

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HORSE RACING BOARD

In the Matter of:)

)

Regular Meeting)

)

CANABIS CONTROL APPEALS PANEL

400 R STREET

HEARING ROOM 330

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory L. Ferraro, DVM, Chair

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner

Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner

Brenda Washington Davis, Commissioner

Peter Stern, Commissioner

STAFF

Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

ALSO PRESENT

Orlando Gutierrez, Marketing and Publicity Director, Los Alamitos

Josh Rubenstein, President, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

David Jerkins, Senior Vice President Racing

Bill Nader, President & CEO, TOC

Nelson Clemmons, CEO, AmWest Entertainment

Rajeev Sharma, Operations, DraftKings

Rick Baedeker, SCOTWNC

Ben Kenny

Francisco Uzal, Branch Chief-California Animal Health and Food Safety Lab, San Bernardino, UC Davis

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8. Satellite Consent Calendar Items: Consent items are expected to be routine and noncontroversial. It is recommended that the Board adopt these items without discussion. If any interested party, member of the Board, or staff member requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it will be considered separately. 19
- Action Items:
Approval by the Board regarding the following renewal applications for licenses to operate simulcast wagering facilities for a period of five years: Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, San Diego County Fair (Surfside Race Place), Los Angeles County Fair (The Derby Room), San Bernardino County Fair (The Derby Room), Solano County Fair (Winners' Circle), Southern California Fair & Events (The Derby Room).
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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 9:31 A.M.

4 WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

5 CHAIR FERRARO: All right, we'll get started,
6 everybody. We've got a long list of agenda items, so we'll
7 try to get through things pretty quick. Before we get
8 started with the meeting, a few things I have to report, as
9 you know.

10 This is a regular noticed meeting of the
11 California Horse Racing Board on Wednesday, May 13th, 2026,
12 at the Cannabis Control Appeals Panel Hearing Room 330 at
13 400 R Street, Sacramento. Present at today's meeting are:
14 myself, Dr. Gregory Ferraro, Chair; also Oscar Gonzales,
15 Vice Chair; Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner; Brenda
16 Washington Davis, Commissioner; Peter Stern, Commissioner;
17 Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner; and Scott Chaney, Executive
18 Director. Commissioner Thomas Hudnut is unable to attend
19 this month.

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

22 The Board invites public comment on matters
23 appearing on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, the Board
24 will first hear from those directly involved in the agenda
25 item. I will then invite public comment on the agenda item.

1 The Board will not answer questions. This item is for
2 comments only.

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

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

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

21 I will insist that all speakers stay strictly on
22 topic for each agenda item. If a speaker strays off topic,
23 I will ask to move to the next speaker. If a speaker
24 repeats themselves, I will ask the speaker if he has any new
25 comments to make. If there are none, the speaker will be

1 asked to let others speak to the Board.

2 If anyone has comments of a more general nature
3 that are not specific to the earlier agenda items, those
4 comments must wait until agenda item 17, Public Comment.
5 There will be a 30-minute time limit for public comment in
6 order to allow as many individuals to speak as possible
7 within that half hour. I will strictly enforce the two-
8 minute time limit for each unsolicited speaker.

9 And with that, we can move on to the meeting.
10 First is the approval of minutes of February 26th, '26. I
11 think we were all here except for Commissioner Hudnut.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: That's correct.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Can I have a motion to approve?

14 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Motion to approve.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Second?

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: David seconds.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

18 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

20 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Debra -- Davis.

1 Commissioner Davis?

2 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

4 Approval of minutes for March 11th, 2026. I think
5 we were all present for that. Do we have a motion to
6 approve?

7 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

8 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER STERN: I'll second.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

11 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

13 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

21 Okay, discussion and action by the Board on the
22 Application for a License to Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting
23 of the Los Angeles County Fair at Los Alamitos, commencing
24 June 17th through July 7th, inclusive.

25 MR. GUTIERREZ: Good morning Commissioners. My

1 name is Orlando Gutierrez here with Los Alamitos Race
2 Course, also on behalf of the L.A. County Fair meet here at
3 Los Alamitos. Just here to request approval of our
4 completed application to conduct the three-week race meet of
5 the Los Alamitos County Fair at Los Alamitos.

6 Opening day for the meet will be on Friday June
7 19th and continuing through Sunday July the 5th. As in past
8 years, with this meet, we'll have three major stakes races
9 highlighted by the running of the Great Lady M. Stakes on
10 4th of July.

11 The week prior to that, we'll have the running of
12 the Los Alamitos Derby. And also, in conjunction with that,
13 we'll have an on-track handicapping contest. That's always
14 one of our biggest days of this meet with a great on-track
15 crowd, usually one of our biggest on-track handle numbers as
16 well.

17 During the final week of the meet, which will be
18 from July 3rd through July the 5th, we'll have some -- we'll
19 start showing some enhanced coverage of our races via our
20 simulcast network. We'll be introducing some new cameras,
21 some enhanced upgrades and technical upgrades as well.
22 We'll have some additional analysts covering the races. And
23 this is due, as this will be the first week in the changing
24 landscape of the TV horse racing world, so we're getting
25 prepared for that.

1 So I humbly request approval of our completed
2 application for the meet.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board? Do
4 we have any? No? Do we have a motion?

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

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Second?

7 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Second.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

11 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

15 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

17 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes. Good
19 luck with everything.

20 MR. GUTIERREZ: Thank you so much.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number four, discussion and
22 action by the Board on the Application to License to Conduct
23 a Horse Race Meeting of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club at the
24 Del Mar Racetrack from July 8th through September 8th,
25 inclusive.

1 Gentlemen?

2 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Good morning, CHRB Commissioners
3 and staff. Josh Rubenstein with the Del Mar Thoroughbred
4 Club.

5 In your meeting package is DMTC's license
6 application for our eight-week summer meet from July 8th
7 through September 8th. We sent a -- set of very high bar in
8 2025 with average field size of 8.7 runners per race and a
9 purse increase -- or excuse me, a wagering increase of 6.7
10 percent. We're excited to offer a purse increase this year
11 with estimated total average daily purses of over eight
12 hundred and forty four thousand. Our two-year-old main
13 special weight races on their dirt will have a purse of
14 \$100,000 and that's a 25 percent increase from 2025.

15 Our summer meet will once again provide industry-
16 leading horse recruitment programs such as Ship & Win. Del
17 Mar's Senior Vice President of Racing, David Jerkins, will
18 have a racing overview shortly.

19 Just a few other comments. An aggressive
20 marketing plan led by social and digital media will support
21 our summer season, promoting Del Mar's high liquidity
22 wagering pools and payoffs to bettors, and also highlighting
23 Del Mar's lifestyle promotions such as craft beer events,
24 local food festivals, and college days to drive attendance.
25 We're also doubling down on social media influencers with

1 approximately 60 individual partnerships that will focus on
2 all aspects of Del Mar. Lastly our database program, the
3 Diamond Club, has over 400,000 opt-in customers and will be
4 used extensively to communicate to core customers and
5 provide compelling offers.

6 A few operational notes. Opening day will be
7 Friday, July 17th. Our 32-day race meet is one additional
8 day than the last several years, which has been a 31-day
9 season. We'll also be closing on Labor Day. That's a good
10 thing because traditionally the week after Labor Day are the
11 softest race days of the summer. So the way the calendar
12 falls this year, we'll close on Labor Day. And, again,
13 that's a departure from the last several years.

14 First post will also be consistent, 2:00 p.m.,
15 outside of closing weekend which will be 1:30, and that
16 includes Friday, which has had a late post for the last 20-
17 plus years.

18 Before I turn things over to David, we're proud to
19 continue our very popular backstretch Meals Program. Last
20 year, we provided over 22,000 free meals to the hard-working
21 men and women of the backstretch community. Meals are
22 provided five days a week and served in a communal setting
23 to promote socialization.

24 We'd like to acknowledge and thank CTHF and the
25 Oak Tree Racing Association for their generous support of

1 this very, very meaningful program.

2 And with that I will turn things over to David.

3 MR. JERKINS: Thanks Josh. David Jerkins, Del
4 Mar.

5 We will present 37 stakes races during our 32-day
6 meet, highlighted by the Pacific Classic on Saturday, August
7 22nd. That day's program will feature four stakes races in
8 total, including two Breeders' Cup Win and You're In races.

9 As Josh mentioned overnight purse levels will see
10 a slight increase as we will be offering a purse of \$100,000
11 for two-year-old maiden races on the dirt to help boost our
12 inventory. Our popular Ship & Win incentive program will
13 return this summer, which is so vital to our success over
14 the past years. We're receiving lots of positive feedback
15 on our meet and we are excited about opening day in just
16 over two months.

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

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Question from the Board?

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I just have one question,
20 Dr. Ferraro.

21 Thank you very much for your presentation.
22 Question for you, David. Related to the cancellation last
23 year, I think it was the Bob Hope Stakes, which you guys
24 didn't have a sufficient number.

25 COURT REPORTER: Your mics not on.

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Oh, okay. Thank you. We're
2 good?

3 CHAIR FERRARO: The other one.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: That's the wrong mic.

6 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: There's is an extra one
7 here. All right. Sorry about that, yeah.

8 Hey, just, you know, in reference to the
9 cancellation of the two-year-old Bob Hope Stakes Race, any
10 thinking into how we can avoid that kind of a situation this
11 year? I know Mr. Baffert has announced that he may be
12 taking some horses out, which actually could make the
13 situation a little bit more serious. So I wanted just
14 overall thoughts on that, you know, that situation and what
15 we're going to do to make sure that we have all the support
16 you need to make sure that we have as big of a field as
17 possible.

18 MR. JERKINS: Right. I think everywhere around
19 the country right now is having horse population issues.
20 We're trying to address the two-year-old issue that we
21 experienced like you mentioned -- we did have a stakes race
22 that didn't fill last fall -- with boosting the purses for
23 the maiden allowance races. And, also, we're going to
24 introduce some auction two-year-old races, which is
25 essentially like a B-level --

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. JERKINS: -- type maiden race. So we're just
3 trying to create as many two-year-old winners moving forward
4 to help boost our stakes down the line. I mean we have two
5 two-year-old stakes, as you know, during our meet, the
6 Vestal (phonetic) and the Del Mar Futurity. So it's
7 important to attract as many two-year-olds as we can into
8 our program.

9 MR. RUBENSTEIN: And these restricted races that
10 David mentioned, it's a big deal.

11 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mm-hmm.

12 MR. RUBENSTEIN: And we solicited input from
13 stakeholders. And, you know, not just California but
14 everybody has their challenges with two-year-olds, but we
15 happen to have the most prominent two-year-old trainer in
16 the game in Bob Baffert. And I think, you know, a lot of
17 connections were frustrated and looking for opportunities
18 that they wouldn't have to run against these top horses.

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mm-hmm.

20 MR. RUBENSTEIN: So we've created this restricted
21 maiden allowance level and we're excited about it. And
22 we're hoping it will generate more winners to go into
23 allowance races and stakes races, not just at Del Mar but
24 throughout California.

25 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: That's great to hear. Thank

1 you both.

2 And then I do know, I think it was Saratoga that
3 planned on doing something, so after their races closed on
4 the East Coast they were going to try to keep as many fans
5 there as possible. So hopefully you're coordinating with
6 them you know you know to the extent that we can, you know,
7 just to make sure that, you know, one, that we're
8 coordinating with Saratoga to the best extent possible, and
9 also seizing on that opportunity if they're going to keep
10 fans there from leaving to bet on West Coast racing. So --

11 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Yeah, we have a very good
12 relationship with NYRA CEO David O'Rourke and their Chief
13 Revenue Officer Tony Allevato, and conversations are ongoing
14 with how we can do that, and especially with the changing
15 landscape with FanDuel TV --

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right.

17 MR. RUBENSTEIN: -- you know, getting out of the
18 TV business after '26 likely, these, you know, ongoing
19 conversations.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Mm-hmm. Thank you.
21 Appreciate you both.

22 That's all I got, Chairman.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Anyone else?

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Mr. Chairman, I was
25 just wondering, maybe Josh or David could explain like the

1 auction restricted stakes, because I'm not sure everybody
2 would actually understand what that is.

3 MR. JERKINS: Right, so -- and they're pretty
4 popular races back East. The eligibility of the race is by
5 the price that the horse was sold at auction and their last
6 auction price. So, for example, we're going to offer races
7 for two-year-olds which have sold for \$150,000 or less at
8 auction. So it gives that kind of middle level
9 owner/trainer an opportunity to run against horses that were
10 purchased at similar bracket to hopefully break their
11 maidens, and that's what we're trying to accomplish. We're
12 trying to create as many two-year-old maiden winners as we
13 can.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I'll second.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

18 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

20 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

22 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes. Good
3 luck, fellas.

4 MR. JERKINS: Thank you.

5 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Josh you're up next again. Number
7 five is a discussion and action by the Board regarding the
8 distribution of race day charity proceeds of the Del Mar
9 Thoroughbred Club combined '25 -- 2025 race meetings.

10 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Yeah, pretty simple one. Del
11 Mar's 2025 charity days allocation request totals \$123,257.
12 The details are in your Board package. I'd like to note
13 that DMTC is supplementing that amount by an additional
14 \$79,914, so the total charity days contribution from Del Mar
15 in 2025 will be \$203,171.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: That's considerably more than it's
17 been in the past, isn't it?

18 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Yeah, it helps that Breeders'
19 Cup.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Wow. Yeah, right.

22 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Yeah, one of the many benefits of
23 having the Breeders' Cup in California.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Motion?

25 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Motion.

1 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Second.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

6 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

10 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

12 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes. Good
14 luck. Thanks for the contributions.

15 Item number six, discussion and action by the
16 Board regarding the request to modify the distribution of
17 Market Access Fees from Advance Deposit Wagering for
18 wagering conducted by Del Mar Thoroughbred Club for 2026 to
19 include a distribution to be utilized to fund a California
20 Co-Op Marketing Program.

21 Gentleman?

22 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Yeah, as we've done the past
23 several years, DMTC and TOC, and TOC does the same with
24 Santa Anita, jointly enter into a voluntary ADW deduction to
25 support our Co-Op Marketing Program. These are wagering

1 revenues that otherwise would fall to person commission so
2 essentially we're just taking money out of one pocket and
3 putting it into a co-op marketing plan. In 2026, the
4 deduction is projected to generate just over \$800,000.

5 And co-op marketing is essentially three buckets.
6 The first, horse recruitment programs such as Ship & Win,
7 which we spoke to earlier. Player rewards, so this is for
8 our largest customers on-track and in-state simulcast
9 wagering facilities to incent them to wager in state and on
10 track. Their rewards are provided. And then third,
11 communications efforts such as the California Horsepower
12 Coalition.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: What was that last one?

14 MR. RUBENSTEIN: The California Horsepower
15 Coalition.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: What do you do with that,
18 the Horsepower Coalition?

19 MR. RUBENSTEIN: So that is an initiative between
20 TOC, Del Mar and Santa Anita. We have a website promoting
21 all of the good things we're doing in California, everything
22 from safety and welfare to all of our backstretch
23 initiatives, so all of the good work that we're doing.

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: That's great.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Mr. Nader, do you have anything to

1 add, sir?

2 MR. NADER: Nothing further.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other questions from the
4 Board? Do we have a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: So moved.

6 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

8 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

10 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

14 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

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

19 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Number seven, discussion and
21 action by the Board on a request by NOTWINC on the Agreement
22 to use Market Access Fees for simulcast expenses not covered
23 by statutory deduction.

24 Bill, were you going to comment on that, item
25 number seven?

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: We have you as -- this
2 is NOTWINC expenses.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: You need a couple of days to think
4 it over?

5 MR. NADER: No, this is fees that -- for simulcast
6 expenses not covered by the statutory deduction. So it's a
7 small amount that's necessary to cover that. I think it's,
8 from my point of view, a straightforward request.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Any questions of Bill can't
10 answer? I'm faking on you, I'm sorry. Can we have a
11 motion?

12 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

13 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellano seconds.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

15 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

19 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

21 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

25 MS. RUBIN: Thank you.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: And thanks for your input.

2 Item number seven, discussion and action by the
3 Board on a -- eight, we're going to eight. Excuse me.

4 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: You got to bring him up
5 again.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, bring them up again.
7 Satellite consent calendar items. These are action items
8 for the Board regarding the renewal of applications for
9 license to operate simulcast wagering facilities for a
10 period of five years, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, San Diego
11 County Fair, Los Angeles County Fair, San Bernardino County
12 Fair, Solano County Fair, Southern California Fair.

13 Scott, do you have comments to make about this?

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Sure. Good morning.
15 Thank you, Chairman, and good morning, Commissioners.

16 As the Board might recall, about a year and a half
17 ago, you passed a regulation requiring applications
18 submittal by satellite facilities. This is a requirement we
19 never had before and, frankly, made regulatory oversight a
20 little bit difficult.

21 You examined and approved three applications, as I
22 recall, two months ago. There are six more for your
23 approval at this meeting. And I think we'll have a few
24 more, probably about another six or so, if I'm looking at
25 Sandra (phonetic) there, in July. All six are, you know,

1 obviously existing satellites and have complete licenses.

2 So we added this to consent calendar because we
3 didn't think there would be a ton of discussion, so we
4 present them to you for your approval.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board? You
6 don't have anything on this. Can we have a motion to
7 approve, please?

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman seconds.
10 Commissioner Stern?

11 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

13 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

21 Item number nine, discussion and action by the
22 Board on the application for approval to conduct Advance
23 Deposit Wagering of an AmWest Entertainment, LLC, an out-of-
24 state multi-jurisdictional wagering hub, for a period of two
25 years.

1 Yes, sir?

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Just kind of a
3 preview, if I might. Sorry, Nelson. The AmWest had their
4 first application two years ago, so this would be their
5 first renewal in California.

6 MR. CLEMMONS: No, thank you. Thank you. I am
7 Nelson Clemmons, the CEO of AmWest Entertainment. Our brand
8 name is AmWager. We are in our 23rd year of operation and
9 supporting the industry. I'm a longstanding thoroughbred
10 owner/breeder, and that's what brought me into this activity
11 in this industry. And we have our own online AmWager app.
12 We also do white labels. We do Saratoga bets and provide
13 other IT and tech solutions to the industry. We carry over
14 500 tracks, international as well as domestic, and
15 appreciate the relationship now that we have in California.

16 We have completed our current application and
17 answered all the CHRB requirements. We do have several hub
18 agreements. With the thoroughbred with the TOC that runs
19 through December 31st of this year. The harness is with
20 Watch and Wager, and that's valid through December 31 also.
21 And on the Quarter Horse side, we have a hub agreement
22 executed with Los Alamitos that's valid through June 30th.

23 We have also launched, and under notification to
24 Executive Director Chaney, our Parimutuel Powered Games, and
25 these are primarily offered on harness content in the B

1 pools, and it's an initiative to really give a good
2 injection of revenues into our horse racing industry and to
3 compete with some of the other wagering and betting options
4 out there.

5 And I'm pleased to answer any questions.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have any questions? No
7 questions? Do we have a motion?

8 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Motion to approve.

9 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellanos. Second.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

11 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

15 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

17 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

19 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes. Good

21 luck.

22 MR. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you for your presentation.

24 Item number 10, discussion and action by the Board
25 to partially suspend CHRB Rule 2072, subsection (b),

1 approval to conduct Advance Deposit Wagering by an out-of-
2 state Applicant, pursuant to CHRB Rule 1406, Suspension of
3 Rule, in order to consider DraftKings Racing ADW
4 Application.

5 Mr. Chaney?

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes, thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. This item goes with number 11, which is actually
8 the substantive piece of the application by the ADW company
9 operated by DraftKings.

10 Kind of as a preview, DK Horse has been operating
11 in California as a white label under CDI, under Churchill
12 Downs. They're splitting off and are looking to establish
13 their own ADW company, which would be a new one here in
14 California. So that's kind of the setting for the
15 licensure.

16 In order to do that, they turned in their license
17 application about 60 days ago. We have a Rule 2072(b), as
18 the Chairman pointed out, that requires that the Board have
19 the application 90 days in advance of the scheduled start
20 date. So staff is recommending suspending that rule for
21 this very specific purpose in order to consider their
22 license.

23 The alternative, and maybe this is kind of fallout
24 from having meetings every two months, we wouldn't be able
25 to consider it for another 60 days. So we thought, in

1 fairness, suspending 2072(b) was the appropriate action. As
2 you can tell in the staff analysis, the Board has done this
3 on occasion with respect to a variety of different issues.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions or comments from the
5 Board? Do we have a motion?

6 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis moves.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman seconds.

8 Commissioner Stern?

9 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

11 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

19 And related, on item number 11, discussion and
20 action by the Board on the application for approval to
21 conduct Advance Deposit Wagering of DK Horse, LLC, dba
22 DraftKings Racing, an out-of-state multi-jurisdictional
23 wagering hook for a period of two years.

24 Go ahead.

25 MR. SHARMA: Good morning, Chair, members of the

1 Board. Thank you for your time today. My name is Rajeev
2 Sharma. I lead the Operations Team for Horse Racing at
3 DraftKings, and just want to say thank you very much for
4 this opportunity.

5 DraftKings appreciates the time and consideration
6 the California Horse Racing Board has given to our advance
7 deposit wagering application. We are excited about the
8 opportunity to take this next step in California and to work
9 collaboratively within the industry to support the continued
10 growth and long-term success of horse racing in the state.
11 We look forward to the next phase of this process and to
12 supporting the future of horse racing in California.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board? Motion?

14 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Motion to approve.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we have a second?

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

18 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

20 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

22 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

24 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

1 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: And Chairman votes yes. Good
3 luck, sir.

4 MR. SHARMA: Thank you.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number 12, discussion and
6 action by the Board on the application for a license to
7 operate a mini satellite wagering facility of 300
8 Recreation, LLC, dba Santa Clarita Lanes, in Santa Clarita,
9 California for a period of five years.

10 Gentlemen?

11 MR. BAEDEKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
12 Commissioners. I'm Rick Bedecker.

13 MR. KENNEY: Ben Kenney.

14 MR. BAEDEKER: This site has been open for 15
15 years. I think it was the second mini satellite to open.
16 And I'd like to give credit to a gentleman named Tom
17 Christie, who was a Quarter Horse owner, and he was very
18 interested in opening this facility back then. And he
19 treats the business as his own. And I'll give you an
20 example.

21 I was there one day, and folks had dropped some
22 paper napkins on the floor. He walked up to them and said,
23 "Hey, listen, if I was at your house, would you drop paper
24 onto the floor?" And the gentleman said, "No, of course
25 not." He said, "Well, this is my house. Please pick it

1 up.”

2 But anyhow, he runs the operation like that and
3 it's a delight and he's a delight. And they do great handle
4 for us and return a lot to the industry. So obviously, we
5 recommend them for your approval.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Any other comments to make?

7 MR. BAEDEKER: Yeah, this -- I'll make the
8 comments, if you will, after you vote --

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

10 MR. BAEDEKER: -- if that's all right?

11 CHAIR FERRARO: That's fine.

12 Any questions from the Board?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: I'll make a motion to
14 approve.

15 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Second.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

17 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

19 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

25 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

2 MR. BAEDEKER: Yes, thank you. So I want to let
3 you know that at the end of this month, I will be retiring
4 from racing. And I'm pleased to let you know that Ben
5 Kenney will be taking over as General Manager of SCOTWINC.
6 Ben, we all know from having worked with him, he's a great
7 guy, diligent guy, and I'm sure he'll do great work for
8 SCOTWINC.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Oh, geez. Anything's got to be
10 better than you, Rick; right?

11 MR. BAEDEKER: I knew I should have said that
12 before you did.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Well, welcome to the club.

14 MR. KENNEY: Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, thanks for your service.

16 MR. BAEDEKER: Thank you. And I'd just like to
17 say, along those lines, it's been terrific. It's been 50
18 years. And, you know, I had a lot of different roles during
19 that period of time. But the most gratifying and most
20 meaningful one that I ever had was sitting up there. And
21 I'm so grateful for that opportunity.

22 And more than that, and I think this probably
23 applies to everybody here, we are so fortunate to be in this
24 great sport, as epitomized on Derby Day. And so that, not
25 only that but working alongside the people who love it,

1 that's just been a terrific gift. So I'm grateful for it.

2 And I wish you all the best.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Rick. You will be
4 missed for sure.

5 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Thank you to you, Rick.
6 I'll just say, you know, you've given your heart and soul in
7 this, as you said, 50 years. Yeah, I'm on. And thank you
8 for all -- you know, we wouldn't be here today with all --
9 everything that you put into it all those years, so --

10 MR. BAEDEKER: I appreciate it. I'm guessing that
11 people are going, now let's see, he's been in the sport for
12 50 years. So how old is this guy?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Well, you're 103. No.

14 MR. BAEDEKER: Almost. Thank you. Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Best of luck to you.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Item number 13, discussion and
18 action by the Board regarding the proposed amendments to
19 Board Rule 2000 in the appendix, General Provisions, Article
20 20, Conflict of Interest, to update the Conflict of Interest
21 code.

22 Mr. Chaney?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. This is pretty in the weeds.

25 As the Board knows, you are statutorily required

1 to submit Form 700 with respect to Conflict of Interest, as
2 well as a number of employees for the Board, for each
3 department, including ours. We've recently gone through a
4 bit of a reorganization, so some of the titles have changed.
5 And so we need to update the appendix in order to reflect
6 those changes.

7 So it's presented before the Board for approval.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Comments from the Board? I guess
9 we're going to shape up; right? Do we have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Motion to approve.

11 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Second.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

13 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

17 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

19 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

21 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes.

23 Moving on to item number 14, discussion and action
24 by the Board regarding the proposed amendment to CHRB Rule
25 1867, Prohibited Veterinary Practices, to add pin-firing,

1 freeze-firing of shins, vesicants, and counter-irritant
2 injections.

3 Shows you, we've come a long way. This used to be
4 standard treatment; right? Yeah. And when's the last time
5 you pin-fired a horse? You won't admit it anyway.

6 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Wow.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah. Anyway, any questions on
8 the Board? I'll make a motion to approve.

9 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

11 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

15 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

19 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: And, obviously, the Chairman votes
21 yes.

22 Item number 15.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Can we take like
24 maybe --

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Can we take a little break,

1 because you got to get set up, so we'll take a five-minute
2 break, and then we'll do the last item.

3 (Off the record at 10:06 a.m.)

4 (On the record at 10:09 a.m.)

5 CHAIR FERRARO: We'll get started again. Item
6 number 15 is a report and discussion on the California
7 Postmortem Program, Fatality Review Program for Fiscal Year
8 2024/2025.

9 Dr. Francisco Uzal, Branch Chief, California
10 Animal Health and Food Safety Lab, San Bernardino, UC Davis,
11 welcome.

12 DR. UZAL: Thank you. And I need to use the
13 microphone; right?

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Yes.

15 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah --

16 DR. UZAL: Okay.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: -- so the guy in the back gets
18 you.

19 DR. UZAL: Okay, and I don't want to give my back
20 to anyone, but that's impossible.

21 So I'm going to tell you, of the people here,
22 who's familiar with the Postmortem Program? Most of you;
23 right? So I'm preaching to the choir here.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: He's familiar with the
25 postmortem.

1 DR. UZAL: So this started in 1990. And
2 basically, there's a legislation that requires that every
3 horse that dies in a California facility under the
4 jurisdiction of this Board undergoes a postmortem
5 examination. And this has been going on for 26, 27 years
6 now -- 37, 37, since 1990. And then, as you are probably
7 aware, in 2020, there was national legislation under HISA
8 that mandates necropsies for all horses that die at Cal-bred
9 racetracks.

10 So what do we do? We started, as I said, in 1990.
11 Very quickly, we became a national and international model.
12 And we've done postmortems until the end of June last year
13 of 7,713 horses. The word necropsy, autopsy, and postmortem
14 are synonymous, so I exchange them.

15 The goals of the program are to determine the
16 nature of the injuries, to determine the reason for those
17 injuries, and to, when possible, develop injury prevention
18 strategies. And I think we've been very successful.

19 There are three main actors. The racetracks bring
20 the horses to us. This is not mine, though, because they
21 charge a fortune. You know how much it is to bring a horse
22 from Santa Anita to the San Bernardino Laboratory? Any
23 ideas? \$500, 60 miles. So we do the necropsies and produce
24 the reports. And CHRB pays for the program.

25 The California Animal Health and Food Safety

1 Laboratory is a department of UC Davis. And we have four
2 laboratories throughout the state, but we do horse
3 necropsies in three of the labs. Most of them, close to 90
4 percent, are in San Bernardino, where I'm based. We do a
5 few in Davis, and usually one or two a year in Tulare.

6 How does it work? We receive the horses. We open
7 them up. We do a full postmortem. We don't just check the
8 legs. We check the internal organs, collect samples for
9 testing. We do a thorough musculoskeletal examination. If
10 there's a fracture, we go the whole leg. And we produce our
11 reports. And then our necropsy findings in different
12 systems, the musculoskeletal, the GI, the respiratory,
13 nervous, skin, heart, the whole body. We have an agreement
14 with several haulers that bring the horses to us 24/7, even
15 if we are not at the lab.

16 As I said, we do a full necropsy. If there is a
17 leg injury, we examine the affected leg and the
18 contralateral. And I'm going to talk a little bit more
19 about that. We do toxicology in almost every case. And
20 then, depending on what we require, we do several other
21 tests.

22 So, I'm going to change, so sorry.

23 This is -- we have technicians that open up the
24 horses. We look at the internal organs. The veterinarians
25 in the room, what do you have in front of you? What's the

1 problem with this horse? Come on.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Come on, Doc.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: (Indiscernible.)

4 DR. UZAL: This was a colic here. This is a
5 displacement of the colon. This is --

6 CHAIR FERRARO: (Indiscernible).)

7 DR. UZAL: -- not fixable surgically. The colon
8 is -- I'm not going to get into details, but it's completely
9 wrong. Sometimes we save the legs. But lately, we've been
10 very timely, so we do the examination of the legs the same
11 day or the day after.

12 So this is a message that I insist every time.
13 The most prevalent cause of death in racehorses in the U.S.
14 and elsewhere are the catastrophic fractures. And the great
15 majority of them have pre-existing lesions, which means that
16 that gives an opportunity to prevent it if we can pick up
17 those pre-existing lesions.

18 Look at this. This is the distal part, the bottom
19 part of the cannon bone. I can't point here, but see those
20 blue circles there? Can you see them? Okay. Those are
21 lesions there. And eventually, if you cut the bone, you
22 will see them, see those black spots. And when you have the
23 catastrophic fracture, which is that fracture there, it's
24 called condylar fracture, that goes exactly through those
25 pre-existing lesions.

1 There are basically three main findings that you
2 find in the musculoskeletal system: the acute injury, that's
3 easy; the associated pre-existing lesions, that's a bit
4 trickier; and then the degenerative joint disease and the
5 soft tissue injuries. This is the acute injury. You see
6 this, nobody -- you don't even need to be a genius to say
7 there was a cannon bone fracture there. You are not going
8 to miss it.

9 This is a humerus. And that thing that you see
10 there, I'm going to go and point, so if you have one place
11 to point. See this thing here?

12 COURT REPORTER: I need you on microphone.

13 DR. UZAL: And I'm coming back, I'm coming back.
14 That thing I just pointed out, it's a pre-existing callus.
15 That has been there for weeks. And that can be picked up by
16 imaging. And if we let the horse rest, the catastrophic
17 fracture is not going to happen. So those pre-existing
18 injuries that predispose to catastrophic fractures develop
19 over weeks to months, which means that's an opportunity for
20 us for intervention and prevention.

21 And then number three are the -- DJD stands for
22 degenerative joint disease and chronic soft tissue injuries.
23 This is the carcass of the horse. And those -- I'm not
24 going to go there and point, you're going to yell at me --
25 those holes that you see in the cartilage, those are ulcer,

1 very painful. So the number one lesson, 90 percent or maybe
2 more of catastrophic fractures occur over pre-existing
3 lesions. So this is a take-home message.

4 Then, we check other systems. This is a so-called
5 right dorsal colitis that cause colic. This is caused by
6 non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, very common. This is
7 a pleuropneumonia associated with travel.

8 This is a wobbler. This is -- what you see in the
9 center there, that's a spinal cord. And you see it's
10 compressed by the bone, making the horse wobbly. This is a
11 congenital malformation.

12 But what's the number one breed affected by this?
13 Thoroughbreds. This is a dermatitis and horrific
14 tenosynovitis. This was an infected injection site.

15 So specifically, the report of the past year, as
16 you can see, we had a year that we had a peak in 2006 that
17 was 300 and something horses. We are coming down
18 significantly. Look, 1920 [sic], 120 horses. Then
19 following year, 72, and 68, and 65, 88, 85. Last year, we
20 had 99. I think there's an explanation. And see that the
21 top year was 325.

22 Now, this year so far, and remember we go fiscal
23 year, we go from the 99 there on the right to 47. And we
24 are in mid-May, so by the end of June, maybe we have three,
25 four more horses. So I'm speculating we'll end up the year

1 with 50 horses. So if we go to the previous graph, it's
2 going to bring us down again. Those 99 for the past period
3 included those 12 horses that were contact and euthanized
4 for the equine infectious anemia case. So that really
5 bumped up the number.

6 So organ systems affected, as you can see, that MS
7 that you see there, not the one I just pointed, the MS means
8 musculoskeletal, those are the fractures, that 55, that's
9 usually the more frequently affected. But you have those
10 12. HL means hemolympathic, and that's the system affected
11 by equine infectious anemia.

12 Breeds, as you can see, mostly thoroughbreds. We
13 still have a fair number of Quarter Horses and a few
14 Standardbreds. Age, we usually work with young animals,
15 which are the active racing horses. But we do the ponies as
16 well, so we have a few over nine years old.

17 Traditionally, we get more horses that get injured
18 during race and training. Lately, we are having more non-
19 exercise related because we are having more medical, less
20 musculoskeletal injuries.

21 Usually, the submission is regular throughout the
22 year. Last cycle, that was the October 2024, that includes
23 the 12 equine infectious anemia cases. That's why the
24 spike.

25 Gender, just more or less distributed male,

1 female, and geldings.

2 Structures affected, you can see this is always
3 the same, left front, right front, front legs. Those are
4 the bigger numbers.

5 And this is interesting. I put this here to point
6 at you. Traditionally, musculoskeletal injuries, those are
7 the blue bars, were the most important causes of submission.
8 In 2022/23, it reverted a little bit, just because the
9 musculoskeletal injuries are going down. That's why I said
10 we are doing a good job. In 2024, we reverted, 2025, a
11 little bit more. And this year, we are probably going to be
12 equal, musculoskeletal and other systems.

13 These are the sudden death. And you know, every
14 time there's a sudden death, particularly when there's a
15 sudden death during Breeders' Cup or one of the important
16 races, it's a big headache and P.R. complication. The
17 numbers are more or less constant. You know, I always say
18 between 8 and 12, 13, one year, we had 16 sudden deaths, but
19 usually, no more than that. And this is comparing sudden
20 death with other fatalities. The percentage stays more or
21 less the same.

22 So the sudden death, historically, in 50 percent
23 of the cases, we come out empty handed. We scratch our
24 head. We don't know what happened. We assume that it's
25 heart failure. But from a pathologist's point of view,

1 there's not much more that we can do. So we assume heart
2 failure is suspected based on we rule out all other causes
3 of death. We don't find anything specific.

4 What are we doing next? We are trying to
5 standardize postmortem examination throughout the country
6 and throughout the world. We are working with several other
7 districts. We need to do necropsies of horses that have a
8 good antemortem cardiac workup, you know, EKG, that type of
9 thing. We usually don't get those. We are working on
10 exercise history and sudden death. We are looking into
11 genetics that doesn't look very promising, but we are
12 looking into that. And we have a tissue bank. We have a
13 whole lot of tissue saved from sudden death horses.

14 We offer a lot of training to trainers, owners,
15 officers. We have a Fellowship Program, I mentioned about
16 this, that started in 2018, and it's been hugely successful.
17 We produce more timely reports. It's more efficient. We
18 are very consistent with the documentation that's helpful
19 for the fatality reviews. We are focused and help without
20 outreach. And we are training the new generation. I'm not
21 getting any younger.

22 So this is Monika Samol, our first fellow. This
23 is Carlos Schild that followed after Monika. And currently,
24 Jeanette Espil. She's still working with us.

25 We do scientific publications. We are putting

1 up -- this is the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic*
2 *Investigation*, one of the most popular scientific journals
3 for diagnostic laboratories. And we are coming up with a
4 special issue on racehorse diseases, particularly injuries,
5 coming up at the end of the year. We go to scientific
6 meetings. This is ICRAV in Melbourne, Australia, back in
7 March this year. And we do lots of training workshops. We
8 are coming with one up in Kentucky in August. We take
9 bones. We take specimens.

10 So we want to thank our sponsors, CHRB, the Center
11 for Equine Health, the Dolly Green Foundation, the Grayson
12 Jockey Club, the Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Racing
13 Association, and lots of people help. Here, we have Dr.
14 Blea. We are on the phone very frequently. Sometimes when
15 you call me during the weekends, my wife says, geez, are you
16 two dating?

17 So thank you very much. If you have any
18 questions, I would be happy to answer.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

20 Do we have any questions from the Board?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Can I ask two?

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, go ahead.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Great. Just two
24 questions, Dr. Uzal.

25 One, just from a HISA perspective, did your

1 necropsy report submissions for HISA look -- is their model
2 largely based on your program at this point?

3 DR. UZAL: I think so.

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay.

5 DR. UZAL: I think so. So we don't share -- you
6 know, you are our client --

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Right.

8 DR. UZAL: -- so we share our reports only with
9 you, and I believe you share with HISA.

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Right.

11 DR. UZAL: But very frequently HISA comes to us
12 and wants us to give opinion on reports from other
13 jurisdictions.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Is it fair to say that
15 before HISA started, like sort of the spectrum of necropsy
16 abilities, even doing that, was kind of all over the map
17 across the country?

18 DR. UZAL: Absolutely. Absolutely. Today, this
19 morning, I had a phone call about the necropsy report on
20 which there was a humeral fracture, and they hadn't examined
21 the other humerals, and they hadn't even looked whether
22 there was a pre-existing fracture. So there's still a lot
23 of work to do nationwide and internationally. But I think
24 in California, we're safe.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Well, you're the

1 model, so congratulations.

2 DR. UZAL: I hope so. Thank you.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: A completely separate
4 question. Sudden death in Quarter Horses has been a bit of
5 a thing over the last few years.

6 DR. UZAL: Yeah.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Carmoterol positives
8 are also kind of recent. In your opinion, can those or may
9 they be related?

10 DR. UZAL: No, we just, we thought about that
11 before. We just came up with a paper that was just accepted
12 for publication. We did every toxicology under the sun,
13 thoroughbreds and Quarter Horse, and came up completely
14 empty-handed. So occasionally, you know in the past, we had
15 that cluster of horses with anticoagulant rodenticide
16 poisoning.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Mm-hmm.

18 DR. UZAL: But that's a rare thing. Occasionally,
19 we come up with something. But the general, the rule of
20 thumb for sudden death is it's not toxic.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: It's usually heart-
22 related?

23 DR. UZAL: We think. We think. Because the
24 problem is if you have -- if you have a heart attack right
25 now and you die, there's no time for the heart to develop

1 lesions. So you open it up and you don't see anything. You
2 need to survive several hours to be able to see the lesions.
3 And usually, it doesn't happen --

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Right.

5 DR. UZAL: -- with the horses.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Okay. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: I have a question, a
8 quick question, Doc. So you mentioned that you looked into
9 genetics and not really successful. Is there -- I mean, it
10 seemed you mentioned about the wobble is mainly on the
11 thoroughbreds. Is there something that that's not connected
12 to genetics at all?

13 DR. UZAL: No, that probably is. That probably
14 is.

15 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Oh.

16 DR. UZAL: But the wobble doesn't cause sudden
17 death. I was talking about genetics for sudden death.

18 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Ah, okay.

19 DR. UZAL: With the wobblers, there's a
20 completely, and we don't do that, but there's a completely
21 line of research. And, yeah --

22 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: I see.

23 DR. UZAL: -- it's clearly genetic.

24 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Okay. Oh, I
25 understand. Thank you.

1 DR. UZAL: Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Davis?

3 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Well, actually, it's funny,
4 I had the same question about the wobblers. And so it
5 sounds like we're just in the beginning of research about --

6 DR. UZAL: I think so. Once again, we don't do --
7 we see them occasionally.

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Uh-huh.

9 DR. UZAL: Very rarely with racehorses. We see it
10 with thoroughbreds, but usually not racehorses. I think I
11 can, in 25 years, 26 doing this, I can count them with the
12 fingers of one hand, the wobblers, I think, through this
13 program. Very rare.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Doctor.

15 DR. UZAL: Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Nice to see you again.

17 DR. UZAL: Thank you. Thank you everyone.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Now, we're moving on to the
19 Executive Director's Report here.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Once again, thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman, and good morning, Commissioners.

22 I will begin with the handle report. For the
23 month of March, day racing handle was down 17 percent, night
24 racing handle was down 27 percent, and total handle was down
25 18 percent as compared to March of 2025.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Wow.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: For the month of
3 April, day racing was down 2 percent, night racing down 28
4 percent, and total handle was down 6 percent as compared to
5 April of 2025. Year to date, day racing is down 6 percent,
6 night racing is down 23 percent, and total handle was down 8
7 percent compared to 2025.

8 So just one note on that regarding night racing,
9 obviously the decreases are significant. I believe it's a
10 reflection of the lack of Standardbred racing this winter,
11 which we won't have for the, you know, first time. On the
12 upside, Standardbred racing will return at Fresno next fall.
13 So in theory, those numbers should be reversed.

14 In April, I attended the ARCI Annual Conference.
15 In addition to the Executive Board meeting and Model Rules
16 Committee meetings, there were lots of interesting panels.
17 I participated on one panel regarding CAWs, but other topics
18 included unsanctioned racing, using AI to protect horses for
19 gait analysis, anti-doping updates, aftercare. And kind of
20 the big sort of hot topic these days is prediction markets.
21 And that's just not limited to horse racing. That's, you
22 know, affecting sports betting around the country.

23 Yesterday, Governor Newsom appointed Rohit Chopra to
24 lead the new Business and Consumer Services Agency. As the
25 Board knows, CHRB currently falls under BCSH agency. But on

1 July 1st, it will divide into two entities, one specializing
2 in housing, and the other, BCSA, will focus on consumer
3 protection. BCSA will be comprised of alcohol and beverage
4 control, cannabis, consumer affairs, real estate, and of
5 course, CHRB. I look forward to working with Secretary,
6 hopefully soon to be, Secretary Chopra.

7 A few administrative notes. The next Board
8 meeting will be held here in Sacramento on July 8th.
9 Additionally, CHRB staff are working to standardize Board
10 packet submissions to make them more accessible and comply
11 with accessibility laws surrounding public documents. So
12 just a note to stakeholders to look for guidance in the
13 coming weeks with respect to those types of submissions.

14 And that, Mr. Chairman, is my report. Any
15 questions from the Board?

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Well, yes, Mr. Chairman, I
17 do have one point. Well, I was going to bring up one point,
18 but I'll bring up another one that I think is a little bit
19 more pressing here.

20 Scott, during the Del Mar and Los Alamitos
21 reports, both representatives referenced somewhat indirectly
22 the impact that less coverage is going to be having on
23 racing. So I really want to say thanks to Los Alamitos and
24 Del Mar. And I think what you both were referring to was
25 the lack of FanDuel coverage for the future.

1 You know, I know the announcement of that happened
2 in between Board meetings, but I wanted to elevate a letter
3 that was written to FanDuel on behalf of the only
4 organization that represents turf writers and broadcasters.
5 And I was actually reminded about the importance of
6 coverage, you know, when the *Trainer Magazine* was put on our
7 desk. I mean, this is one of many, many points of media and
8 press coverage that our industry needs and deserves. So,
9 Alan, again, thank you for the *Trainer Magazine*.

10 But I want to just read this very brief letter
11 that was written to FanDuel leadership. Again, this letter
12 is on behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Turf
13 Writers and Broadcasters signed by Byron King, their current
14 president. So the letter goes as follows:

15 "Earlier today, the Board of Directors of the National
16 Turf Writers and Broadcasters shared a letter with the
17 executive leadership at FanDuel and Flutter
18 Entertainment expressing our concerns regarding the
19 decision to phase out FanDuel TV.

20 "Beyond sharing this letter, we wish in this
21 communication to express our support for our members
22 and colleagues affected by these job cuts. The
23 reporting and storytelling you have brought to FanDuel
24 TV have made meaningful impact on unique journalism and
25 the sport as a whole. That is not lost on your

1 colleagues or the many fans of this sport.”

2 The letter sent to FanDuel and Flutter
3 Entertainment executives appears below and lists the FanDuel
4 leadership, which I believe has changed somewhat.

5 “On behalf of the Board of Directors of the NTWB, an
6 organization that advocates on behalf of journalists
7 covering this horse racing, and we write to express our
8 deep disappointment regarding the decision to phase out
9 FanDuel and wind down your racing broadcast coverage.

10 We fully recognize that Flutter Entertainment and
11 FanDuel, like any business, must make decisions aligned
12 with their long-term strategy and their financial
13 priorities.

14 “However, the impact of this decision extends well
15 beyond a balance sheet. It affects more than 170
16 employees. Some of them are colleagues and members,
17 talented broadcasters and contributors to FanDuel TV,”
18 and it lists the various FanDuel personalities that
19 will be impacted.

20 It also mentions, “As you know, many others,
21 producers, camera operators, and other behind-the-
22 scenes professionals also play vital roles in
23 telling FanDuel TV stories. Their loss of employment
24 is equally troubling.

25 “We commend FanDuel for its longstanding commitment to

1 horse racing coverage." I'm going to repeat that part
2 because I think FanDuel needs to be recognized for what
3 it's done. "We commend FanDuel TV for its longstanding
4 commitment to horse racing coverage. For more than two
5 decades, from its origins as TV through its rebrand as
6 FanDuel TV, the network has brought racing into
7 millions of homes, introduced new audiences to the
8 sport, and delivered consistent, informed coverage.
9 That legacy makes this decision to phase out the
10 network all the more difficult to accept. Without
11 FanDuel TV's presence, horse racing risks becoming less
12 visible and less accessible to the public.

13 "Should there be a viable path to reconsider this
14 decision, we urge FanDuel and Flutter leadership to
15 explore it. We also encourage consideration of a sale
16 of the network to an entity willing to continue regular
17 operations. The infrastructure, audience, and brand
18 equity built over decades represent valuable assets.

19 "Respectfully, Byron King, President."

20 So, you know, I just wanted, one, just to, again,
21 thank FanDuel and, again, Del Mar and Los Alamitos for
22 reminding us of how important that kind of coverage is.

23 And Mr. Executive Director, thank you for also
24 indicating a little bit of the dip in important indicators
25 that we look at. I don't think it's a secret that

1 California has its share of struggles. So the numbers that
2 you read, of course, should capture the attention, not just
3 of this Board, but of racing fans and other regulators
4 across the country.

5 So, you know, I know on the face of it, most would
6 think, well, what can the California horse racing possibly
7 do? But I really believe that when we get a letter that was
8 written on behalf of the employees and representatives who
9 will be impacted, I think we have to at least have a brief
10 discussion and even maybe dedicate an agenda item to July
11 about what is it that we could possibly do? We do know that
12 some entities and leaders have expressed how to pick up the
13 pieces, what can possibly be done. But we are a regulator.
14 We do our best to embrace our mission of the CHRB, which is
15 to promote racing.

16 And I also thought about, Mr. Chaney, the great
17 job you did when Golden Gate Fields was about ready to be
18 closed and writing a letter to The Stronach Group, which I
19 thought was really critical. And you, of course, did so
20 after taking a lot of important factors into account.

21 So I just wanted to get your thoughts, Mr. Chaney.
22 I know you're close to the action. But, you know, I guess
23 what I would hope is that if there's no objections from the
24 Commissioners, that maybe we consider writing another letter
25 to FanDuel to asking that they, you know, really meet with

1 the leaders of Byron King's group and perhaps even consider
2 delaying these layoffs that are imminent. We do know that
3 FanDuel, its anchor office is based here in Southern
4 California, right off the 5 Freeway, in fact, for those who
5 do go to LAX, you'll see it right there on the west side of
6 the Freeway. So we do know that FanDuel has called home to
7 California and the West Coast.

8 So, Mr. Chaney, I just want to just turn it over
9 for you for any comments, any reactions.

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No, I think that's a
11 good idea and thanks for suggesting it. I think it's
12 probably similar to the Golden Gate closing, because you're
13 right, I mean, obviously Golden Gate did close --

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right.

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- but we were able to
16 get an additional six months --

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- in order to sort of
19 make the landing a little bit softer.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: And so maybe, you
22 know, even if it's not successful in turning FanDuel's
23 decision around, at least, you know, extending the life so,
24 you know, we can find either both soft landing spots for all
25 of the people affected, but more importantly, a replacement

1 if that's necessary.

2 I do know that NYRA Jockey Club and of the
3 national -- a few other national organizations are talking
4 about a replacement, which I think is critical for national
5 racing. I mean, the good thing, I don't know if maybe good
6 thing is the wrong term, but this is a national problem;
7 right?

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: It's just not a
10 California one, because FanDuel served the entire country.
11 And so to have every other -- we're actually aligned with
12 every other state in this endeavor.

13 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right. And I do know you
14 were at the ARCI Conference recently, and others. I know
15 you're really speaking from first-hand experience.

16 So, I mean, maybe, you know, I know, Mr.
17 Castellanos, you also have a deep care and respect for
18 frontline workers. Whether these are unionized workers or
19 not, I'm not sure. But maybe, you know, Commissioner
20 Castellanos and I can work with you on a letter and even
21 maybe even engaging with FanDuel directly. Because, as I
22 said, they have really done a tremendous job for the sport
23 and we would really approach this from a respectful
24 standpoint, but I think going on record as exploring an
25 option. We do know that there's been a leadership change at

1 FanDuel. So whether that would have any impact, who knows.

2 But, so anyway, Mr. Castellanos, I don't know if
3 you have anything you'd like to weigh in on. I'm sure
4 you've been picking up on the news of this as well.

5 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yeah, no, I think
6 that's a good idea, and we can do that also through our
7 organization with -- the Teamsters Union could possibly do
8 the same.

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you.

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: All right, Jeffrey.

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

15 Pursuant to the Horse Racing Integrity and Safety
16 Act of 2020, the HISA Board was required to consider whether
17 modification of the existing prohibition on furosemide was
18 warranted. Under the Act, any modification required a
19 unanimous Board vote on the following four findings: one,
20 that the modification is warranted; two, that the
21 modification is in the best interest of horse racing; three,
22 that furosemide has no performance enhancing effect on
23 individual horses; and lastly, that public confidence in the
24 integrity and safety of racing would not be adversely
25 affected by the modification.

1 In accordance with the statutory framework, on
2 April 24th, the HISA Board voted unanimously to adopt
3 findings required for a modification of the prohibition of
4 furosemide, which continues the existing regulatory status
5 quo, permitting the use of furosemide within 48 hours prior
6 to a race for covered horses, with the exception of two-
7 year-old covered thoroughbreds and covered thoroughbreds
8 competing in stakes races. The CTT, the TOC, and the CTBA
9 jointly submitted comments supporting the current status
10 quo.

11 Moving on to recent research, the American
12 Association of Equine Practitioners recently released
13 findings from the AAEP Wearable Biometric Sensor Research
14 Project. This project was a first-of-its-kind prospective
15 study evaluating the effectiveness of sensor technology in
16 detecting impending musculoskeletal injuries in thoroughbred
17 race horses. The study demonstrated that these high-tech
18 tools show promise as a detection system for musculoskeletal
19 injury in race horses and can serve as an effective
20 complement to the existing oversight provided by track
21 veterinarians, attending veterinarians, and trainers.

22 The project, the first prospective research kind
23 of its -- of its kind to evaluate sensor effectiveness for
24 injury detection, followed two-year-old thoroughbreds for
25 over the course of one year. Six companies utilizing

1 proprietary sensors and algorithms detected soundness
2 concerns in two-year-old thoroughbred race horses undergoing
3 active exercise. The project was funded by 11 industry
4 stakeholders providing over \$900,000 in support, and three
5 take-home messages including, one, the increased risk of
6 detection for horses undergoing sensor evaluation,
7 cumulative credibility, in other words, the likelihood of a
8 documented issue increased progressively for horses that
9 receive multiple concerning designations or readings, and
10 lastly, training management in that usable wearable sensors
11 did not interfere with the training regimen of study
12 participants or horses' activities.

13 Moving on to fatalities. No musculoskeletal
14 fatalities occurred in March of this year in California.
15 Two sudden deaths occurred and two other fatalities related
16 to severe pneumonia occurred in March. In April, there were
17 three musculoskeletal fatalities, one in training, two in
18 racing.

19 Moving over to the Maddy Lab, in CHRB testing in
20 March, 95 paired blood and urine samples, four blood-only
21 samples, and one hair sample underwent routine post-race
22 testing. Moreover, 132 post-race samples underwent a
23 supplementary analysis for anabolic steroids, EPO, or
24 cobalt. Fourteen out-of-competition blood, hair, and urine
25 samples were submitted for routine testing, including EPO.

1 Five official bloods were also tested and there was one
2 analytical finding for clenbuterol and hair in the month of
3 March.

4 In CHRB testing at the Maddy Lab in April, 89
5 paired blood and urine samples, three blood-only samples,
6 and one hair sample underwent routine post-race testing.
7 Additionally, 120 post-race samples underwent supplementary
8 analysis for anabolic steroids, EPO, or cobalt. Five out-
9 of-competition blood, hair, urine, or samples were submitted
10 for routine testing, including EPO. Four official work
11 bloods were also tested. And there was one additional -- or
12 there was one adverse analytical finding for tramadol in the
13 month of April.

14 This concludes my report and I'm happy to answer
15 any questions.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions from the Board?

17 Thank you, Jeffrey.

18 We're in the Public Comment section. Do we have
19 any? No public comment.

20 Do we have a closed?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: We do have a closed
22 session. Just for the audience notification, it will be
23 pretty brief. It's just litigation updates.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: So if you'd like to

1 stick around for the end, you can.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, you can come back in for the
3 adjournment. Otherwise, we're done. We please ask you to
4 vacate the room. Thank you.

5 (The Board convened closed session from 10:46 a.m.
6 until 10:56 a.m.)

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Can I have a motion to adjourn
8 please?

9 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellanos. Motion.

10 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Davis seconds.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Second, Davis.

12 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: The Chairman votes yes. Thank you
19 all for coming.

20 (The Board adjourned at 10:56 a.m.)

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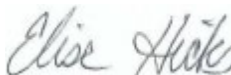
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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under 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 8th day of June, 2026.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

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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

June 8, 2026