of things. It's
6 an -- Autumn meet is and action packed five weeks of racing.
7 Even though it's only five weeks, we actually have 22 stakes
8 races during the five weeks, so it really starts off strong.
9 Of those 22, there's 15 graded stakes and seven Breeders'
10 Cup Challenge races, so it's a very exciting meet.

11 One of the things we wanted to highlight today,
12 we're honoring John Harris by renaming the Unzip Me Stakes
13 to the John C. Harris Stakes. And that race was upgraded to
14 a grade three this year by the Graded Stakes Committee, so
15 great timing on that. We're going to do that on opening
16 Saturday. The team from Harris Farms is going to come down
17 and really celebrate the memory of John Harris, so looking
18 forward to that.

19 Other highlights, we're working with our partners
20 at TOC. We're increasing overnight purchases by
21 approximately 10 percent for this meet over last year's
22 autumn meet, so happy to announce that.

23 And then we're going to introduce a new player-
24 friendly wager that's in addition to our kind of low takeout
25 wager offerings that we have, which include the existing

1 ones, include the early Pick 5, the Late Double, the Late
2 Pick 3, the Coast to Coast, and the All-Turf Pick 3. But the
3 new wager, we're calling it the Sunset 6. It's going to
4 link the last three races at Gulfstream to the last three at
5 Santa Anita, really drive some attention that's on the East
6 Coast at the end of their cards to Santa Anita's card. And
7 that's a \$1.00 bet with a low 15 percent takeout.

8 So we're looking forward to the meet and happy to
9 answer any questions.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?

11 I make a motion to approve.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Wait.

13 COMMISSIONER STERN: Second.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: We have some public comment.

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Questions? We have
16 comments, not questions.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, right, we have some public
18 commenters here.

19 So, Ellen, do you want to go first?

20 MS. ERICKSEN: Good morning. Ellen Ericksen.
21 Glad to be back here again.

22 It's interesting that you are going to approve a
23 license for the meet without hearing what really goes on at
24 Santa Anita. So we're here to ask that you do not approve
25 for license at Santa Anita.

1 This Board has reported five musculoskeletal
2 deaths in training there in 10 weeks this past spring. Two
3 were on the same day, Sunday, May 25th. Three-year-old
4 filly Crimson Sea only raced three times in 2024, and
5 recently on May 3rd at Santa Anita. Crimson Sea's last
6 recorded workout was May 17th at Santa Anita, with four
7 others since March 29th. She had a fetlock fracture.

8 Two-year-old unraced filly Made Perfect Cents, had
9 no recorded workouts and had a humerus shoulder fracture.

10 Another two within two days in April, three-year-
11 old Colt Ivan the Great on Sunday, April 20th, was raced
12 five times in 2024 between May 12th, October 6th at Santa
13 Anita, Churchill Downs, and Del Mar. There was one recorded
14 workout for Ivan the Great in his official horse profile
15 April 20th listed as handily. Then he's reported with a
16 death by the CHRB with another humerus shoulder fracture.

17 Three-year-old mare Blushing on Friday, April 18th
18 had not been raced since November 2022 at Del Mar. Blushing
19 had six recorded workouts from February 23rd to her final
20 one on Friday, April 18th, listed as handily. Then the CHRB
21 listed her death as a scapular fracture.

22 Unraced three-year-old filly Paprika Princess was
23 injured in a recorded workout on March 20th, ambulated to
24 her stall, and euthanized two days later, March 12th,
25 according to this Board.

1 How many more horses have to die at Santa Anita
2 before you will stop issuing a license?

3 You issue these licenses not to protect the horses
4 but to protect the tracks and wagering. We advocates are
5 here for the horses. We are the true advocates for the
6 horses. This Board and no one that presents to this Board
7 ever talks about the horses or their injuries.

8 So we will continue coming back here because it's
9 now our job to talk about these horses because they all need
10 to be listed as dead horses and how they died because their
11 lives were important.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Ellen.

14 Lynn Freudenberg?

15 MS. FREUDENBERG: Good morning. I'm Lynn. I have
16 many reasons not to approve a license for Santa Anita Los
17 Angeles Turf Club. Here are two.

18 Per your equine fatalities list, 15 horses have
19 died so far in 2025 racing at Santa Anita, 40 deaths
20 statewide; 8 of the 15 Santa Anita deaths are reported as
21 musculoskeletal. At this point last year, 14 horses have
22 died at Santa Anita Park; 7 of those deaths reported as
23 musculoskeletal. The number of racing starts between these
24 two years is about the same with slightly less on dirt and
25 more on turf this current year.

1 The trajectory of musculoskeletal racehorse deaths
2 at this point in the year at Santa Anita has been flat since
3 2020, with 7 deaths each year except 2021, which had 11, and
4 now 2025, which has 8 musculoskeletal deaths so far. This
5 is not a reduction of racehorse deaths, which is touted by
6 the Board and the horse racing industry. This is treading
7 water.

8 My second reason is Navy Jack. Four-year-old Bay
9 Gelding, born in Great Britain, racing four times in the UK.
10 After breaking his maiden, he was in traffic to California.
11 On his fourth start at Santa Anita on May 23rd, 2025, he was
12 not so lucky. He came into the stretch. He is in the lead.
13 He drops back and clips heels with another rail runner. He
14 suffers a terrible spill, landing him on the vet list as
15 unsound. There was no replays. They were all scrubbed.

16 This poor horse has since resurfaced. In a
17 typical trafficking pattern, he went from Santa Anita to Los
18 Alamitos thoroughbreds. At Los Alamitos, he placed second
19 to the last in both starts and that was the end of his
20 career as a California racehorse. He has since been dumped
21 in Emerald Downs, Washington State.

22 Approving this license means that there will be
23 more horses, just like Navy Jack, shipped from another
24 country or states, falling and suffering injuries, dropping
25 in class due to poor performance and then getting dumped out

1 of state to a lower tier meat grinder, never to be seen
2 again.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

5 Alison Prater?

6 MS. PRATER: Hi, I'm Alison Prater from KRNH.

7 The Board should not grant a racing license to
8 Santa Anita Park for the fall meet in light of repeated
9 failures there to have racehorses examined by a veterinarian
10 before a workout per a CHRB rule, which we know have
11 resulted in at least two horses musculoskeletal deaths.

12 Santa Anita Park and its owner, 1/ST Racing,
13 profit from the racing of the horses trained on the premises
14 and holds itself out as one of the largest and safest
15 racetracks and training centers in the U.S. It clearly
16 needs to be held accountable for compliance with the CHRB's
17 rule on its property in order for such rules to have effect.

18 Prominent trainer Doug O'Neill was the second such
19 trainer based at Santa Anita Park in 16 months to be
20 suspended by this Board for the failure, which has not
21 happened at any other California racetracks. In late June,
22 O'Neill was suspended seven days and fined \$2,500.

23 In February 2024, this Board suspended trainer Dan
24 Blacker 90 days and fined him \$15,000 for 527 incidents in
25 which horses in his care did not undergo pre-workout

1 veterinary examinations in 2022 and 2023. The penalty is
2 one of the more severe sanctions issued by stewards in
3 recent years, per the *Daily Racing Form*. The Blacker
4 sanction resulted from a CHRB investigation following the
5 death of two-year-old unraced filly, Anna May (phonetic),
6 who fractured her pelvis and vertebrae in training at Santa
7 Anita on July 1st, 2023. Just as the most recent sanction
8 for the same violation against O'Neill resulted from a CHRB
9 investigation of the death of three-year-old Ivan the Great.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Alison, is this your first time
12 presenting to us? Is this your first time presenting to us?
13 Where are you? Okay.

14 Martha? Your turn, Martha.

15 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan with Kill Racing
16 Not Horses. Welcome back for your annual meeting outside of
17 Sacramento. We're glad to see you here so you can see us in
18 person since you won't let us remote comment like other
19 state agencies do.

20 Santa Anita Park wagering handle in June was down
21 17.3 percent from June 2024 on 8 percent fewer races in
22 2025, and down 22.3 percent from June 2023 on 10 percent
23 fewer races in 2025.

24 I'm going to quote from the *Daily Racing Form*
25 here.

1 "Without live racing in Northern California, revenue
2 generated from simulcasting and account majoring
3 sources in that part of the state has been redirected
4 to Southern tracks. Should live racing resume in
5 Northern California, Fresno and Ferndale would receive
6 the revenue to help finance purses."

7 So, what happened? The big, you know, savior of
8 Southern California racing, you know, it hasn't materialized
9 yet.

10 And the other point I want to make to you is, is
11 that the handle doesn't even reflect the revenue that these
12 tracks are getting. They only get, if there's computer-
13 assisted wagering going on, which we know there is and Santa
14 Anita Park's owner owns one of the biggest, only one-third
15 of that handle actually results in revenue to the tracks.

16 So this is a house of cards. It continues to be a
17 house of cards and this Board just continues to prop it up.
18 You know, I guess the idea is let's just milk it until
19 there's nothing left to milk.

20 So, you know, keep renewing the licenses. You
21 know, it's only a matter of time.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

24 Any questions from the Board?

25 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Mr. Chairman, I just

1 have a comment.

2 With all due respect, this has to do with race
3 dates. I think we should remain on topic. And any public
4 comment at the end, separate, apart from what the topic is,
5 I think we're more than welcome to hear them, you know,
6 we'll hear them as they go. But I believe, if it has to
7 pertain to the topic at hand, we'll listen all day long.
8 But if not, then that should be for public comment, but we
9 should stay on point as far as what the relevance is. My
10 suggestion.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Well said.

12 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: I said all due respect.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: I'll try to do better. Martha and
14 I will try to do better.

15 Okay, any other comments from the Board?

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I do. Yes, I do.

17 Mr. Chairman, an issue that I spoke with you
18 recently about, and I'm not sure when I'm going to see the
19 three gentlemen again, but I thought I would bring this up,
20 and it's related to the Santa Anita Derby and how important
21 that is for the Kentucky Derby trail. We almost had the
22 second place finisher of the Santa Anita Derby not make the
23 Kentucky Derby. And Baeza, trained by John Shirreffs proved
24 to be very formidable.

25 So what I would like to do is to make sure that

1 the horsemen know, because it is very important that we keep
2 capable and qualified horses here in Southern California, it
3 would be unfortunate if horses started to leave just to
4 build up Kentucky Derby points because they're fearful that
5 they may not win, because that's really how it works.
6 You've got to win the Santa Anita Derby to get in the
7 Kentucky Derby. But it would be great to see the TOC, CTT,
8 even the Guild, just to start to come together.

9 And what we would need to do, how we could be
10 helpful as a Board, I have a feeling this is a Churchill
11 Downs call, or let's just call it a house rule, but maybe
12 there is something that -- maybe this was a pilot. Maybe
13 the purse level dropping from the Santa Anita Derby from a
14 million to wherever it's at is an issue because you ship
15 horses from across country. If you don't, you know, hit the
16 Board, you kind of are incurring some expenses.

17 But I think it's never too early to figure out
18 what we need to do to keep the connections who have
19 promising two-year-olds that are interested in the Derby
20 trail to make sure that we are part of the full -- that
21 you're in the full points, not if you're five horses or
22 less, you get percentage points.

23 So reaction, I know I'm talking to the right guys
24 here, but if you have any reactions, and then anything that
25 we could do to be helpful. But I'm also confident that

1 there are horsemen and leaders in this room that would also
2 be willing to lend a hand.

3 MR. EGAN: Jason Egan, Racing Secretary and
4 Director of Racing at Santa Anita.

5 It's a good point, certainly, Mr. Vice Chairman.
6 And it's very important to us that we keep the Santa Anita
7 Derby with the prestige level that it has generated and
8 cultivated over the lifespan of the race.

9 Our biggest problem really is the three-year-old
10 population, outside of one trainer that we can keep at home
11 as far as producing a field size. Churchill really holds
12 all the cards in how points are distributed in that.
13 Essentially, like if you've watched this Del Mar meeting,
14 Bob Baffert has held all the cards in every two-year-old
15 maiden race. We need other people to start winning maiden
16 races.

17 So the solution for us, fundamentally, is to be
18 able to get people to buy horses that are competitive and
19 can beat Bob in some of these races to generate a higher
20 population of winners that we can graduate onward in the
21 stakes program in the spring to try to produce a bigger
22 field size in the Santa Anita Derby to make sure we're
23 getting full points.

24 Churchill sets the rules on how points are
25 distributed. It was a new thing this year. You know, if

1 the field size drops below a certain level, you run for this
2 amount of points, you know, whether it's five horses, four
3 horses, whatever the case might be.

4 But we are certainly happy to have your assistance
5 and anything that we can come up with and your support in
6 anything we can come up with to try to generate a better
7 field size in that race and cultivate, you know, more
8 winners outside of one particular trainer that will help us
9 guarantee that we get as many horses from the Santa Anita
10 Derby and the Kentucky Derby as possible.

11 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Great.

12 Nate, would you like to add anything?

13 MR. NEWBY: I would just say, yeah, we
14 wholeheartedly agree. And I think, you know, Churchill
15 obviously controls their point system. I think there was
16 quite a bit of criticism or at least questions on whether
17 that was fair or not what they did with our -- with the
18 Santa Anita Derby point system. And like Jason said, that
19 was the first year.

20 So, you know, we'll certainly do everything we can
21 from our side to push them to look at that. Santa Anita
22 Derby's always been probably the most important prep race.
23 And so having that reflected in the point system, you know,
24 we're going to push up from our side.

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Great. And, Nate, if after

1 conversation and feedback, if it is the purse level --
2 remind me, what is the purse level that it was at this year
3 for the Santa Anita Derby? Was it \$500,000 or \$750,000?

4 MR. EGAN: IT was \$500,000 this year.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And if it comes back that
6 it's just lower than other derby prep races, is that
7 something that Santa Anita would consider? If that
8 mattered, in other words, if it helped to bring in shippers
9 and others, would that be something Santa Anita would
10 consider to increase the purse?

11 MR. NEWBY: Yeah, it's something we would
12 definitely consider. We work with our partners at TOC on
13 that, of course. The purse overpayment at Santa Anita came
14 down more than 50 percent this last meet, so headed in the
15 right direction. And that will give us the opportunity to
16 look at things like that. You know, whether or not that's
17 an easy fix, because that purse has been at a million and
18 also run a short field, so it's not -- money doesn't always
19 fix that, is some of the things Jason was talking about.
20 But certainly something we'll look at with TOC, and we're in
21 a much better position purse-wise, so those are things we
22 can possibly do.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent. Okay. We look
24 forward to getting updated on that. And again, we're here,
25 the Chairman and I and any others, to help out with

1 communicating with our colleagues in Kentucky, so thank you.

2 MR. NEWBY: Thank you.

3 MS. BAKER: There's just one more public speaker.

4 One more public speaker, Oscar de la Torre.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Oh, yeah, Mr. Nader, yes.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Oh, yeah. I forgot about him.

7 MR. NADER: On the Santa Anita Derby, yes, it was
8 a \$500,000 purse this year. But the race itself, as you
9 mentioned by Jason, the policy is set by Churchill Downs
10 regarding the number of runners in the field size relative
11 to the points that are awarded.

12 But the field of five in the Santa Anita Derby,
13 even with the purse level being at \$500,000, I would say
14 that four of the horses in the five-horse field would have
15 been favored in any three-year-old lead-up race to the Derby
16 that was run this year. Those four horses, Journalism,
17 Baeza, the two-year-old champ from last year, Citizen Bull,
18 and Barnes. So two of them were Baffert horses, but
19 Journalism, as we know, trained by Michael McCarthy and
20 Baeza by John Shirreffs, those were the two that ran one-
21 two, but those four of the five, in terms of quality, I
22 would say that Santa Anita Derby ranked number one leading
23 into the Triple Crown this year.

24 The issue was the field size. And that, because
25 of the policy that Churchill Downs has for the Kentucky

1 Derby, and it's their right to do what they want to do, it's
2 their race, but the policy doesn't really look at quality,
3 it looks at quantity. But from a quality side, for the
4 \$500,000, this race, dollar for dollar, punched way above
5 its weight.

6 And credit to, I think, California, to Santa
7 Anita, to the brand, to Santa Anita Derby. For this year,
8 we were really fortunate to get the quality of runners that
9 we did attract for the race. And as I said earlier, I think
10 any of those four would have been favored in races like the
11 Bluegrass, or the Wood Memorial, or the Arkansas Derby, or
12 any of the lead-up races to the Triple Crown this year. So
13 I just wanted to point that out.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I agree with your comments,
15 Bill. Thank you. You're spot on, and we'll figure out what
16 we can do here to make a case.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

18 Oscar, I'm sorry I forgot you.

19 MR. DE LA TORRE: Good morning, Commissioners. My
20 name is Oscar de la Torre. I have the honor and privilege
21 to advocate for workers, backstretch workers in particular,
22 in California horse racing, and I want to thank you all for
23 being here. Thank you for your service.

24 I want to, in particular, welcome Brenda
25 Washington Davis. Glad to see you in person, so I look

1 forward to seeing your work on the Board as well.

2 I started working with Santa Anita, in particular,
3 since 2019. As we recall, there was a spike in horses, you
4 know, who were injured and had to be euthanized. There was
5 quite a big number, about 29 at that time, if I recall.

6 Since then, accidental horse racing fatalities
7 have been decreased by 50 percent throughout the state of
8 California. And that's due to your work, the oversight
9 that's been implemented, but also, I want to give credit
10 where credit is due, to the animal rights activists who have
11 continued to put the pressure. And so this industry has
12 responded positively, and it's very important to say that,
13 that we are not the same industry that we were in 2019.
14 There's been a tremendous amount of progress, and it has to
15 be noted.

16 And why is that important? Because Ms. Ericksen
17 stated earlier that she wants to talk about what really goes
18 on at Santa Anita, and she accentuates the negative, and I
19 understand that that's what an activist does, you accentuate
20 the negative. But there's 850 backstretch workers that live
21 at Santa Anita, that work at Santa Anita, that earn a living
22 at Santa Anita, that feed their families, that receive
23 medical care and living wages at Santa Anita. More than
24 3,000-plus workers at the racetrack overall that do the
25 same. And not to mention all the other workers, hotel

1 workers, restaurant workers outside of the racetrack. We're
2 in a hotel right now that most likely would not exist if not
3 for the racetrack across the street.

4 So we live in a fragile economic ecosystem that we
5 need to recognize that exists, that supports workers, that
6 supports horses as well. And so we need to just understand
7 that that's how it works.

8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Oscar. Again, I
10 apologize for missing you.

11 Okay, any further comments or questions from the
12 Board? Do we have a motion?

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'll move, yes. Gonzales.

14 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Second.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

16 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellano?

22 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

1 Congratulations, gentlemen. Do your best, huh?

2 MR. NEWBY: Thank you.

3 Item number three, discussion and action by the
4 Board on the Application for License to Conduct a
5 Horse Racing Meeting of the Los Alamitos Horse Racing
6 Association at Los Alamitos Race Course, from September
7 10th, 2025, through September 23rd, 2025.

8 MR. GUITIERREZ: Good morning, members of the
9 Board, Commissioner Ferraro. My name is Orlando Gutierrez
10 from representing Los Alamitos Racecourse. I'm joined by
11 Rick English, the Controller of Los Alamitos Racecourse.

12 We are here to humbly request approval of our
13 application for the September meet at Los Alamitos,
14 commencing on September the 10th through September the 23rd.
15 We're going to have six racing days during the meet,
16 including two stakes races on each of the Saturdays. The
17 opening Saturday will feature the E.B. Johnston Stakes, a
18 California-Bred Race, which has produced some outstanding
19 winners in previous years, including the Chosen Braun and
20 also King's River Night. And on our second Saturday, we
21 will have the Dark Mirage.

22 We're coming off of a solid July meet -- excuse
23 me, summer meet in which we ran 79 races over the three
24 weeks. During those 79 races, we had 74 different owners
25 that won those races, which we thought was a really

1 impressive number. In addition, we have 46 different
2 trainers as well.

3 We are looking forward to having another solid
4 season with opportunities for all of our horsemen and
5 horsewomen here in California.

6 We have submitted a completed application, and
7 again, humbly request approval for it.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

10 I have a couple of comments.

11 Last year when you applied for your racing
12 application, I gave you a pretty stern warning about the
13 number of injuries you were having and that something had to
14 be done about it or we would be forced to act in some way.
15 I'm happy to see that as far as the thoroughbreds go, you've
16 made some significant improvements and are doing much better
17 and I commend you for that, but you have a ways to go.
18 Don't want you to give up.

19 And the other thing, we're going to talk about it
20 later, Dr. Blea and I are quite concerned about what's going
21 on with the Quarter Horses. I know this application doesn't
22 pertain to the Quarter Horses, but we will address that and
23 Dr. Blea's a report to us later in this meeting. But I want
24 you to stick around and listen to what we have to say
25 because it's very important, okay?

1 MR. GUITIERREZ: Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other comments from the Board?
3 Ellen?

4 MS. ERICKSEN: Thank you again. Ellen Ericksen.

5 The first thing I'd like to say, there's bias on
6 this Board by the Commissioners. I thought the last agenda
7 item was issuing a license to San Anita. We're not here to
8 discuss the workers at the racetrack or what my involvement
9 is as an activist at that track that I've been at for over
10 20 years.

11 So for Los Alamitos, this Board should not approve
12 yet another license for Los Alamitos this September. In the
13 latest annual report, the Los Alamitos thoroughbred meet had
14 20 percent of the racing starts at Los Alamitos. Yet so far
15 this year, half the horse deaths reported at Los Al are
16 thoroughbreds, and three-quarters of those are muscular
17 skeletal deaths.

18 For example, two thoroughbreds died there just in
19 one week in late June. Four-year-old gelding Mr. Dreamcycle
20 was ambulated off the track on June 28th after he had a
21 bump start, bad step, and did not finish the race. Per this
22 Board, Mr. Dreamcycle was placed on the vet list with
23 unsoundness. Then the following Monday, he was on the
24 Board's fatality list, now shown with a lumbar fracture.

25 Why does a horse have to suffer in pain for so

1 many days before you euthanize the horse?

2 Three-year-old filly Expect Love was listed as a
3 death in training on Sunday, June 29th, now shown as a
4 metacarpal fracture.

5 And then there's unraced three-year-old filly
6 Pretty Wicked listed as a muscular skeletal death in
7 training on May 1st with a humerus or shoulder fracture.
8 CHRB listed Pretty Wicked's trainer as Ruben Gomez, Gomez,
9 who had five thoroughbreds die in his care in 2024, two of
10 them with sudden deaths in racing and training, one pelvis
11 fracture, and one of them undiagnosed, whatever that means;
12 the horse is still there.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Martha?

15 MS. SULLIVAN: This is Martha Sullivan with Kill
16 Racing Not Horses. And this is about Los Alamitos's
17 thoroughbred meet racing license.

18 Wagering handle for the closing weekend of the
19 L.A. County Fair meet at Los Alamitos Racecourse in Orange
20 County in June was down 31.1 percent from 2024 on 22.8
21 percent fewer races. The idea that this is the Los Angeles
22 County Fair meet is ludicrous, given that Los Alamitos
23 Racecourse is in Orange County, and also the Los Angeles
24 County Fair has held in May since 2022.

25 From Thoroughbred Racing commentary in September

1 2020, quote,

2 "Racing ended at the fair with the 2013 season, a
3 victim of its own idling prospects. There were found a
4 to be better uses for more than 50 acres of grandstand
5 and infield during the fair. The September fair racing
6 dates were shifted to Los Alamitos in a move of
7 somewhat cynical compromise, as if no one would notice
8 the Los Angeles County Fair racing meet would now be
9 presented in neighboring Orange County," end quote.

10 Where is the consistency when Northern California
11 racing is deemed not viable, but this pathetic excuse for a
12 race meet is allowed to continue? Keep consolidating
13 California Thoroughbred Racing and dump this dump of a meet.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

16 Lynn?

17 MS. FREUDENBERG: Good morning, again, and thank
18 you for listening, but I really don't want you to approve
19 the application for Los Alamitos.

20 So far in 2025 season, the Board reported 17
21 deaths at Los Alamitos, including 8 thoroughbreds, 6 of them
22 musculoskeletal deaths. Among these were two thoroughbred
23 musculoskeletal deaths in April. That was Non Compliant and
24 Willy, both trained by Bob Baffert and dying within two
25 weeks of each other.

1 Non Compliant was a three-year-old filly, had
2 raced just twice, winning both starts in 2024. She was
3 entered for the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar, but was scratched
4 by the stewards. She has been on layoff since that time.

5 At the April CHRB meeting, Equine Medical Director
6 Jeff Blea reported that Non Compliant appeared to suffer a
7 shoulder fracture after an easy gallop while in preparation
8 for regulatory clearance to resume high-speed workouts. She
9 had passed her first examination on March 9th.

10 Willy, he's a four-year-old unraced colt, had four
11 official workouts at Los Alamitos between February 28th and
12 March 27th. His musculoskeletal death was reported April
13 3rd. His horse profile now lists scapula as the cause.
14 Unlike Non Compliant, Willy had not been on a long layoff.

15 These two horses bring the death toll in Bob
16 Baffert's care to at least 84 since 2020. The *Washington*
17 *Post* reported in June 2021 that 74 horses had died under
18 Baffert's care since 2000 per your data. Since then, eight
19 additional Baffert-trained horses have died in California
20 per your records. His trainee, Have a Mavnameltdown, died
21 racing on Preakness Day in 2023. His two-time grade one
22 winner, Cave Rock, died in 2023 in San Diego County.

23 No legitimate sport would tolerate 40 deaths in 33
24 weeks of competition, much less 17 at one single venue,
25 which is Los Alamitos.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

3 Comments or questions from the Board? Can I have
4 a motion, please.

5 COMMISSIONER STERN: Motion to approve.

6 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

8 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

10 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

16 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. GUITIERREZ: Thank you so much.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, gentlemen. Stick
21 around for the comments later on, please.

22 Moving on to item number four, it's discussion and
23 action by the Board regarding an amendment to the
24 Application for Approval to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering
25 of Xpressbet, LLC, pursuant to Board Rule 2072(1).

1 Eric, can you explain this move to us?

2 MR. SINDLER: Yes. Good morning. Eric Sindler on
3 behalf of Xpressbet.

4 Before I begin, Gene Chabrier likes to send his
5 apologies for not being able to be here in person today, but
6 he does look forward to seeing you all next month up in
7 Sacramento.

8 So what Xpressbet is doing here is we are
9 partnering with Everee (phonetic). They are a pretty big
10 app manufacturer or developer, I should say. They make apps
11 for tons of sporting venues, and Gulfstream Park launched
12 theirs back in January. It's kind of like the first MLB app
13 where you can go online, you can buy tickets, you can see
14 dining options, make reservations, promotional schedules,
15 all that kind of stuff. So it's really geared to new
16 customers who are not familiar with racing or Santa Anita
17 specifically.

18 And as part of that app, since wagering is a large
19 part of the on-track experience, they have integrated a very
20 simple wagering interface. It's only usable on-track, it's
21 only usable for Santa Anita races while on-track, and it's
22 only for win, place, and show wagering. Again, we're
23 targeting the new customers who don't know what an exact is
24 or a pick for superfecta or, you know, really anything more
25 than win, place, and show.

1 To make sure that the customers really are who they say
2 they are, everything will be verified through Experian. You
3 have to take a picture of your front and back of your
4 driver's license, and also take a selfie, and Experian uses
5 whatever technology they use to verify that the person is
6 who they say they are.

7 So in a nutshell, that's what we're trying to do,
8 just create a new, simple wagering interface for new
9 customers. And since it's all on-track, it will all be on-
10 track distributions, meaning that the most amount possible
11 going to purses from a wagerer will be going to purses
12 through these wagers.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

14 Peter?

15 COMMISSIONER STERN: Can you expand on how you
16 anticipate marketing and promoting this application to
17 expand awareness, please?

18 MR. SINDLER: Yeah, so we're going through,
19 actually, on Monday, we have a more thorough demo with the
20 app manufacturer who's going to be going through all the
21 nooks and crannies with us so we understand exactly all of
22 the functionality, which is pretty robust. And then after
23 that, our marketing team is going to be using social media
24 to help get the word out because, again, this is for new
25 customers. This isn't for our core fans. So it's people

1 who like sports and wagering and entertainment options,
2 that's who we're going after with this, not the person who
3 comes on a Thursday afternoon to bet simulcasting.

4 COMMISSIONER STERN: Great. Thank you.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: This is primarily a marketing move
6 now; right? Am I understanding this correctly?

7 MR. SINDLER: It is.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

9 MR. SINDLER: It's primarily a marketing move.
10 But again, because of the on-track experience, you know, we
11 want people wagering, and we're developing a simple wagering
12 interface. And because it's technically a change to
13 Xpressbet's plan of operation, we're here seeking approval
14 for that.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah. Okay.

16 Anybody else?

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yeah, just a quick question.

18 So you're looking at driver's licenses, so I
19 assume that if someone's underage, they get kicked out of
20 the system?

21 MR. SINDLER: That's correct.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay.

23 MR. SINDLER: That's why we do it specifically, to
24 make sure that there is not any underage gambling.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. Nothing? Can we have

1 a motion?

2 COMMISSIONER STERN: Motion to approve.

3 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

5 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

7 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

13 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

15 MR. SINDLER: Thank you very much.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number five, discussion and
17 action by the Board regarding amendment to the Rule 1878,
18 Workouts, to establish a maximum age horses may workout.

19 Amanda, do you want to address this, or Dr. Blea
20 will probably handle it?

21 DR. BLEA: Dr. Blea, Equine Medical Director.

22 This amendment on the agenda basically mirrors the
23 amendment to CHRB 1588, which was approved by this Board in
24 June, to set an age limit for all breeds for racing
25 pertaining to 1588. This amendment, 1878, mirrors that to

1 set an age limit for all breeds in California for training,
2 more specifically, high-speed exercises -- high-speed
3 exercising or breezing. The proposed language,
4 Standardbreds will remain at a maximum age of 14 per the
5 Standardbred industry breed registry. The proposal is
6 thoroughbreds, maximum age for high speed events or breezes
7 will be five -- excuse me, will be 10. Any maiden, the age
8 limit will be five for any high speed events or breezing.

9 So 1878, the amended language is to mirror 1588
10 that was approved in June. Maximum age for thoroughbreds
11 and Quarter Horses will be 10 to breeze. Maximum age for
12 maidens will be five years old.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: So basically, we're expanding the
14 rule we have for racing age limit to morning exercise?

15 DR. BLEA: Correct.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board? No.
17 Do we have a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Motion.

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

21 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

23 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

2 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Damascus?

4 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

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

7 Where are we? Let's see, discussion and action by
8 the Board regarding the amendment to Rule 1699, Riding
9 Rules, to allow stewards discretion when issuing a penalty
10 for violating the rule and to address a leading horse to not
11 shorten the stride of passing horses.

12 This rule change actually started last summer when
13 I asked the stewards if they had one thing they would like
14 to change, one rule they would like to change. This is it.

15 So, Darrel, maybe you could explain what it is.

16 MR. MCHARGUE: There's about three parts to the
17 rule that are -- Darrel McHargue, CHRB Chief Steward.

18 There's about three parts to the rule that are
19 amended here. One is actually changing where there will be
20 an increase of a penalty when a jockey is a repeat offender,
21 that this leaves the discretion to the stewards to whatever
22 they view, they would assess a penalty that they felt that
23 the violation warranted.

24 There's a couple of parts in there. Also, there
25 was a part in there where it would be a minimum of two days

1 they were taking, and their recommendation is to take that
2 out. All the stewards were of a mind that we needed to --
3 the older rule worked best. This is a take back to the
4 prior rule. And there's a few tweaks to where it has come
5 up since the -- recently or in the last year or so where the
6 leading horse is entitled to any part of the track. That
7 was taken out at one time. This is being put back in
8 because that does come into play at certain times.

9 And then the -- let's see what the other one was.
10 There was a part where they're floating in and out. That's
11 a bit hard to judge because there's such a minor degree of
12 what causes floating, but it's covered in the rest of the
13 rule to where for the interference caused it -- cost a horse
14 a better place so he loses momentum, and all that is
15 covered.

16 So I agree with the recommended changes and I hope
17 the Board does too.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: So basically, we're giving a
19 stewards judgment as to penalties, severity, length, et
20 cetera, et cetera, rather than what we had in the past?

21 MR. MCHARGUE: That is --

22 CHAIR FERRARO: It was a designated number of
23 days.

24 MR. MCHARGUE: That is true.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

1 MR. MCHARGUE: You're giving them discretion, more
2 discretion to actually assess penalties where it's not
3 mandatory that you increase it. And as I said, all the
4 stewards were in agreement. Also the Jockeys' Guild is in
5 agreement with this.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board? No.
7 Can we have a motion, please?

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

9 COMMISSIONER STERN: Second.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

11 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

13 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

19 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman vote yes. Thank
21 you.

22 Okay, so now we're moving on to item number seven,
23 which is a discussion and action by the Board regarding the
24 request for approval of the nominated members to the Board
25 of Directors of the California Thoroughbred Horsemen's

1 Foundation, Inc., pursuant to CHRB Rule 2049(a), Designation
2 and Approval of Horsemen's Welfare Fund.

3 Go ahead, Jordyn.

4 MS. EGAN: Jordyn Egan with the CTHF. Thank you
5 for having us. I'm glad I made it on time. Josh sat in for
6 me last year, so thanks for the time.

7 The primary purpose of this is to approve the
8 three Board members for the CTHF, so I'll start with that.
9 And then I'd love to give a little update on what we've been
10 up to for the past year, as well, if that's okay.

11 So the three Board members for consideration this
12 year are Ken Smole, Millie Yakteen and Stephanie Hronis,
13 names that you're probably familiar with. Ken Smole is a
14 veteran on the Board. He serves as the Board president as
15 well as the Planning and Development Committee, Benevolence
16 Committee, and Finance Committee. Millie Yakteen has served
17 on the Audit and Compensation Committees. And Stephanie
18 Hronis is on the Benevolence, and Planning and Development
19 Committees.

20 All three of these Board members are actively
21 engaged and a true asset to the CTHF and the industry, as
22 Commissioner Castellanos can verify. And we appreciate your
23 consideration and approval of these three Board members.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: So these three members are already
25 members of the Board --

1 MS. EGAN: They're (indiscernible) members.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: -- they're just re-upping their
3 terms --

4 MS. EGAN: Correct.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: -- is that correct?

6 MS. EGAN: Yeah, so these terms will be through
7 June 30, 2028.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

9 Rita, nothing?

10 Can I have a motion, please?

11 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion to
12 approve.

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

15 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

21 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Mr. Chairman, I
24 currently sit on that Board, so I would recuse myself from
25 that.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, very well.

2 The Chairman votes yes, but you have some more
3 information.

4 MS. EGAN: Just a few bullet points. We just
5 wrapped up our fiscal year at the end of June, so this is a
6 good opportunity to let you all know what we've been up to
7 for the last year. We're very thankful for the support from
8 the industry and the entire organization of the CTHF
9 understands that it's a privilege to do the work that we do.

10 Over the last fiscal year, we had over 5,000
11 patient visits at our sites at Santa Anita, Los Alamitos,
12 San Luis Rey, and now, well, starting this year in Del Mar.
13 That's medical, dental, optometry, and specialist referrals.

14 The CTHF just is now, as of last year, partnered
15 with TrueCare, which is a federally qualified health center
16 in San Diego County. We're providing regular medical and
17 dental services at San Luis Rey with their mobile medical
18 and dental units. The patients see no difference as far as
19 cost, as if they would come to one of our clinics at Los
20 Alamitos or Santa Anita, or if they go to the mobile medical
21 and dental units due to the partnership. For the first time
22 this year, we brought the mobile medical and dental units to
23 Del Mar, as well, on August 6th and had a great success. So
24 that was one of the new things last year.

25 Of course, we were engaged with the CHRB

1 Commissioners on the transition from Northern to Southern
2 California of the backstretch community last year. Our
3 medical and dental teams continue to be in touch with all
4 the patients that we had from Northern California and are
5 actively going through old medical charts, as well, just to
6 touch base, remind people of, really regardless of where
7 they ended up, we're still here if they're in California.
8 So we continue to be proactive on the Northern California
9 front.

10 Additionally, we continue to partner with Del Mar
11 and Santa Anita and now, as of this year, Los Alamitos on
12 their backstretch meal programs, an important part of
13 community development and something that we're grateful that
14 all the tracks do, happy to be a part of that.

15 And finally, we're always looking at ways to more
16 comprehensively tie food community to health outcomes. So
17 last year, we launched an eight-part series that was taught
18 in Spanish by the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute
19 community health workers. We brought them down from Santa
20 Barbara for eight weeks and they taught a series on diabetes
21 education to the backstretch community at Santa Anita. We
22 had 12 participants that came for every session, probably 30
23 people that engaged overall.

24 Blood work before the series and after the series
25 showed that every single one of the participants had a

1 lowering in their AIC levels, some up to six points. And we
2 continue an ongoing support group and we'll run that series
3 again in September and make it available to those at Los
4 Alamitos and San Luis Rey via Zoom as well.

5 So just here to let you know, we're all working
6 hard. We're not resting on our laurels. We're very
7 grateful again for the support that the industry gives to
8 CTHF and happy to do the work that we do.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much, Jordyn.

11 Next up is our reports. Cynthia has graciously
12 agreed to give the Executive Director's Report on short
13 notice, so go ahead, Cynthia.

14 MS. ALAMEDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and good
15 morning, Commissioners.

16 I will begin with the handle report for the month
17 of June. Day racing handle was down 16 percent, night
18 racing handle was down 4 percent, and total handle was down
19 15 percent as compared to June 2024.

20 For the month of July, day racing handle was up
21 three percent, day racing was up nine percent, and total
22 handle was up three percent as compared to July 2024.

23 For calendar year 2025, day racing is down six
24 percent, night racing is up eight percent, and total handle
25 is down four percent compared to total handle for the first

1 seven months of 2024. Of course, this is without Northern
2 California Racing, which was running at this time last year.

3 Since the last meeting, two new employees have
4 begun work at the CHRB. They are personal officer Rosa
5 Lopez, as well as Santa Anita/Del Mar Investigator Thomas
6 Gundara (phonetic), who is here today, I believe. I haven't
7 had the pleasure of meeting him yet, so there he is. And
8 welcome to the CHRB.

9 Next, we are sad to report the passing of Los
10 Alamitos Steward James Dreyer at the age of 83 while
11 hospitalized with a lingering illness. Jimmy, as he was
12 known to most, started his racing career at age 14 at the
13 fairgrounds in San Jose. He then spent most of his 18 year
14 riding career on Quarter Horses. He then worked in the
15 racing office at Los Alamitos for 22 years before being
16 appointed to steward by the CHRB in 2003. He served as CHRB
17 steward until one month ago.

18 Jimmy was universally liked and respected. His
19 Quarter Horse knowledge and good humor will be missed by
20 all, including both licensees and fellow stewards.

21 Last week, Executive Director Chaney attended the
22 summer ARCI meeting combined with the Saratoga Racing and
23 Gaming Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York. He
24 participated on a panel entitled The Decoupling Battle:
25 Past, Present and Future. He also attended the ARCI model

1 rules meeting, the ARCI Board meeting, and many of the
2 panels involving the future of horse racing and gaming.

3 Lastly, we'd like to point out that the next CHRB
4 Board meeting will be held on September 18th at Cal Expo in
5 Sacramento. Please monitor the CHRB website for future
6 Board meeting locations.

7 And on behalf of Mr. Chaney, Mr. Chairman, that is
8 the Executive Report.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much, Cynthia.

10 Any questions from the Board?

11 Dr. Blea?

12 Dr. Blea and I have been having some discussions
13 regarding injury rate amongst Quarter Horses and the general
14 procedures medical-wise that are taking place back there.

15 You know, thoroughbreds have come a long way,
16 mostly because we made a cultural shift.

17 MS. SULLIVAN: Can you speak into the microphone,
18 please?

19 CHAIR FERRARO: I say we've come a long ways with
20 thoroughbreds, mostly because the people have managed to
21 make a cultural change, and that's what it requires, a
22 change in thinking. We've come from veterinary practices
23 that focused on therapy rather than diagnostics to one that
24 focuses on diagnostics and prevention rather than therapy.
25 We have yet to make that move with the Quarter Horse people.

1 They have yet to make that psychological change.

2 So I've been concerned about the number of
3 injuries. And Dr. Blea was gracious enough to catalog some
4 of those for me and to fill in on some of the problems that
5 we're having, particularly with intraarticular injections.

6 Jeff?

7 DR. BLEA: Thank you, Chairman Ferraro. And good
8 morning, Chairman Ferraro, Vice Chairman Gonzales,
9 Commissioners and Mr. Chaney, who's on audio somewhere,
10 probably wringing his fists not being here, but I hope you
11 feel better, Scott.

12 Yes, so we've been looking at Los Al. Dr. Ferraro
13 asked me to look into this and look at some of the
14 fatalities we've had this year. Up until yesterday, or up
15 to including yesterday, we've had 7 -- we've had 17
16 fatalities at Los Alamitos, 5 of which have been colic, so
17 gastrointestinal fatalities. We've had three shoulders, and
18 I have to point out those three shoulders were all non-
19 resident or auxiliary stabling thoroughbreds. We've only
20 had two fetlocks, and we've had one back, which is a
21 tremendous turnaround from what we've had in years past at
22 Los Alamitos. And we've also had several incidents, two
23 incidents that have occurred at the starting gate, one in
24 training and one in racing.

25 But the point to bring up is the cultural chang,

1 as Dr. Ferraro pointed out. And there was a tremendous
2 cultural change that occurred prior to and including 2019
3 and post-2019 on the thoroughbred side. The Quarter Horse
4 industry does have a cultural issue regarding joint
5 injections.

6 As you know, in the Quarter Horse industry, the
7 money, the big money is made in the two-year-old and three-
8 year-old year in futurities and derbies. And in order to --
9 they're paid up when they're born in payments to be able to
10 qualify, to be able to run the trials. Obviously, the 10
11 fastest qualifiers return in the finals. But the culture
12 has been for decades, and it's not just specific to
13 California, it's nationwide in the Quarter Horse industry
14 about joint injections, multiple joint injections.

15 So we've been pretty adamant speaking with
16 attending veterinarians and trainers. We do this in our
17 fatality reviews about joint injections. Joint injections
18 should be based upon a diagnosis and upon and including an
19 examination.

20 Last October, I was asked to come down by Los
21 Alamitos management to discuss some of the issues they're
22 having and how do we improve them. We had a very open and
23 candid discussion with all the attending veterinarians, as
24 well as the regulatory veterinarians and track management.
25 That was followed up with another visit by myself, by me

1 down to Los Alamitos to speak to the horsemen, as well as
2 management. And that was in October.

3 From that October meeting, some definitive changes
4 and substantive changes were made at Los Alamitos to try to
5 transition that culture in the Quarter Horse industry to
6 more mimic the culture that currently exists in the
7 thoroughbred industry. And for example, I'll give you a
8 couple of the points that came out of those meetings.

9 Stacking was eliminated, in other words, stacking
10 of nonsteroidals, multiple nonsteroidals pre-race. Los
11 Alamitos took a position that only one nonsteroidal would be
12 permitted. Stacking would be prohibited.

13 Intraarticular injections, frank discussion that
14 should be based on a veterinary examination under the
15 auspice of a VCPR and a specific diagnosis prior to any
16 intraarticular injections. And you should also be aware
17 that Los Alamitos, several years ago, instituted a policy,
18 no intraarticular corticosteroids.

19 So the intraarticular injections that are
20 occurring in the Quarter Horse industry at Los Alamitos,
21 which is unique to California, are specifically related to
22 hyaluronic acid, which is a disease modifying agent, and
23 orthobiologics. So it's better for the horse.
24 Corticosteroids require a 30-day stand down in
25 intraarticular spaces at Los Alamitos. It's a house rule.

1 Furthermore, Los Alamitos implemented fatality
2 reviews by management to include not only the trainer but
3 the attending veterinarians within 10 days of a fatality.
4 Del Mar also does that. I participate in those here at Del
5 Mar, and they are quite impactful. That's in addition to
6 the regular CHRB fatality review that occurs once the
7 necropsy is finalized.

8 Los Alamitos conducts a track safety meeting
9 monthly that is open to veterinarians and trainers. And in
10 addition, Los Alamitos, following those fall meetings,
11 offered to provide a rebate of up to \$250 for any advanced
12 diagnostics, including MRI, PET, and nuclear scintigraphy.

13 So the culture has to change in the Quarter Horse
14 industry. I think Los Alamitos has taken the initial steps.
15 And nationally, talking to different equine medical
16 directors across the country, I think we do a pretty good
17 job. In reviewing records of horses that have been injected
18 for trials and finals, I can tell you, the examinations are
19 very thorough and in-depth, including examinations,
20 findings, and diagnostics.

21 One last point, to point out, the change that has
22 been made, a visible change. In October of last year for
23 the Golden State Fatuity, 89 -- excuse me, 83 percent of all
24 the two-year-olds in the trials had intraarticular
25 treatments performed. Fast forward seven months for the Ed

1 Burke Fatuity Trials, which occurred in May of this year,
2 only 54 percent had an intraarticular therapy treatment
3 performed.

4 So we are making improvements. The attending
5 veterinarians did a great job with their examinations. The
6 trainers have adopted some of this cultural change, but
7 there's still more work to be done. And again, I can tell
8 you, the cultural change at Los Alamitos in the Quarter
9 Horse industry, Dr. Ferraro, far exceeds what is occurring
10 in the rest of this country.

11 Any questions from the Board?

12 So since October of last year, do you think there
13 has been significant change, huh?

14 BOARD MEMBER BELIN: I think there's been a
15 tremendous change, not only in the approach, but in the
16 actions by not only the attending veterinarians, but by the
17 trainers as well.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: All right. Thank you very much.

19 DR. BLEA: Part two of my report, I'll keep it
20 brief.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Yes.

22 MR. LASAM: So just to update you on screwworm, I
23 spoke about this a couple of months ago, it's not very sexy
24 but it's real and it could be a real devastating problem,
25 not only for livestock, but livestock producers in this

1 country. And the fact that it's endemic in Central America
2 and has migrated up to Mexico, as neighbors of Mexico,
3 California is very aware of the issues.

4 Still in the news, a case was recently reported on
5 July 8th in Veracruz, Mexico. The following day, July 9th,
6 the USDA suspended all cattle, bison, and equine imports
7 through the Southern U.S. border. The USDA is actively
8 engaged in eradication efforts, which includes sterile fly
9 techniques, robust regulatory controls, and field
10 surveillance. At this time, there's no direct or immediate
11 threat to our equine population here in California.
12 However, we will continue to monitor the situation.

13 A bit of recent news that I thought you all would
14 be interested in is recently the Southern California Equine
15 Foundation installed the latest PET, or P-E-T, technology at
16 its imaging center at Santa Anita Race Track. This new
17 diagnostic technology known as 4-R PET allows for improved
18 detection of injury or disease in bone and soft tissue while
19 significantly decreasing scan times.

20 For example, if good counts are obtained, they
21 could potentially scan a forelimb from above the knee down
22 through and including the foot in about six minutes. You
23 can do both forelimbs from above the knee down through
24 including the foot in approximately 12 minutes. Those scan
25 times have the potential to be reduced even further. The

1 image acquisition may potentially be reduced while obtaining
2 quality diagnostic images.

3 As the Southern California Equine Foundation
4 Imaging Center refines this technique and veterinarians
5 assess the capability of this new technology, we will begin
6 to examine if this new technology or other imaging
7 modalities currently under development may potentially
8 provide screening opportunities for at-risk horses in order
9 to advance safety here in California.

10 Moving on to fatalities, in June there was one
11 musculoskeletal fatality that occurred in racing and one
12 musculoskeletal fatality that occurred in training. Two
13 other gastrointestinal fatalities will refer to local area
14 hospitals also occurred in June.

15 In July, two gastrointestinal related fatalities
16 occurred. There were no racing or training fatalities in
17 July in the state of California.

18 Regarding the Maddy Lab, regarding testing for
19 CHRB in fiscal year '24-25, 4,310 primary blood and urine
20 samples, including 136 official work bloods, were analyzed.
21 3,058 out of competition samples including 13 evidence
22 samples and 10 hair samples were also analyzed. 255 samples
23 were tested for cobalt. Additionally, 782 TC02 samples from
24 Cal Expo were also analyzed. In all testing, there were 44
25 adverse findings in fiscal year '24-25 for CHRB testing.

1 This concludes my report and I'm happy to answer
2 any questions you may have.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Just have a quick one.

5 That new PET technology, how available will that
6 be? Will it be at each track or --

7 DR. BLEA: The Southern California Equine
8 Foundation Dolly Green facility is the only facility to have
9 that technology. We're the first and the only facility to
10 have that technology. It's up and running. I went and
11 looked at it a couple times in the last month. It's pretty
12 impressive. So you can do both forelimbs. Right now, they
13 can do them in about 12 minutes. You can do both hind limbs
14 in about 12 minutes. They can't get shoulders and they
15 can't get stifles, pelvises, but lower limbs, incredibly
16 impressive. And the scan times will get quicker as the
17 technique gets refined, so --

18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: And you said it's for at-risk
19 horses, so can you elaborate?

20 DR. BLEA: We're having conversations now. I
21 talked to Dr. Dowd, who's the president of the SCF, and
22 there's some opportunities. There's some CT units that are
23 currently being developed as well. You have to be -- it's
24 going to take coordinated efforts on multiple individuals'
25 parts within the industry.

1 But if you're going to screen, you have to have
2 specific guidelines as to who gets screened and why they get
3 screened. For example, do you screen all the horses that
4 are entered in the Del Mar Derby or the Santa Anita
5 Handicap? And you have to be careful because you're looking
6 at imaging, and imaging is not a diagnosis. You have to
7 incorporate physical exams, history, exam history, things
8 like that.

9 It's a tool, but it's not the smoking gun. But
10 it's a very useful tool, and the technology will allow us --
11 say, for example, we determined there's numerous at-risk
12 factors for horses that are racing, well over 44 at-risk
13 factors that we use, and let's say we identify a group of
14 horses that multiple barn switches, class drop, gaps in
15 works that fit certain criteria, and we can put those horses
16 into a screening protocol based on at-risk factors. That
17 may be a good way to start looking at screening rather than
18 just putting in, you know, a high-profile entry of horses.
19 So let's look at at-risk horses to see maybe some of those
20 horses should come out of training.

21 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay.

22 DR. BLEA: And a lot of that is being discussed.
23 You've got to be careful about screening because, like I
24 said, imaging, radiology, PET, it's not a diagnosis, it's a
25 tool and part of the whole equation.

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: It's still expensive, though;
3 right?

4 DR. BLEA: Right now, to do both forelimbs with
5 this 4-R technology, we're looking at about \$1,490.
6 Currently, at SCF, if you do both front fetlocks, it's \$890.
7 And I can tell you, through the Southern California Equine
8 Foundation's program in conjunction with Dolly Green, as you
9 know, Dr. Ferraro, those costs here in California are far
10 lower than you would be charged in a separate equine
11 facility or hospital.

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, just a
13 couple quick points.

14 As always, Dr. Blea, thank you for your work.

15 And, Mr. Chairman, thank you for bringing up Los
16 Alamitos.

17 I am confident because I do agree with you, Dr.
18 Blea, that the leadership is in place. And it wasn't that
19 long ago when I would consider that a hot spot over at San
20 Luis Rey Downs and the amount of attention that went into
21 that with your leadership and the Chairman's leadership, not
22 only doing site visits, but I think it was a weekly call
23 that we did for months and months just trying to
24 troubleshoot and figuring out what we need to do that
25 resulted in a couple of important changes, even some

1 rulemaking that took place. So if you need that kind of
2 help from any of us here, I think what it does is it really
3 gets things in real time, reaction to any injuries or any
4 fatalities.

5 And I often wonder about, you know, the surface.
6 And I know none of us are experts in this room on track
7 surface, but you do have, you know, Quarter Horses,
8 thoroughbreds, big barns, little barns, some trainers want
9 it one way, some want it the other. And so whatever you
10 need from us, Dr. Blea, to really pinpoint what's happening
11 at Los Alamitos, because we do have room for improvement.

12 So, again, very thorough overview.

13 But I want to just -- any thoughts or any updates
14 on Breeders' Cup? We're probably just one or two meetings
15 between now and the actual Breeders' Cup. Any, you know,
16 discussions, any prep, anything that we should know about on
17 the safety end?

18 DR. BLEA: Thank you, Vice Chairman. Breeders'
19 Cup's coming, and it's coming quick. We've already had
20 several meetings. I've met with them. We just -- they just
21 finished putting out the Horsemen's Information Guide. I
22 think the final draft came out today or yesterday.

23 In October, we will have a list of horses that are
24 pre-entered. And Dr. Grande, who's our Chief Official
25 Veterinarian, he'll begin the process of doing the initial

1 panel examination reviews. We'll do that in October. That
2 will continue through October. But right now, we've already
3 started the process for the Fall Breeders' Cup Championship
4 Series.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: (Off mic.) (Indiscernible.)

6 A/V REPRESENTATIVE: Your mic's not on, sir.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: We do have some public
8 comment. I've got a list here that Dr. Ferraro provided to
9 me.

10 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: So first up, Mr. Co-
11 Chair, if I could?

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Oh, yes.

13 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Point of personal
14 privilege. We kind of went over it really quick, but I
15 wanted to make sure that -- kind of give some additional
16 information regarding to the CTHF. So I don't think
17 anybody's really talked about it a lot or really brought it
18 up.

19 Most of us know in this room, CTHF is an entity
20 that takes care of the backstretch workers, their medical
21 needs, and others, as Jordyn mentioned. Ever since Cliff
22 left, Jordyn has taken over, and she hit the ground running.
23 And she's been fantastic at kind of organizing, managing,
24 and directing the workforce to make sure all this stuff gets
25 done, especially during some closures and movement of stuff.

1 But I just want to make sure that she's recognized as taking
2 care of this and grabbing the bull by the horns and making
3 it happen.

4 The backstretch workers get taken care of for
5 either nothing out of pocket or very minimal and in all
6 ways, medical and food, just like I said.

7 But thank you to Jordyn for taking that and taking
8 charge of it. We appreciate it. And I know I do because it
9 doesn't -- I don't have to do as much, so thank you. But I
10 just want to make sure that this room understands and knows
11 the hard work that you do and everything that you do to make
12 sure that the backstretch workers are almost taken care of
13 better than the horses, so we appreciate that. Thank you
14 very much.

15 (Applause)

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Thank you, sir.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: You got it. Thank you, sir.

19 Okay, we have four individuals for the public
20 comment period.

21 So, Ellen, we'll take you up first, Ellen
22 Ericksen.

23 MS. ERICKSEN: Yeah, oh, there we are.

24 I'm going to talk about the 10 dead horses that
25 died in 2024 at Del Mar. And due to the limited time, I

1 cannot provide the total list, but I will provide the total
2 list to the media here in California. And I'd like to thank
3 Horse Racing Wrongs to help me compile this list from the
4 necropsies from 2024.

5 Giver Not a Taker, July 21st, the horse pulled up
6 during the race, multiple, complete, displaced, open through
7 skin fractures, complete tearing of several ligaments,
8 complete tearing of the joint capsule, complete rupture of
9 the suspensory [sic] apparatus. Both limbs were diseased.
10 There were multiple parasites in the ilium. Giver was four
11 years old.

12 Savanah Lady, July 23rd, horse worked, collapsed
13 and galloped out, bright red hemorrhage from both nostrils,
14 sudden death. Cause: cardiopulmonary failure due to
15 exercise-associated fatal pulmonary hemorrhage. Savanah was
16 three years old.

17 Handsome Red, August 3rd, Del Mar, open through
18 the skin fractures, both superficial and deep, digital
19 flexor tendons, several ligaments and joint capsule
20 completely torn. Handsome was three years old.

21 Truly Magical, August 17th, euthanized August
22 25th, catastrophic fetlock fracture, complete displaced
23 fracture, complete tearing of several ligaments, complete
24 tear of the joint capsule, all of that, and they kept her
25 alive for eight days. She also had multiple gastric ulcers.

1 Truly was three years old.

2 Sammy (phonetic), September 3rd, horse covered in
3 full body sweat and aggressively trying to lay down. After
4 meds, became actively painful again, Am was euthanized.

5 Sammy was five years old.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Ellen.

7 Alison Prater?

8 MS. FREUDENBERG: Alison Prater from KRNH.

9 Three-year-old thoroughbred colt Uncrowned King's
10 death at Del Mar on Saturday, August 2nd in the seventh race
11 was first reported by the *San Diego Union Tribune* that
12 night. Uncrowned King, a three-year-old colt making his
13 second career start, was euthanized after suffering a
14 fractured shoulder during the seventh race. On the next
15 business day, Monday, August 4th, the California Horse
16 Racing Board added Uncrowned King to the equine fatalities
17 list under musculoskeletal deaths.

18 Uncrowned King is the 39th horse death so reported
19 by the California Horse Racing Board in 31 weeks of horse
20 racing in California, and the second at Del Mar racing in
21 the first three weeks of the 2025 summer meet, with the
22 death of 21-year-old pony horse, Mr. Viejo, on July 30th,
23 reported by the California Horse Racing Board. Pony horses
24 are an essential part of U.S. racing used to lead racehorses
25 to the starting gate, including pre-race warm-up of 10-plus

1 minutes each race. Mr. Viejo was unraced but was bred by a
2 Parkland (phonetic) Farm who sold him to Greathouse
3 Bloodstock and Bee Cohn for \$30,000 in the Keeneland 2005
4 September yearling sale.

5 The California Horse Racing Board and the horse
6 racing industry have made much of shoulder fractures in
7 training for horses coming off a long layoff. This clearly
8 was not the case with Uncrowned King, who was first raced on
9 July 5th, 2025, in the Los Alamitos Race Course thoroughbred
10 meet and had five recorded workouts at Santa Anita Park from
11 June 8th through July 18th, 2025.

12 Horse racing kills horses, period.

13 MS. FREUDENBERG: Hi there, and thank you again.
14 The reason why we're here is because, you know, we try to
15 put some opposition to just granting a license prematurely.
16 Just, you know, once you submit an application, it's already
17 approved. So, you know, when this happens, you know, you're
18 going to have more incidents like Capital Outlay.

19 The CHRB first admitted this horse had been
20 euthanized with a necropsy pending. Then was claimed that
21 he was on the fatalities list because it happened after
22 their 72-hour window. Yet another horse, Heza Ten, was
23 vanned off March 8th and still appeared on the list six days
24 later. Then the CHRB flipped their story, suddenly saying
25 Capital Outlay was alive and well, pointing to a supposed

1 video they refused to show to the public.

2 Here's the facts. Capital Outlay, a California-
3 bred thoroughbred, started at Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Los
4 Alamitos thoroughbreds. Like so many, he dropped in class
5 and was dumped at Los Alamitos to run in mixed races against
6 Quarter Horses. On February 16th, he suffered a very
7 obvious catastrophic injury. He hobbled to a stop while the
8 field crossed the wire. Replays were quickly deleted
9 because they knew it wasn't survivable.

10 Since that day, Capital Outlay has never raced,
11 has never worked out. His career was ended. There was --
12 why was he declared dead, then alive again? No evidence, no
13 oversight. That sounds like all the makings of a cover-up.

14 I also want to continue to bring up unsanctioned
15 racing. I know that's been mentioned many times by PETA.
16 Jose Nazario (phonetic), he's the licensed California
17 Quarter Horse jockey, he was documented racing in illegal
18 bush tracks and clear photos of him using electrical shock
19 devices on horses. PETA tracked this, amongst others, and
20 they submitted evidence and -- with him in January 2024. A
21 report -- a file -- they filed a complaint, but he was --
22 they said, per PETA, he lied and was saying he was just
23 working out the horses. So another complaint has been
24 filed, and his hearing is September 4th, 2025.

25 Enforcement has been slow and inconsistent. You

1 solely are the responsibility for Jose because this is
2 state, not federal.

3 Thank you.

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

6 I object to the removal of 12 horse deaths last
7 fall from this Board's public website listing equine
8 fatalities. These are the Quarter Horses who were
9 euthanized after testing positive for equine infectious
10 anemia, all in trainer Heath Taylor's Los Al barn, among 21
11 horses in his care euthanized, as widely reported at the
12 time. In early October 2024, this Board put these deaths in
13 a third category of its online equine fatalities list,
14 quote, "Infectious disease," end quote, which has recently
15 been removed.

16 These 12 horse deaths are the result of how the
17 horse racing industry does business. It ships horses
18 between tracks to race, including unregulated bush tracks.
19 This is the reality of the industry and should be fully
20 reflected in CHRB's public listing of horse deaths in
21 California horse racing.

22 From the *Paulick Report* on June 3rd, quote,
23 "The USDA APHIS has reviewed the complete medical
24 history of the 21 horses confirmed EIA positive that
25 were treated at the Texas clinic. All the horses have

1 been hospitalized in the ICU at the clinic and had an
2 IV catheter placed and flushed. The current
3 investigation indicated at least one or more employees
4 of the clinic were reusing needles or syringes which
5 caused repeated instances of blood contamination. The
6 original sources of the EIA virus were likely bush
7 track or other high risk horses that were admitted to
8 the clinic ICU just prior to each cluster of cases in
9 May and August," end quote.

10 It's essential that these horses be included in
11 this Board's public listing of horse deaths.

12 (Off mic colloquy)

13 MR. MIRANDA: Okay, so we'll wait.

14 (Off mic colloquy)

15 MS. SULLIVAN: Public Comment, item nine.

16 (Off mic colloquy)

17 CHAIR FERRARO: So you've made your public
18 comments, the four of you; correct?

19 (Off mic colloquy)

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Okay. All right, we'll
21 start over there. We'll start over. Be patient.

22 Let's start with Leonard Miranda.

23 MR. MIRANDA: Hello. Hi. Thank you,
24 Commissioners. My name's Leonard Miranda. I am the
25 Owner/Operator of Integrity Thoroughbred Racing.

1 And I just wanted to come in here and thank you
2 all individually here for your work over the last three
3 months as we had the struggle -- sorry -- as we had the
4 struggle between the closure of the Northern California Fair
5 Circuit. I think that was a good decision. I appreciate
6 you going with the data on that. I know it was an
7 emotionally-trying three months there or three different
8 meetings that you had there. But as a San Diego person, I
9 think it was the best thing. We do miss Northern
10 California. And hopefully as we shore up the cracks in the
11 foundation here with our racing, we can get our footprint
12 back up there in Northern California.

13 As Integrity Thoroughbred Racing partners with
14 other owners, I've been pleased to report that we were able
15 to retain three Northern California trainers for horses that
16 we have. And it's great to see them doing well down here.

17 And last but not least, again, thank you for the
18 work. Mr. Castellanos, we've never met, but I appreciate
19 your comments at the end of the very last meeting, being a
20 labor person and part of the union. It was quite noble for
21 you to make a decision that was as tough as that, so I'm
22 sure that was very difficult for you.

23 But again, I just wanted to thank the Board, not
24 to disparage anybody that didn't vote. I know everyone did
25 what they thought was right in their eyes and I appreciate

1 that.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

4 Ed Cummings? Did you just leave the room?

5 We're going to Oscar. Let's go to Oscar and we'll
6 get Ed back.

7 MR. DE LA TORRE: Thank you all very much for
8 giving me the opportunity to speak.

9 I want to acknowledge the message that Chairman
10 Ferraro mentioned regarding a change in culture. When
11 supported from leadership at the top, culture supersedes
12 compliance. And so I really, I really do agree with you,
13 Chairman Ferraro, the importance of changing a culture.

14 And that's what we're seeing right here in
15 California horse racing with the new technologies that are
16 being implemented to ensure the well-being and the safety of
17 horses with, you know, stronger oversight. We are seeing
18 the results that I mentioned earlier, a 50 percent decrease
19 since 2019 in accidental horse racing fatalities.

20 It's real important also for us to understand
21 this, I just I just look this up right now, anybody can
22 Google this, in San Diego County, at least 624 homeless
23 people died in 2023, which was an increase from the 592
24 deaths in 2022. We understand that homelessness is a death
25 sentence. And when people don't have jobs, when people

1 don't have housing, when people don't have medical care,
2 when people end up in the streets, people die. No one here
3 that's speaking today knows the names of all the 624 people
4 that died of homelessness in San Diego County in 2023.

5 We're advocating for horses. I understand that.
6 We're not -- we don't advocate for workers. That's what
7 I've heard from this side many times. But if people don't
8 have a way to live and make a living, people don't have
9 jobs, people don't have an opportunity to feed their
10 families, we end up in poverty, we end up in homelessness.
11 And that's something, for better or worse, that in this
12 industry, people are receiving support here. There was a
13 great presentation today about the medical care that's being
14 provided to workers that that have been displaced from their
15 work site when Golden Gate feels closed.

16 And so it's really important to acknowledge that.
17 And I just wanted to make sure that we uphold, I think, the
18 principle that human life is also as important as animal
19 life.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Oscar, thank you.

22 Mr. Cummings, thank you for being so patient.

23 MR. CUMMINGS: Hi. Hello, Board. Very good to
24 see you again. I'm Ed Cummings, the President of Watch and
25 Wager, obviously the operator of Cal Expo Harness Racing for

1 12-plus years, and also an ADW operator licensed here.

2 I just thought I -- I'm here, actually, on
3 vacation, to be honest, but I would normally be applying for
4 licenses to race at Harness Racing at Cal Expo. But we're
5 not going to be doing that this year because the landlord,
6 Cal Expo, for reasons unknown to us, have handed in their
7 notice to us to race there. We're very, very disappointed
8 by that fact because we've had 12 very successful years and
9 excellent record there as tenants. It in no way affects the
10 viability of our operation. We'll continue to run our ADW
11 operations.

12 I'd just like to put on public thanks, really, to
13 everyone who's been involved in the operation, especially
14 the horsemen, the backstretch workers, my management team,
15 most of you know Ben Kinney and Christopher Schick, everyone
16 who's worked with us.

17 But I do have some good news, is we are actively
18 looking at, whilst we're not going to be racing this year,
19 it's just not possible, we are actively looking at new
20 venues. I can't really say much about that because we're in
21 negotiations. But we, if it's at all possible, we'll be
22 back next year.

23 Thank you to the Board and thank you for your
24 support and thank you to all my team. That's it.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much and we look

1 forward to seeing you again.

2 MR. CUMMINGS: Hope so.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And I hope you do. I hope
4 you do make another run at it. I really do. I mean, I
5 think how the whole thing happened, I really don't think you
6 guys were given a fair shake. I followed it very closely.
7 Jobs were lost. A quick, quick exit. I do think that there
8 was a partnership to be had, though, to be very honest,
9 between the Standardbreds and the Northern California
10 Horsemen. But I think that's going to be -- that will be
11 the one that got away because there could have been
12 something salvaged to really use that as a multi-purpose
13 facility there, but hindsight is 20-20.

14 MR. CUMMINGS: I agree with you. I agree with
15 you, Oscar. Everything seems to have gone in the wrong
16 direction. And, yeah, I don't know about the thoroughbreds,
17 but we're looking at the venues right now. That's why my
18 team aren't here because they're actually on the road. And,
19 yeah, we're going to do what we can, sir.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Whatever we can do to help,
21 me in particular, you let me know.

22 MR. CUMMINGS: Thank you, Oscar.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. Good luck to you.

25 Lynn, let's hear from you again. I'm sorry, I was

1 working off the wrong sheet. I didn't mean to.

2 MS. FREUDENBERG: I was right with you.

3 I kind of thought the same thing too.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead.

5 MS. FREUDENBERG: So, you know, with being an
6 activist advocate, you know, we always have more to say than
7 less to say, so I still have more.

8 Okay, so I have a source called Covers. This is
9 from -- it's a sport betting company based in Halifax, Nova
10 Scotia. They describe itself as a trusted resource for
11 sports bettors and gamblers across North America with over
12 35 million visitors since its founding in 1995. This is
13 from an August 5th article.

14 "Covers reported," and this is quotes, "the Sport of
15 Kings is bleeding betting dollars again this year and
16 bad weather, eyebrow-raising disqualifications, and odd
17 spikes driven by computer-assisted wagering don't bode
18 well with the big turnaround in 2025's back half. When
19 all was said and done, 2025 is still trending downwards
20 another year for horse race betting in the U.S. The
21 Triple Crown season has come and gone and football
22 season now looms, meaning more casual horse players
23 soon turn whatever attention and money they can earmark
24 for horse racing towards the NCAA or the NFL instead.
25 " 'Unless there is a significant reversal in the

1 remaining months of 2025, this will be the fifth
2 straight year of decline wagering on U.S. thoroughbred
3 racing,' veteran horse racing journalist Ray Paulick
4 wrote Tuesday. 'The decline in horse racing -- horse
5 race betting happens as wagering using U.S. online
6 sports betting sites continue at a brisk pace.
7 Moreover, recent events with the Sport of Kings could
8 likely make any significant reversal a much more
9 difficult feat to achieve.'"

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

12 Martha?

13 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan with Kill Racing
14 Not Horses.

15 It's just practical business to plan an exit from
16 U.S. horse racing with ownership entities down 46 percent
17 since 2004, trainers down 58 percent since 2000, foals down
18 58 percent since 1990, wagering down 57 percent since 2003
19 adjusted for inflation, and 50 tracks closed since 2030
20 since 2013.

21 Per the Jockey Club's 2025 Fact Book for
22 California from 2004 to 2024, the number of races dropped
23 48.4 percent, starters dropped 45.5 percent, race starts
24 dropped 52.1 percent, and race days dropped 50.3 percent.
25 The average purse per race increased 70.1 percent while

1 California wagering dropped 7 percent in 2024, following
2 similar drops the past few years and reported purse deficits
3 in the millions for Santa Anita Park and Del Mar Racing.

4 The 2024 San Diego County Fair provided \$17.9
5 million in food and beverage revenue to the 22nd DAA in
6 under 25 fair days, or about \$716,000 per day. The Del Mar
7 Thoroughbred Club provided \$6.1 million in food and beverage
8 revenues to the 22nd DAA in 2024 in 47 race days, or about
9 \$130,000 per day.

10 I keep telling the Board of the 22nd DAA, let's
11 just add 10 more days to the San Diego County Fair and stop
12 risking and taking horses' lives from mere gambling in a
13 demonstrably dying industry.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. PRATER: Alison Prater again.

16 While I would never encourage anyone to watch or
17 attend live horse racing, a sport which kills and injures
18 beautiful animals only for the entertainment of gamblers, I
19 ask that if you do watch it, you pay attention to the
20 details I've had to watch while monitoring the races.

21 Watch as they are let out in the post-parade, some
22 with hoods or blinders because they fear the noise and the
23 crowds, as they twitch or rear up because they are nervous,
24 as they resist being roughly shoved into the tiny stall of
25 the starting gate, sometimes throwing their jockey or trying

1 to fight back. Then they are forced to shoot out of the
2 gate being bumped and crowded, quite often clipping heels or
3 falling, sometimes to their immediate death, or having to be
4 euthanized a short time after.

5 The first horse I watched die was Goodbye Kai, who
6 clipped heels with another horse, fell and convulsed on the
7 track before dying. It was horrifying. Junior Alvarado,
8 the jockey who won the Kentucky Derby, was fined and
9 suspended for overuse of his crop. He basically said, "I'm
10 trying to win a race. I can't think about how many times
11 I'm hitting the horse." Think about that. How incredibly
12 cruel.

13 Statistics show that live horse racing is coming
14 to an end. I choose to believe that's because people are
15 finally recognizing how magnificent horses deserve better.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. ERICKSEN: Thank you. I want to go on record
18 this year again to let the public know we are the only
19 advocates for the horses, not this Board. The California
20 Horse Racing Board claims in its mission statement, its duty
21 is to ensure integrity, viability, and safety in horse
22 racing. But horses continue to die at every racetrack in
23 the state, proving those words are nothing more than a
24 facade.

25 Integrity cannot exist where horses are broken and

1 killed at the cost of doing business. Safety cannot exist
2 when every season brings more catastrophic injuries and
3 deaths. The definition of safety is not measured in horses'
4 lives saved, but in headlines suppressed.

5 True safety would mean protecting horses from
6 harm, and that would mean ending the very industry that this
7 Board exists to preserve. Viability and truth refers only
8 to propping up an industry built on exploitation. This
9 Board's mission statement is not a promise, it is a public
10 relations shield that crumbles the moment the first horse of
11 the season dies on California soil.

12 The CHRB protects racing survival, not the horses'
13 lives. Nothing says love like 40 dead horses so far this
14 year in California. So think about why we come to the
15 meetings, and I say this every year, we're doing what your
16 job should be, talking about the horses, talking about their
17 injuries, talking about their deaths. We're not talking
18 about wagering and money made and lost. We're talking about
19 animals that are exploited, abused, and murdered at the
20 hands of this Board.

21 When are you going to come around and, like at one
22 meeting, talk about one horse at Del Mar that died? It
23 never has happened in the history of this Board.

24 So maybe they should change the name of this Board
25 and not call it a Horse Racing Board.

1 Thank you.

2 A/V REPRESENTATIVE: Sir, can you please unmute
3 your microphone?

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Should you leave the room, please.
5 You can come back and watch us vote to adjourn. Otherwise,
6 we'll be in closed session. Thank you all for coming. I
7 appreciate your comments.

8 (The Board convened closed session from 11:14 a.m.
9 until 11:41 a.m.)

10 CHAIR FERRARO: All right, can I hear a motion to
11 adjourn, please?

12 COMMISSIONER STERN: Motion.

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: So move.

14 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis second.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

17 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellano?

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

25 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

2 We are adjourned. Thank you all.

3 (The Board adjourned at 11:42 a.m.)

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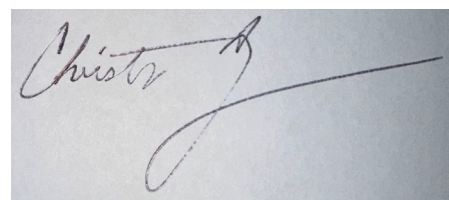
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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 notary public and 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 5th day of September, 2025.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored surface. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Chris Caplan".

Chris Caplan
Electronic Reporter
CER**1971

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

September 5, 2025