

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HORSE RACING BOARD

In the Matter of:)

)

Regular Meeting)

)

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1747 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD

HEARING ROOM 186

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner

Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner

Peter Stern, Commissioner

STAFF

Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

ALSO PRESENT

Josh Rubinstein, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

David Jerkens, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Orlando Gutierrez, Los Alamitos Racing Association

Richard English, Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing
Association

Christopher Schick, Golden Bear Racing, LLC, and
WatchandWager.com LLC

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Schmitt, Bernal Park Racing, LLC

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12. Public Comment: Communications, reports, requests 47
for future actions of the Board. No further
comments will be accepted. Each person will be
limited to two minutes.
13. 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.
- 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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PAGEClosed Session:

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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1
2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 9:30 A.M.

4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Well, good morning. A
6 couple of housekeeping items, as always, before we begin.

7 But for those who are listening in, we are at a
8 different location, not at Cal Expo. This will be one of
9 the venues that we are going to test out. And so really
10 appreciate those who made the trip. And for those who may
11 have went to the old meeting location, you know, there was
12 plenty of notice given, but hopefully you're not too
13 inconvenienced.

14 Okay, this is a regularly noticed meeting of the
15 California Horse Racing Board. Today is October 16, 2025,
16 and we're here at the Department of Consumer Affairs in
17 Hearing Room number 186. Present at today's meeting are
18 myself, Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair. We also have Dennis
19 Alfieri, Commissioner, Brenda Washington Davis,
20 Commissioner, and Peter Stern, Commissioner. The other
21 three on the Board who are not -- who will not be here are
22 Chairman Ferraro, Commissioner Castellanos, and Commissioner
23 Hudnut.

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

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

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

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

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

25 I will insist that all speakers stay strictly on

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

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

14 With that, we will begin and starting with the
15 approval of the minutes.

16 Commissioners, hopefully you've had time to review
17 the minutes, and if so, do we have a motion to approve?

18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves approval of the
19 minutes.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Second.

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

23 Commissioner Stern, how do you vote on the
24 minutes?

25 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And Commissioner Alfieri?

4 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And Vice Chairman votes yes.

6 Thank you.

7 Next up, number two, and action by the Board on
8 the Application for License to Conduct a Horse Racing
9 Meeting of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club at Del Mar,
10 commencing October 30, 2025, through November 30, 2025,
11 inclusive.

12 We have coming to the table now is Josh
13 Rubinstein, DMTC president, and we have Mr. Jerkens, our
14 Senior VP and one of the nation's best racing secretaries we
15 have.

16 So thank you, gentlemen, for both being here.
17 Yes, Josh.

18 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Good morning, CHRB Commissioners
19 and staff. How come I didn't get one of the best presidents
20 in racing?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Well, you're right. I'm
22 just, I'm new to this, so you got to -- thank you, Josh.

23 MR. RUBINSTEIN: I'm sensitive.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: You are.

25 MR. RUBINSTEIN: I'm sensitive.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: You are without a doubt.

2 MR. RUBINSTEIN: All right. Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

4 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you. So we are very
5 excited to begin our upcoming five-week fall racing season.
6 Of course, the highlight will be the Breeders' Cup on
7 Friday, November -- or excuse me, Friday, October 31st and
8 Saturday, November 1st. And this will be the fourth time in
9 nine years that Del Mar has hosted the world championships.

10 Activation of the Breeders' Cup at Del Mar is well
11 underway with the installation of premium seating chalets
12 and temporary boxes. And the city of Del Mar, which you
13 guys will hopefully all see in a couple of weeks, is already
14 decked out in Breeders' Cup purple.

15 A few points on our fall season. We have some
16 nice momentum going into the meet based on gains in
17 wagering, field size, and attendance from the recently
18 concluded summer meet. Working with our partners at the
19 Thoroughbred Owners of California, we're proud to offer a
20 seven percent purse increase for the fall season.

21 We'll continue with new wagers this fall that were
22 added during the summer. Those include the low-takeout Late
23 Pick 3 and Daily Double. And one change to our Pick 6 this
24 fall will be going from a \$1.00 minimum to a \$2.00 minimum
25 in the Pick 6.

1 We're also proud to continue our Backstretch Meals
2 Program, which provides free meals to the hardworking men
3 and women of the backstretch community. We'd like to thank
4 the Oak Tree Racing Association and California Thoroughbred
5 Horsemen's Foundation for their contributions to this very
6 meaningful program.

7 I'll now turn things over to David Jerkens for an
8 overview of our racing program, and then we're happy to
9 answer any questions.

10 MR. JERKENS: Thanks, Josh. David Jerkens, Del
11 Mar.

12 We will be opening our meet on Thursday, October
13 30th, the day before the Breeders' Cup takes place at Del
14 Mar, on Friday, October 31st, and Saturday, November 1st.
15 During our non-Breeders' Cup days, we will be presenting 15
16 stakes races highlighted by our turf festival, which takes
17 place during the final week of the meet.

18 Overnight purse levels will be increased from last
19 fall, and our popular Ship & Win program will return. Once
20 again, we will be compensating trainers \$400 for each start
21 to help offset their costs.

22 We look forward to welcoming back our local owners
23 and trainers, as well as Breeders' Cup participants. Our
24 barn area opens on Saturday, and we have experienced an
25 increase in demand for stalls as we begin training on

1 Monday. In working with Dr. Blea and UC Davis, we will once
2 again have a PET scan on site.

3 We're receiving lots of positive feedback on our
4 meet and are excited for opening day.

5 And with that, I'll open it up to any questions.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

7 Commissioners, any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER STERN: I just have a quick comment.
9 Peter Stern. I just want to commend you all for the
10 marketing and the promotion that you're doing for this
11 event, amazing excitement around that, and just thanks again
12 for everything you're doing.

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Commissioner
14 Stern.

15 Any others? I just have just two quick items.

16 As was reported by the stewards in their minutes
17 from a couple months ago, the phone in the Winners' Circle
18 in the event there's an inquiry or any communication that's
19 needed, is there any update on that communication
20 instrument?

21 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Yeah, thank you for bringing that
22 up, Vice Chair Gonzales. We did have some issues during the
23 summer meet, and those were due to, especially on the
24 weekends, there are large crowds at Del Mar. And Del Mar is
25 a pretty packed-in place, so a few times when jockeys were

1 on the phone communicating to the stewards, it was just hard
2 to hear because of the background noise.

3 So we have added, in the -- instead of the jockeys
4 on a normal phone, they'll have a headset with a microphone.
5 And we've tested it out, and that should alleviate the
6 problem.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent. Thank you.

8 The only other question I have is related to the
9 CAW two-minute cutoff time for the win pool. Will that hold
10 true for the meet that's coming up, and will it also hold
11 true for the two-day Breeders' Cup meet event?

12 MR. RUBINSTEIN: So that will continue for our
13 fall meet. And related to the Breeders' Cup, that is a
14 decision that they will need to make.

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay. Thanks for letting us
16 know that the decision is in their hands.

17 Mr. Chaney, do you have any thoughts? I know we
18 have an, you know, important event coming up.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No, I don't -- I mean,
20 actually, I do. Maybe a follow-up to that question is like
21 the impact of CAW may be less at the Breeders' Cup just
22 because the pools are so much larger. I mean, I didn't --
23 that just kind of, that came to mind.

24 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Yes, and we have had discussions
25 with the Breeders' Cup on that issue. And you're right, due

1 to the large liquidity of the pools, Breeders' Cup, because
2 it's, you know, a truly an international event, that dilutes
3 the CAW play. And CAW is a smaller percentage of the win
4 pool during Breeders' Cup, as you would see during Del Mar,
5 Keeneland, Santa Anita.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Right. And just to
7 kind of dovetail on what the Vice Chairman said, we applaud
8 the efforts from this summer with the two-minute cutoff, and
9 happy to see that Santa Anita follows suit for their meet
10 that's going on right now.

11 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you. Thank you both.

12 Do we have any public comment for this item? No?
13 Okay, no public comment.

14 Do we have a motion to --

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion, Mr.

16 Chairman --

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: -- to approve.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Commissioner.

20 Appreciate that.

21 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern will second.

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

23 Commissioner Stern, how do you vote?

24 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And Commissioner Alfieri?

3 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes. Yes.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And I'm also in support, so
5 thank you, and the best of luck to you.

6 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Item number three, and
8 action by the Board on the Application for License to
9 Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting of the Los Alamitos Racing
10 Association at the Los Alamitos Race Course from December 3,
11 2025, through December 16, 2025.

12 We have approaching the table here is Orlando
13 Gutierrez, Director of Publicity Marketing, Los Alamitos.

14 And if you don't mind introducing your colleague
15 to your left, that would be very helpful.

16 MR. GUTIERREZ: Yeah, good morning, Commissioners
17 and staff. Orlando Gutierrez, representing Los Alamitos
18 Racing Association, and joined by Los Alamitos Race Course
19 Controller Rick English.

20 MR. ENGLISH: Good morning.

21 MR. GUTIERREZ: Excited to bring before the Board
22 our application for two weeks of racing for the upcoming
23 winter meet at Los Alamitos. We'll have six days of racing,
24 opening on December 5th through Sunday, December 14th.

25 This is one of the highlights of the year for us.

1 It's a marquee thoroughbred meet because we have two
2 outstanding futurity races, both graded events. The
3 Starlet, which will be on the opening Saturday of the meet,
4 and the Los Alamitos Futurity, which last year was won by a
5 superstar, Journalist -- Journalism. So we are excited once
6 again to have those two races coming up. The nominations
7 for both of those races have been great.

8 The support by the horsemen for our meet in
9 September was outstanding. Our fields were up. Our handle
10 was up as well. And we're looking forward to a great two
11 weeks of racing. We'll also have a pair of Cal-bred events
12 as well, stakes events as well.

13 We humbly request the approval of our dates.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

15 MR. GUTIERREZ: If you have any questions, we'll
16 be happy to answer.

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

18 Commissioners, any questions for Los Alamitos?
19 Okay, no questions on our end.

20 Any public comment? Okay, thank you, Rita. No
21 public comment.

22 With that, Commissioner Stern, how do you vote on
23 this item?

24 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: We probably need

1 someone to move to approval.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Oh, that's a good idea.

3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Second.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis second.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: There we go. You've got the
7 second.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I don't know if I can.

9

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, that's right.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm not voting on
12 this.

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And now we'll go back to
14 Commissioner Stern. Commissioner Stern, how do you vote?

15 COMMISSIONER STERN: I will vote yes.

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: All right.

17 Commissioner Davis?

18 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

20 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And I am voting yes. Thank
22 you both.

23 MR. GUTIERREZ: Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Appreciate it. Thank you,
25 Scott.

1 Item number four, and action by the board
2 Discussion and action by the Board regarding
3 the distribution of race day charity proceeds of the Los
4 Alamitos Racing Association from its 2024 race meetings.

5 And we have the gentleman here before us, so
6 please present.

7 MR. ENGLISH: Good morning. Richard English.

8 You have before you our request for your approval
9 of the distribution of the charity day proceeds from our
10 2024 meet. The Board staff has recommended distribution.
11 We ask for your permission for the distribution.

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

13 Any questions from the Board? No questions.

14 No questions from the public?

15 Do we have a motion to approve?

16 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern moves.

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

19 Commissioner Stern?

20 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And I am a yes. Thank you.

1 MR. GUTIERREZ: Thank you so much.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: This is a discussion and
3 action by the Board regarding the distribution of race day
4 charity proceeds of the Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing
5 Association from its 2023 2024 race meeting.

6 Gentlemen, thanks for staying there. And what do
7 you have to say?

8 MR. ENGLISH: Again, Richard English. I'm here
9 asking your approval of the distribution of the charity
10 day's proceeds to industry-related charitable organizations.

11 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

12 Any questions from the Board?

13 Rita? No? Okay.

14 Do we have a motion to approve?

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion to
16 approve.

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Alfieri.

19 Do we have a second?

20 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Second.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

22 Commissioner Stern?

23 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

2 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And I am a yes. Thank you.

4 MR. GUTIERREZ: Thank you again. Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both. Appreciate
6 it.

7 Item number six, discussion and action by the
8 Board regarding the distribution of race day charity
9 proceeds of the Watch and Wager 2024-2025 race meeting.

10 We have Mr. Schick up here at the table. Thank
11 you for being here.

12 MR. SCHICK: Good morning, Commissioners.
13 Christopher Schick, Watch and Wager Harness.

14 We're happy to be before you with our request for
15 charitable distribution of \$5,500 from our previous meet
16 that ended in May. And 100 percent of our charities are all
17 horse-related. And we ask for your consideration and
18 approval. Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

20 Any questions from the Board? Okay, none.

21 No questions from the public.

22 Do we have a motion to approve agenda item number
23 six?

24 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern moves.

25 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

2 Commissioner Stern, how do you vote?

3 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

5 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

7 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

9 MR. SCHICK: Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Agenda item number seven,
11 discussion and action by the Board on whether to elect to
12 collect and remit fees on behalf of the Horseracing
13 Integrity and Safety Authority for calendar year 2026.

14 Presenting is Executive Director Scott Chaney on
15 this item.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr. Vice
17 Chairman, and good morning once again, Commissioners.

18 There are two kind of HISA, HIWU-related agenda
19 items, seven and eight. Number seven is the decision to opt
20 in. It's something that the CHRB has done each year.
21 Basically, the question is whether the State Racing
22 Commission in each state decides to opt in, meaning that
23 they will collect fees in order to pay the HISA assessment
24 each year rather than relegating that duty to the racetracks
25 in each state.

1 Obviously, very early on, we made the decision to
2 be supportive to opt in, and we actually made that kind of
3 decision with our stakeholders, so I think our tracks
4 actually prefer that we collect the fees from them and remit
5 them to HISA.

6 Admittedly, this is a little bit premature. We
7 will get our assessment letter on October 31st. However, I
8 don't expect it to be wildly different than last year. You
9 know, I guess we can always rescind it if we need to. Just
10 trying to knock off a few items because I think November is
11 going to be pretty busy.

12 So we're asking the Board permission to opt in
13 this year for calendar year 2026.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

15 Any questions from the Board? Okay, none on our
16 end.

17 Rita, no public comment?

18 Do we have a motion to approve?

19 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion to
20 approve.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Commissioner.

22 Do we have a second?

23 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

25 Commissioner Stern?

1 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

5 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And the Vice Chairman votes
7 yes. Thank you.

8 Agenda item number 8, discussion and action by the
9 Board regarding entering into a Voluntary Implementation
10 Agreement with HISA and the -- and HIWU.

11 Once again, presenting on this item is Scott
12 Chaney.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr. Vice
14 Chairman.

15 As discussed during seven, number eight is also
16 HISA-related. Each year, the Board has given me permission
17 and authority to enter into a Voluntary Implementation
18 Agreement with HISA. It's something we've done every year
19 since their inception in 2022.

20 What it entails is once we've opted in, we
21 negotiate -- we'll get our assessment and negotiate credits
22 to do certain work on behalf of -- for HISA-HIWU. And those
23 include such things as testing. That's the biggest one
24 through Davis. We do sample collection out-of-competition
25 testing, some adjudication, as well as investigations. And

1 for all of that work, we get credits against our assessment.
2 Last year, as you might recall, our assessment was in the \$7
3 million range. After credits, our stakeholders paid around
4 \$800,000.

5 Once we develop -- once we enter into the
6 Voluntary Agreement and have a final number, they will come
7 up with a formula to pay that, whatever's left over after
8 credits. And hopefully, if we get it right, you will be in
9 the position of approving their formula at next month's
10 meeting.

11 So number eight is giving me permission and
12 authority to enter into a Voluntary Agreement on behalf of
13 the Board.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thanks, Scott. Good
15 information being shared.

16 Any questions from the Board?

17 Okay, no public comment either.

18 Do we have a motion to approve agenda item number
19 eight?

20 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern approves.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you both.

24 Commissioner Stern?

25 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

3 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

4 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And the Vice Chairman votes
6 yes.

7 Agenda item number nine, discussion and action by
8 the Board regarding the allocation of racing dates for the
9 calendar year 2026.

10 I turn it back over to Scott Chaney, Executive
11 Director.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes. In discussing
13 sort of, as everyone knows, the Vice Chairman is the
14 Chairman of the Dates Committee, in discussing how we're
15 going to handle this year, we got admittedly a bit of a late
16 start for a bunch of reasons, but we decided to come
17 straight to the Board with the discussion of race date
18 allocation.

19 As you can see in your Board packet, Southern
20 California, for the first time actually, I think, since I
21 started this job in 2020, has agreed on a calendar. It will
22 vary. And that's on the thoroughbred side. It will largely
23 mirror what this year looked like with the exception of the
24 Breeders' Cup week, which will revert back to Santa Anita as
25 is normally the case.

1 I included a letter from Northern California
2 interests who may or may not in the future look for Northern
3 California dates, but there are none proposed right now.

4 What I did also realize is that, hopefully Los
5 Alamitos won't hold this against me, but there are no
6 Quarter Horse dates requested. Normally they're non-
7 controversial just simply because, you know, we only have
8 one track that runs Quarter Horses at this point. And so if
9 it pleases the Board, I would suggest also allocating
10 Quarter Horse dates, which would basically be the entire
11 year. They run the entire year, so it would be 12/17/25
12 through 12/15/2026.

13 So this is presented to you for discussion and
14 action.

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Mr. Chaney.

16 Any questions from the Board?

17 No public comment either.

18 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion to
19 approve.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you. Thank you so
21 much.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Can I just clarify the
23 motion to approve the dates as presented plus the Quarter
24 Horse dates?

25 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes, exactly.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay. thank you so much,
2 Commissioner Alfieri.

3 Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Second.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Stern, how do
6 you vote?

7 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

11 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Vice Chairman votes yes.

13 Agenda item number 10, discussion by the Board
14 regarding the future and challenges facing horse racing in
15 California.

16 I know there has been interest on the part of a
17 few of us Commissioners to have -- whether it's a standing
18 agenda item or to have the ability to weigh in on topics
19 that we see fit.

20 I know Commissioner Stern wanted to kick this
21 particular agenda item off, so I'll turn it over to you,
22 sir.

23 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yeah, thank you so much. And
24 I apologize, I am losing my voice, so bear with me.

25 But this is something I wanted to raise that's

1 near and dear to me and I think incredibly important to the
2 sport, not just in the state of California but across the
3 entire ecosystem. It's really the importance around
4 understanding how technology and innovation is going to
5 impact us. So if you look at artificial intelligence in
6 particular, it's going to affect every sport in a positive
7 and potentially negative way. But regardless, we have to
8 get out in front of what that looks like.

9 On a positive perspective, it's rapidly advancing
10 health care, and so that could benefit the horses and the
11 jockeys over an extended period of time. But what are those
12 other things that we could be thinking about, not for us,
13 not things we'll action, but in terms of the entire
14 ecosystem, we should be thinking about this.

15 And how do we increase viewership? How do we
16 increase betting? Take a look at what EA Sports did around
17 John Madden football in terms of the viewership, the user
18 engagement across the sport in general. Look at things like
19 fantasy football. What has that done to the sport
20 ultimately to bring different people out in front of a
21 particular sport?

22 So my daughter does video game development down in
23 SMU in Texas, and so I was just getting her opinions on
24 things. And she came back and said, "Hey, Dad, wouldn't it
25 be interesting if the horse that you actually bet on, if

1 there's a camera on the jockey's head?" And I would have to
2 talk to the jockey about this and see if it would be
3 applicable, but imagine if you could watch your horse run
4 throughout the process. Will that drive more people to
5 ultimately want to bet?

6 And so there's endless number of opportunities
7 that we can look at as an industry and ultimately affect the
8 entire ecosystem.

9 So I constantly want the ecosystem to think about
10 this because it's coming. AI is scary, but AI is also an
11 opportunity, and these different channels and opportunities
12 that we can create, we all need to think about.

13 So thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

15 Any other Commissioners have any thoughts on this
16 particular agenda item, the ability to weigh in on some
17 issues?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: If I may, Mr. Vice
19 Chairman.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes. Yes, Scott.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: This agenda item
22 apparently caused some consternation among stakeholders and
23 the media, and that wasn't the intent. As you correctly
24 said, Commissioner Stern and Commissioner Alfieri, and I
25 think even you, Mr. Vice Chairman, are, you know, interested

1 in talking about like sort of bigger picture items. So the
2 idea was that this is -- we would agendize this
3 occasionally, perhaps not even every time, if Commissioners
4 had different, you know, sort of general topics that they
5 might want to discuss about, you know, the future of horse
6 racing.

7 So hopefully that provides everyone with a little
8 better understanding. Obviously, it's listed as discussion,
9 and the topics are not delineated with any specificity,
10 but -- so the Board can't take specific action, but you can
11 certainly give staff direction, you know, about the future
12 and how to meet the needs of the Board members.

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Scott.

14 I would also like a message for those who are in
15 attendance and those who are listening in is, you know, as
16 we go about formulating the agenda for 2026, if there's any
17 issues that come to mind, please let us know if it requires
18 us, you know, having a committee meeting or just really
19 fleshing out some issues here. This is what we're here for.

20 I mentioned to Scott and Chairman Ferraro that a
21 couple of issues that come to my mind that I would really
22 like to see that we've touched on over the course of the
23 mornings when we do get together, one at the top of my list
24 is really the status of the one-circuit concept. It's how
25 is it going, what adjustments need to be made, the impact,

1 any unintended consequences, and so forth.

2 I also think about computer-assisted wagering. I
3 thought it would be really helpful earlier in the year when
4 we had a couple of experts on the topic really think through
5 about what impact CAW is having on the horsemen and the
6 purse structure.

7 I also think extensively and quite a bit about our
8 workers. Really, it's a very difficult time for workers
9 from one part of the country to the next, and is there
10 anything that the industry or the CHRB can be doing to make
11 sure that any anxieties, any concerns that are out there on
12 the part of our workers are addressed? Obviously, the
13 jockeys who really remain committed, who really go through
14 quite a bit, making sure that they know that they have a
15 voice.

16 And then probably the most important item that
17 comes up a lot is revenue streams for our purses and how we
18 go about addressing that in whatever form that may be. You
19 know, we all stand by and watching and observing other
20 states have purse structures that, quite frankly, make the
21 difference in this competitive market on where horses go.

22 So those are the things that come to my mind as
23 we -- I did get a couple calls from some legislative
24 staffers that wanted to know really what they could be
25 doing. And you're right, this agenda item did catch the

1 attention of folks. And the question that was asked of me
2 is, would the LAO, the Legislative Analyst's Office, could
3 they be of assistance in conducting some kind of a study or
4 assessment on where things are at?

5 We do see places like New York and Maryland making
6 significant investments in their infrastructure, both states
7 probably close to half a billion dollars in redoing their
8 racetracks and facilities. We saw Illinois with, I think, a
9 \$100 million investment of one of their tracks. And then,
10 needless to say, you know, Kentucky and Arkansas, the
11 ongoing and continued investments that those states have
12 made.

13 So I believe California leads in many regards,
14 horse racing similar to other parts of agriculture. We have
15 our share of struggles, but we also are doing a lot of
16 things right. And there's a lot of people in this room who
17 deserve to be commended for the adjustments that have been
18 made, leadership that has been shown. And I think that we
19 have been in a very good position to now take our case to
20 policymakers to say everything is being done -- of us has
21 been done, what we now need to do to kind of step things up
22 to the next level.

23 So Mr. Stern, again, thank you, and Mr. Alfieri,
24 Commissioner Davis, for always thinking through what we
25 could be doing better and differently. I know we're three

1 Board members short. But perhaps, you know, with this kind
2 of feedback, public input, you know, maybe some more
3 policymakers weighing in so we could start to have agendas
4 that really reflect what the true needs are.

5 So, Commissioners, I'll turn it back over for any
6 reactions or any more thoughts on this particular agenda
7 item, but I think this is a good, healthy discussion.

8 And Commissioner Stern, thank you for reminding us
9 of all the all-important technology implications that we
10 could either make the most of it or let it get the best of
11 us, so thank you again for that.

12 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I support the vice chairman
13 on all four. Check off the boxes, I mean, 100 percent.
14 Let's take a look at it.

15 It would be helpful to have a report from -- the
16 Chairman and I have talked about it, getting some support of
17 a study that will show us, you know, the situation here in
18 the state and what we can do, where we can raise some more
19 money and do things. That may be from the legislature. I
20 don't know. That's a sticky topic.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: But anyway, I support you
23 100 percent, and let's look at it.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Let's look at all those

1 items.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Appreciate that,
3 Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yeah.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.
6 Commissioner Davis?

7 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I agree with Dennis, and I
8 think we really should push, not just sort of put it out
9 there, to see what getting an LAO report would entail.
10 Because I think that would be very helpful to get a baseline
11 of where we are right now and where we could be going.

12 I certainly agree with Commissioner Stern and what
13 you also said, and I would add to that generating excitement
14 around a new youthful constituency. And I saw in Del Mar's
15 package that they're getting a great deal of traction doing
16 that sort of thing and generating excitement. And it's
17 probably easier because they're always online or on social
18 media.

19 And I know it sounds a bit tricky, but I really
20 like what you said, Peter, about, you know, being able to
21 ride with a jockey. Because I can say from personal
22 experience, I went to see the F1 movie, and they have these
23 seats in the theater now that move with the cars. It was so
24 much fun. So if we could do that with power horses, I know
25 I'd be in, and I'd have my whole family on a watch.

1 COMMISSIONER STERN: That's right.

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: That would be so exciting if
3 it could happen.

4 So I think we need to be having these
5 conversations on a regular basis, if not every month, at
6 least every other month, because these things come up, and,
7 you know, while they're percolating, just get them out in
8 the open and get other people thinking about what might
9 happen and bring it back to the Board, maybe at the next
10 meeting.

11 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Excellent. Thank you so
12 much. Really appreciate each of your comments.

13 Mr. Chaney, I don't know if there's any fine
14 points you'd like to make on anything that was suggested or
15 stated.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I don't. I think you
17 covered a lot of topics, and so it gives staff something to
18 go with. Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Great. Thank you very much.
20 Really appreciate that.

21 Any public comment on this here? Okay, Rita, no
22 public comment?

23 Again, thank you all. We want to get as many
24 ideas as possible, so don't hesitate to reach out to Scott
25 Chaney, Mike Marten, Cynthia, or any others from CHRP. So

1 thank you very much.

2 Now on to agenda item number 11 with our reports.

3 So first up, we have Mr. Chaney on the Executive
4 Director's Report.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr. Vice
6 Chairman, and again, good morning, Commissioners.

7 I will begin with the handle report for the month
8 of September. Day racing was down 16 percent, night racing
9 was down 5 percent, and total handle was down 15 percent as
10 compared to September of 2024.

11 I should note that there was an additional weekend
12 day last year compared to this. And, of course, there was
13 no Northern California racing as there was in 2024.

14 And even given that fact, for calendar year 2025,
15 day racing is down six percent night racing is up eight
16 percent, and total racing is down five percent compared to
17 total handle for the first nine months of 2024. I'll leave
18 it to, you know, to the Board and pundits to decide whether
19 down five percent without a Northern California circuit is a
20 good thing or problematic.

21 The CHRB has one new employee since last month,
22 Lynn Brenneman, who is here today and working for the CHRB
23 as the Licensing Manager. So welcome, Lynn, wherever she
24 is. And then we have a bunch of other employees here too,
25 which is cool.

1 Last weekend, Cal Expo Satellite had to close
2 unexpectedly for the weekend, negatively affecting the
3 employees, principally the parimutuel clerks, as well as the
4 handle, obviously. This is a reminder to the satellites
5 that the law requires a 15-day notice when needing to close.
6 Fortunately, SCOTWINC has agreed to cover the salary and
7 benefits for the three days from purses and commissions, so
8 I just really wanted to thank the TOC and the Southern
9 California tracks for that help. I know the employees at
10 Cal Expo Satellite appreciate it.

11 As the Board well knows, Del Mar, as Josh
12 mentioned earlier, will once again be hosting the Breeders'
13 Cup World Championships in a little more than two weeks'
14 time. California has hosted the event four of the last five
15 years and five of the last seven years.

16 We are once again poised to host a compelling,
17 safe event. Preparation has been taking place since the
18 last race was run a year ago at Del Mar, frankly. From a
19 regulatory standpoint, horses are already being examined
20 before arriving in California.

21 As Josh mentioned, the infrastructure and signage
22 are well underway at Del Mar, and our licensing offices will
23 be opening up and running this weekend on site. Both
24 Breeders' Cup and Del Mar are extraordinarily professional
25 entities, as are our federal regulatory partners in HISA and

1 HIWU. I personally appreciate and applaud the work of the
2 CHRB staff, both on site and at headquarters, who work
3 really hard to ensure that the event is safe, fair, and
4 organized.

5 Lastly, a few Board meeting kind of organizational
6 notes. Obviously, a new venue this year, and a lot's
7 changing, so I kind of wanted to give folks a heads-up.

8 Next month, the meeting will be held on Wednesday,
9 November 19th. This is a change from the original date, so
10 the day before the original meeting was scheduled to take
11 place. It will be held at ABC Cannabis Appeals Hearing Room
12 in downtown Sacramento. The information is already on our
13 website, and it will obviously appear in the agenda notice
14 as well.

15 Next, there will be -- well, I should next, there
16 will be no December meeting, we hope. At this point, I'm 95
17 percent sure we'll be canceling the December meeting, so I
18 wanted to give folks a heads-up, especially if you have
19 items that need to be heard in December. We'll be either
20 moving them up to November or off to January.

21 And then, finally, for calendar year 2026, our
22 intent will be to meet every other month beginning in
23 January on the second Wednesday of each month, with the
24 exception of November 11th, which is a state holiday, and
25 the Board will meet the following week. All of this will

1 appear on our website, so no need to write it down. All of
2 these dates, again, will be on the website, and in the end,
3 there will be two less Board meetings than there were held
4 this year.

5 I am pointing out this new schedule super early
6 because the CHRB wants to give stakeholders ample time to
7 prepare for the new reality. We realize you have deadlines
8 that -- and different negotiations and documents you have to
9 prepare, and with less Board meetings, that's more
10 challenging, but hopefully it will help you be more
11 organized as well.

12 We, on the CHRB's part, will be very disciplined
13 about the deadlines for submission of agenda items,
14 materials, and for the Board packets, as well as submission
15 of license applications.

16 With only six opportunities for the Board to
17 consider agenda items, stakeholders will have to be
18 disciplined about meeting these various deadlines as well.
19 Please reach out to the appropriate staff to understand the
20 cadence of agenda items and the applicable deadlines for the
21 submission of supporting documents.

22 That was kind of boring, but it's necessary
23 nevertheless. And that, Mr. Chairman, is my report.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

25 Any questions for Mr. Chaney?

1 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I would hope that we could
2 think about some of the meetings being in the south, move it
3 around a bit, so take a look at what that would mean.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Note taken.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: And I'll discuss it --

6 COMMISSIONER STERN: And I support that as well.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- I'll discuss it
8 with the Board and, obviously, the chairman as well.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.
10 Appreciate that report.

11 Dr. Blea?

12 DR. BLEA: Good morning, Vice Chairman Gonzales,
13 Commissioners, and Executive Director Scott Chaney.

14 I'm going to start with a screwworm update. We
15 continue to monitor the New World screwworm issue south of
16 the U.S. border. It is difficult to receive timely updates
17 simply due to the government shutdown. However, my sources
18 this week tell me that this remains a top national security
19 directive of the federal government.

20 On September 30th, the U.S. Food and Drug
21 Administration conditionally approved Dectomax injectable
22 solution for the prevention and treatment of New World
23 screwworm larval infestations for use in cattle only. There
24 are no other FDA-approved drugs for use to treat screwworm
25 in equines.

1 In the month of September, there was one
2 musculoskeletal fatality in racing. There was one fatality
3 related to colic and one fatality related to respiratory
4 illness.

5 In CHRB testing at the Maddy Lab in September, 128
6 paired blood and urine samples, seven blood-only samples,
7 and one hair sample underwent routine post-race testing.
8 Moreover, 168 post-race samples underwent supplementary
9 analysis for anabolic steroids, EPO, and cobalt. Ten out-
10 of-competition samples were submitted for routine and EPO
11 testing. And 10 official vet-list work bloods were also
12 tested. There were no adverse analytical findings in
13 September.

14 Lastly, I'd like to discuss scratches and voided
15 claims in California. Regulatory veterinarians in
16 California, which there is a tremendous shortage not only in
17 California but throughout the country and throughout the
18 industry for that matter, are often most criticized -- are
19 often criticized for scratching too many horses or
20 requesting diagnostics while placing horses on the vets'
21 list.

22 Any type of vet-list designation, including race
23 day scratches, are frustrating and costly to owners and
24 trainers. They are decisions that are not made casually or
25 unconsciously by regulatory veterinarians. I'm going to

1 repeat that. They are decisions that are not made casually
2 or unconsciously by regulatory veterinarians.

3 The same can be said relative to examinations for
4 post-claimed -- excuse me, post-race claimed horses. A
5 horse's physical condition can literally change within a few
6 hours. We've all experienced those changes. Regardless,
7 the horse must present sound at the time of examination in
8 order to compete or pass a post-race claim exam.

9 To address criticisms of regulatory veterinarians
10 regarding scratch rate, particularly with respect to post
11 parade scratches and post-race voided claims in California,
12 the data in Track Manager in Incompass for all racetracks in
13 California for fiscal year '24-25 was reviewed. The data
14 excludes Cal Expo, which races Standardbreds, and they do
15 not report their information into Track Manager.

16 The goals were simply: one, identify the number of
17 scratches in California for fiscal year '24-25; two,
18 identify the types of scratches; three, an in-depth analysis
19 of post parade scratches and compare it to cohorts regarding
20 time debris and race after being scratched; an in-depth
21 analysis of claims and voided claims and compare time to
22 race following a claim or a voided claim by comparing
23 cohorts; and lastly, to determine if the data supports
24 voided claims and post parade scratches.

25 In the analysis, in fiscal year '24-25 in

1 California, there were 21,987 total entries. There were 872
2 scratches, leaving us with 21,115 starts. 872 out of the
3 21,978 entries, or 3.9 percent of entries, were scratched in
4 California for fiscal year '24-25 due to a variety of
5 reasons.

6 Scratches are categorized by trainer and or
7 official vet scratches. They are further broken down and
8 categorized into type or reason for the scratch. For
9 example, injury, illness, and unsoundness are the three
10 primary scratch reasons that are submitted and documented.

11 Of the 872 scratches, official vet and trainer
12 reported injury scratches accounted for 42.43 percent of all
13 scratches in fiscal year '24-25 in California. Illness
14 reported scratches occurred 37.04 percent of the time, with
15 scratches related to unsoundness occurring 19.84 percent of
16 the time. Other types of scratches such as panel,
17 administrative, or eligibility type scratches occurred 0.69
18 percent or less than 1 percent of the time.

19 Trainers are a critical component and the bedrock
20 of horse safety and welfare. Trainer-affiliated scratches
21 accounted for 503 scratches, that is 57.68 percent of all
22 scratches, or 2.29 percent of all entries.

23 Official vet paddock injury-related scratches
24 occurred 2.87 percent -- or, excuse me, there were 25
25 official vet paddock or injury in the paddock scratches, or

1 2.87 percent of all scratches.

2 Gate injury scratches, there were 24 official vet
3 gate injury scratches, or 2.75 percent of all scratches.

4 There were 23 post parade scratches, or 2.64
5 percent of all scratches for unsoundness documented in '24-
6 25 during the fiscal year. These scratched horses were
7 compared to their cohorts, a cohort is a horse that ran in
8 the same race on the same day that a horse was scratched in
9 the post parade. This comparison was performed to evaluate
10 days to return to breezing and racing for both groups,
11 apples to apples, so to speak.

12 Again, today's the earthquake drill. Stop, drop,
13 and hold on.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: What you're saying is
15 earth-shattering; right?

16 DR. BLEA: Yeah. Apparently, the numbers are just
17 earth-shattering.

18 A post parade scratched horse took an average of
19 43 days to work back, whereas a cohort worked back on
20 average in 22 days. Essentially it took twice as long, or
21 three weeks, for the post parade scratched horse to work
22 back.

23 More interestingly, the post parade scratched
24 horse took an average of 108 days to return to the races
25 versus an average of 39 days, or approximately 10 weeks

1 longer than their cohorts to return to the races. Forty-
2 four percent of the horses scratched in the post parade have
3 not raced back as of October 1, 2025, whereas all of their
4 cohorts returned to the races on average in 39 days. This
5 data indicates that post parade scratches were horses that
6 required significant time off and that the scratches were,
7 in fact, justified.

8 Lastly, we'll look at claim horses to debunk some
9 claims, pardon the pun, that the post-race claim exam is
10 flawed. In fiscal year '24-25, there were 803 claims in
11 racing in California. Of those, 109, or 13 percent, were
12 voided claims following a post-race regulatory vet
13 examination by the official vet.

14 It is challenging to identify cohorts who were
15 claimed out of a race in which a claim, a voided claim
16 occurred. However, cohorts were identified and compared by
17 total number of voided claims per track with an attempt to
18 correlate a cohort to the class of race or a similar date of
19 voided claim. Voided claims took an average of 148 days to
20 return to the races versus an average of 28 days for the
21 cohorts. That's essentially four months longer for a voided
22 claim horse to return to the races. It's quite significant.

23 Furthermore, as of October 1st of this year, 46
24 percent of voided claims, nearly half of all the voided
25 claims, have yet to return to the races, opposed to only 5

1 percent of their cohorts. In other words, 54 percent of
2 voided claims took an average of 148 days to return to the
3 races, whereas 95 percent of their cohorts returned to the
4 races on average in 28 days.

5 This data also strongly indicates that claims that
6 are voided through the post-race claim exam are horses
7 requiring time off and are in fact justified.

8 In conclusion, regulatory veterinarians face many
9 challenges, obstacles, and often face stark criticism.
10 There are many rules, filters, and processes in place to
11 ensure that sound, healthy race horses are competing in
12 California. To ensure safety in horse welfare,
13 communication between owners, trainers, regulatory vets, and
14 attending vets is critical to those goals.

15 There are areas that certainly need improvement
16 with communication among stakeholders when a horse is
17 scratched, being the most obvious and the most important.
18 That's low-hanging fruit. Scratching a horse by a
19 regulatory vet is necessary at times and not done
20 frivolously. It is in fact executed with the horse's best
21 interest in mind.

22 In conclusion, after reviewing the data,
23 specifically to post parade scratches and the voided claim
24 program, the system in California is working quite well.

25 This concludes my report, and I'm happy to answer

1 any questions.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, Dr. Blea.

3 Board, any questions from that excellent
4 presentation? Yes, yes, you may.

5 DR. BLEA: It was obviously earth-shattering with
6 the --

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm just going to say
8 that report.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: It worked. I mean, I'm
10 still --

11 DR. BLEA: I'm still shaking.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- I'm still shaking.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No, thank you for
14 that, Dr. Blea, and this is something that we've been
15 discussing for some months. Dr. Blea has been working on
16 the statistics in -- with kind of the blessing of TOC, as
17 well, because they've been asking these questions.

18 And I think it's fair to say that it's not
19 accidental that we're talking about it now. We're like six
20 years. The events of 2019 are six years in the rearview
21 mirror, and I guess it's natural for, you know,
22 stakeholders, licensees, to start pushing back on regulatory
23 veterinarians because we've sort of righted the ship,
24 frankly, and I'm on the welfare front, and everybody
25 contributed to that.

1 Also, the Breeders' Cup is in two and a half
2 weeks, and we tend to see more high-profile scratches and
3 owners and trainers pushing back pretty hard, you know, and
4 saying that their horses was down and it was the wrong
5 scratch.

6 So I appreciate Dr. Blea doing all the work. I
7 know Santa Anita has some pretty compelling numbers as well.
8 And really, what they all point to is that the regulatory
9 vets are extremely good at identifying high-risk horses.
10 There's just no other way around it.

11 Even talking to my other counterparts, they get
12 way more pushback around the country on regulatory vet
13 scratches than we do because I think we have experienced a
14 bit of a cultural change here and people understand it a
15 little bit more. But it's never bad to reiterate the
16 importance because animal welfare is a continuing and
17 evolving thing for us, and it's not something where we've
18 reached the destination; right? And until the number is
19 zero, then we're going to keep at it.

20 But just for everyone listening, just know that,
21 A, they have an impossible job, and, B, they're usually
22 right. Does that mean a sound horse is not scratched
23 occasionally? No, that's going to happen, but we have to
24 err on the other side. There's just no other -- it's not
25 negotiable, I would say.

1 So thank you for that, Dr. Blea, and thank you for
2 all the work you're about to do with the Breeders' Cup
3 coming up because I know those are even tougher scratches
4 because they're heartbreaking for, you know, for the
5 connections. So thanks.

6 DR. BLEA: My pleasure. A couple comments
7 regarding the Breeders' Cup.

8 There's a team down there that works very
9 cohesively. And Breeders' Cup brings in veterinarians.
10 CHRB has veterinarians, and Del Mar has veterinarians. And,
11 you know, in fact, we have a panel review at one o'clock
12 looking at the entries for Friday and Saturday. Today we'll
13 start that. We're going to have that today at one o'clock.

14 But the point being is communication is critical,
15 especially during that week, and the communication amongst
16 the veterinarians is impressive to watch. But more
17 importantly, the communication from the veterinary team to
18 the stakeholders, including track management, owners,
19 trainers, agents, that we work very hard on. And that's
20 critical because it's very disappointing to tell -- to reach
21 a point where we have to -- you know, a horse has to be
22 scratched, and it takes a lot to reach that point.

23 And I think anything you do, you should be able to
24 justify it, and I'm confident that every scratch that we've
25 made or we will make will be justifiable based on good,

1 sound medical advice and opinions.

2 To Commissioner Stern's comment about AI, AI is
3 being looked at in combination with some of the wearables.
4 The araneo (phonetic) sensors, the StrideSAFE, and combining
5 that with AI to kind of give us another level of evaluating
6 at-risk. California is adding -- you know, a lot of
7 evaluations are subjective, and we need more objective data.
8 AI is one avenue.

9 Another avenue is our gait analysis objective
10 tools like the Sleip app, which we are about to go live with
11 in California to give us an objective tool when we evaluate
12 that horse, especially at a trot, to see what that horse's
13 gait looks like with an objective tool to turn around and
14 say, not only are we providing a subjective analysis based
15 on years of experience, data, history, but we're now adding
16 objectivity to our examination, which I think is critically
17 important.

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Well, I appreciate that
19 very, very much.

20 Commissioners, any other reactions to what was
21 shared? I mean, just tremendous, incredible information
22 that was shared.

23 You know, the only thing that I would add, you
24 know, Dr. Blea, you're doing a tremendous job, is, you know,
25 in addition to the Breeders' Cup races, there are, let's

1 call them, the undercards, so just making sure that the same
2 level, as we always do, I think we treat all race cards as
3 high profile.

4 The other thing would just be on the
5 communications end. You know, sometimes when a scratch has
6 to be made, making sure, and you know, you do have the
7 connections that aren't happy with what just took place for
8 all the right reasons, but just making sure that you and
9 your team in coordination with the appropriate authorities
10 are explaining.

11 And I think, you know, thanks to Scott and the
12 stewards for that matter, with us really trying to keep up
13 with the times about where stewards' decisions are at. That
14 ought to translate over into some of these important
15 decisions that are made. You get a lot of heat of the
16 moment kind of reactions on the part of the connections, and
17 I think what could be helpful is just some rationale.

18 The other thing, and finally, I just want to say,
19 I know you and Scott, Dr. Blea, will be participating in
20 the -- there's a veterinarian health and safety session that
21 happens a couple days prior. I've had the chance to listen
22 in and just to observe that, and that really sets the tone.
23 Because I think the media representatives, we do consider
24 them partners with what we do, so I think that is their
25 opportunity to really better understand. So I'm sure some

1 of them will be wanting to ask questions about what you just
2 shared with us, Dr. Blea.

3 So, again, thank you to you and your team, and
4 let's have a successful and safe Breeders' Cup.

5 DR. BLEA: Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you very much.

7 We've gone through the agenda items. We're now at
8 the public comment period. Is there anybody who would like
9 to come forward?

10 Rita, do we have none? Okay. Oh, we do have one.

11 Mr. Schmitt, if -- I know you didn't fill out the
12 card, but that's okay. George. We have George Schmitt,
13 owner from the Northern California area, and providing a lot
14 of time and energy into keeping racing going. So thank you,
15 Mr. Schmitt, for joining.

16 MR. SCHMITT: Good morning.

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Good morning.

18 COURT REPORTER: Is your mic on?

19 MR. SCHMITT: Thank you. Since -- oh, I didn't.
20 Thank you.

21 Since I was last with you, you know that my
22 partner, John Harris, died. The last time I was with John,
23 I promised John that I would continue to do what he and I
24 were working on to bring horse racing back into the county
25 fairs in Northern California.

1 Since then, I have hired a new CEO, a man named
2 David Elliott, who used to be COO at Cal Expo. He has
3 significant experience in doing all the things that some
4 people thought that I was not capable of doing, in addition
5 to my old age.

6 I want to read something to you a little bit.
7 "Our average handle was up 49 percent. Our attendance was
8 up 10 percent. Our horse races per race was up by one." I
9 wish I could say that that was a press release from a track
10 in California. That's what Emerald Downs did this year,
11 largely supported by horses from California, Cal-breds. You
12 can go and look at Energy Downs, Wyoming Downs, Sweetwater
13 Downs, Arapaho Downs in Wyoming and Colorado, and you'll see
14 significant parts of their fields are made up of Cal-breds
15 today.

16 Two weeks ago at the Arizona Horse Racing Board
17 meeting, the new CEO of Turf Paradise said he had
18 applications for stalls for over 3,000 horses; 40 of those
19 were from trainers in California.

20 I think as a group, all of us together need to
21 figure out whether or not we need California to continue to
22 have racing in the northern part of the state. The horses
23 in California today are down about 500 from a year ago.
24 Those 500 are what supported three other states' horse
25 racing, and a significant number of the horses that we have

1 in California today are not going to be here next month
2 because they're going to be in Turf Paradise, along with the
3 ones that were in the northwest.

4 I think a large part of that -- and by the way, I
5 did get our report of mares bred. It is the lowest number
6 of mares bred in the history of California since we started
7 keeping track of how many mares are bred, to barely over
8 1,000. In large part, in my opinion, it's because breeders
9 in Northern California have decided, and I know a number of
10 them, have decided not to breed their mares this year.

11 We need to figure out a way to bring horse racing
12 back into the county fairs in the north, in my opinion, so
13 that people with lesser horses don't feel obligated to ship
14 them to Wyoming or Colorado or Arizona or Washington so they
15 have a place where they can race and win.

16 I think, as a Board, you need to look at what
17 happened in Del Mar. As far as I can tell, seven races were
18 run by horses that were in -- and trainers from Northern
19 California during the entire meet. They had no races
20 restricted for Northern California horses, even though I
21 believe I heard that that was going to happen in your
22 meeting in June. You didn't have all the racing dates that
23 you granted people at Santa Anita. There was no four-day
24 racing meets that I can recall.

25 And I just, I think that we need to take a look at

1 what happened this year in California. I know that the
2 handle was up somewhat in southern California, but if you
3 look at the total state, because there was no handle in
4 Northern California, the handle is way down, by almost all
5 the money that has typically been bet in Northern California
6 at the fair races.

7 I'll be back. I am working with significant
8 sponsors for horse racing in Northern California. I am
9 working with five county fairs. You all know Sacramento has
10 destroyed their track and decided they'll never run again.
11 But there still are five race courses and county fairs that
12 are willing to run. I'm trying to get them all together. I
13 hope to have everything done by the end of this month and be
14 with you next month requesting dates for the county fairs in
15 the north again.

16 It's not simple. I don't like not having John to
17 talk to when I got a problem, but I think Dave Elliott and
18 the other folks that we've hired can help me get a long way
19 through this.

20 Money, I know everybody's going to say, you know,
21 where's the money coming from? Well, I don't think I need
22 to do more than tell you I have the money, and I will do
23 that before I come before you. I still have significant
24 amounts of money in Bernal Park Racing because John and I
25 put it in, and it's just sitting there now.

1 So thank you very much for the time. I hope you
2 think about what I said, and let's figure out how to get
3 this industry working all over the state of California
4 again. Thanks very much.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, George.
6 Appreciate your leadership very much.

7 Rita, any other public comment? Okay.

8 Mr. Chaney, I don't believe we have a closed
9 session. We don't have closed sessions, so that concludes
10 our meeting, and we're just going to need a motion to
11 adjourn.

12 Is there a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Motion.

14 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: So moved.

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: So we have Commissioner
16 Stern with Commissioner Alfieri seconding.

17 Commissioner Stern, how do you vote to adjourn?

18 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Davis?

20 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Commissioner Alfieri?

22 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

23 And the Vice Chairman votes yes to adjourn. So
24 thank you all. Be safe, and we'll see you at Del Mar for
25 the Breeders' Cup.

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(The Board adjourned at 10:32 a.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of November, 2025.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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

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

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



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

November 5, 2025