

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HORSE RACING BOARD

In the Matter of:)

)

Regular Meeting)

)

LOS ALAMITOS FINISH LINE ROOM

LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE

CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gregory L. Ferraro, DVM, Chair

Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair

Damascus Castellanos, Commissioner

Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner

Peter Stern, Commissioner

STAFF

Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director

Amanda Brown, Staff Counsel

Rita Baker, Executive Assistant

Jeff Blea, Equine Medical Director

ALSO PRESENT

Josh Rubinstein, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

David Jerkins, Del Mar

Gene Chabrier, Xpressbet, LLC

Bill Nader, Thoroughbred Owners of California

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martha Sullivan, Kill Racing, Not Horses

Allison Prater, Kill Racing, Not Horses

Chaun Reynolds

Jamie Sanders

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Raelene Downs

Melanie Shaw

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| 1. | Consent Calendar Items: | 3 |
| | <p>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.</p> <p>Action Items:
 Approved by the Board regarding the following:</p> <p>Approval of the minutes of July 8, 2026</p> <p>Approval by the Board regarding the following renewal applications for licenses to operate simulcast wagering facilities for a period of five years: Antelope Valley Fair & Event Center (Lancaster).</p> | |
| 2. | Discussion and action by the Board on the Application for License to Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club at the Del Mar Racetrack from November 4, 2026, through December 1, 2026. | 4 |
| 3. | Discussion and action by the Board on the Application for Approval to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering of Xpressbet, LLC, an out-of-state multijurisdictional wagering hub, from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028. | 14 |
| 4. | Discussion and action by the Board regarding the proposed amendments to Board Rule 2000 (Appendix), General Provisions, Article 20, Conflict of Interest, to update the Conflict-of-Interest code. | 17 |

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

CHAIR FERRARO: Welcome to this meeting of the California Horse Racing Board on Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, at the Los Alamitos finish line room at the Los Alamitos race course in Cypress, California.

Present at today's meeting are: myself, Dr. Gregory Ferraro, Chair; Mr. Dennis Alfieri, Commissioner, oh, there you are; also, Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair; Damascus Castellano, Commissioner; Peter Stern, Commissioner. Mr. Thomas Hudnut is not here due to illness. And Commissioner Brenda Washington Davis was unable to attend this month.

Before we go into the business of the meeting, I need to make a few comments. The Board invites comments on the matters appearing on the meeting agenda. Procedurally, the Board will first hear from those directly in the agenda item. I will then invite public comment on the agenda item. The Board will not answer questions. This item is for comments only, not questions.

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

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

3 There are public comment sign-in sheets located at
4 designated tables to my right for each agenda item on which
5 the Board invites comments. There is also a sign-in sheet
6 for those wishing to speak during the public comment period
7 for matters not on the Board's agenda if it concerns horse
8 racing in California. Please print your name legibly on all
9 sign-in sheets so I can get your name correctly when I
10 announce you.

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

17 I will insist that all speakers stay strictly on
18 topic for each agenda item. If the speaker strays off
19 topic, I will ask for the next speaker. The speaker repeats
20 themselves, I will ask the speaker if they have any new
21 comments to make. If there are none, the speaker will be
22 asked to let others make comments to the Board.

23 If anyone has comments of a more general nature
24 that are not specific to an agenda item, those comments must
25 wait until agenda item number seven, Public Comment. There

1 will be a 30-minute time limit for the public. In order to
2 allow as many individuals to speak as possible within that
3 half hour, I will strictly enforce the two-minute time limit
4 for each unsolicited speaker.

5 And with that, we can begin. Do we -- we don't
6 need vote on the agenda minutes?

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: We do.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we?

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: All right.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, so agenda item
12 one is the consent calendar. It has two items. It's
13 approval of the minutes from July, and then also an
14 additional simulcasting license. This one's for Antelope
15 Valley Fair and Event Center. The Board probably recalls,
16 this is about the 16th one you've heard this year. We have
17 about four remaining, which hopefully will be heard in
18 November. We need a --

19 CHAIR FERRARO: So we need a motion and a vote on
20 approval of the minutes?

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Let me see if
22 there's --

23 CHAIR FERRARO: -- of July 8th?

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Oh, no public comment.
25 I was just checking with Rita to see if there's public

1 comment but there isn't.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Do we have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Motion to approve the
4 consent calendar items.

5 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern. Second.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Mr. Alfieri?

7 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

8 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

9 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Damascus?

11 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Peter Stern?

13 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes.

15 Number two --

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: It's okay.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Number two is spilling out of the
18 coffee.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yeah, that's me.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Discussion and action by the Board
21 on the Application for a License to Conduct a Horse Racing
22 Meeting of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club at the Del Mar
23 Thoroughbred Club at the Del Mar Racetrack from November
24 4th, 2026, through December 1.

25 Josh and --

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: David.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Good morning, David. All right.

3 MR. RUBINSTEIN: All right. Good morning, CHRB
4 Commissioners and staff. Josh Rubinstein with the Del Mar
5 Thoroughbred Club, joined by David Jerkins.

6 As we concluded a very successful summer meet on
7 Monday, highlighted by industry leading field size of 8.6
8 runners per race and increased wagering across all segments,
9 we're excited to turn the page and open our fall meet with
10 racing beginning on November 6th. The four-week Bing Crosby
11 season will run through Thanksgiving weekend and concludes
12 on November 29th.

13 The biggest change to the fall meet this year is
14 we will not be operating the Breeders' Cup, something that
15 we've successfully done here for the last two years. The
16 highlight of the season will be the prestigious Autumn Turf
17 Festival, seven graded stakes races over Thanksgiving
18 weekend, and David will have an overview of our racing
19 program shortly. After taking a year off from Thanksgiving
20 the last two years, we will be racing on Thanksgiving with
21 an early post of 11:00 a.m. and a morning fun run on the
22 track.

23 Before I turn things over to David, we're very
24 proud to continue our popular Backstretch Meals Program with
25 support from Oak Tree and the California Thoroughbred

1 Horsemen's Association. This year we are projected to
2 provide over 20,000 free meals for the hard working men and
3 women of the backstretch community.

4 And with that, I will turn things over to David
5 Jerkins and we're happy to answer any questions after that.

6 MR. JERKINS: Thanks, Josh. David Jerkins, Del
7 Mar.

8 We will be opening our meet on Friday, November
9 6th with the barn area opening on November 1st. We will be
10 presenting 15 stakes races highlighted by our Turf Festival
11 during the final week of the meet. Overnight purse levels
12 will be increased from last fall and our popular Ship & Win
13 Program will return. Once again, we will be compensating
14 trainers \$400 per start this fall to help offset their cost.
15 We're receiving lots of positive feedback on our meet and
16 are looking forward to building on our momentum from the
17 summer and welcoming back our local owners and trainers.

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

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions from the Board?
20 Hearing none, we have public, I'm sure. Thank you.

21 Martha, you can start it off, will you? Good
22 morning.

23 MS. SULLIVAN: Good morning. Martha Sullivan, who
24 drove here all the way from Imperial Beach down by the
25 Mexico border.

1 This Board should not approve a license for a
2 second Del Mar race meet in November with forecasts of
3 serious coastal flooding in San Diego County then due to the
4 combination of king tide and super El Nino conditions. Fox
5 San Diego reported just last week, quote,

6 "Along San Diego County's coast, scientists are
7 particularly focused on several threats that can
8 compound one another. Larger waves, elevated coastal
9 water levels and heavy rainfall can accelerate beach
10 erosion and increase the potential for coastal
11 flooding.

12 "Director of the Southern California Coastal Ocean
13 Observing System, Anderson said, 'Unusually warm water
14 offshore is another factor researchers are closely
15 monitoring. The fact that there is this incredible
16 amount of this high temperature water sitting offshore
17 can fuel tropical storms,' Anderson said."

18 Quote, "'The potential impacts are particularly
19 important in communities such as Del Mar and Encinitas
20 where coastal erosion and unstable bluffs are already
21 concerned. Powerful waves can erode the base of
22 coastal cliffs while heavy rainfall saturates the
23 ground above, a combination that can contribute to
24 bluff instability,'" end quote.

25 The U.S. Geological Service Pacific Coastal and

1 Marine Science Center has mapped flood prone low-lying areas
2 in the Del Mar fairgrounds parking lot parallel to the
3 coastal railways next to the racetrack. Such conditions
4 complicate the evacuation of the hundreds of horses and
5 people on site for a Del Mar Fair race meet including
6 spectators. We don't need a second Del Mar race meet in
7 2026 when it puts people and horses at unnecessary risk.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

10 Alison Prater, did I pronounce that correctly?

11 MS. PRATER: Yes. Thank you. I'm Alison Prater,
12 also from Imperial Beach.

13 Please do not approve another license for the Del
14 Mar Thoroughbred Club to conduct a second race meet this
15 year. With the three racing deaths in two weeks this
16 summer, it is now 132 horse deaths at the Del Mar racetrack
17 in 13 years. No legitimate sport would tolerate such deaths
18 of its athletes in just one venue during competition for
19 only 12 weeks each year.

20 So far this year, two three-year-old fillies,
21 Valentina Jan and Can You Dream, and one four-year-old colt
22 Cornucopian, have died from racing injuries on August 6th
23 and July 26th. Three-year-old gelding Champs Ourae died
24 from a training injury on September 3rd at nearby San Luis
25 Rey Training Center, which is an official auxiliary stable

1 for Del Mar where Champs Ourae made his one and only racing
2 start on August 15th.

3 Last year, four horses died racing at Del Mar,
4 three-year-old colt Uncrowned King on August 2nd, three-
5 year-old gelding General Jackson on August 30th, five-year-
6 old mare Esmeray on October 30th, four-year-old filly She's
7 Quality on November 2nd after injury in the Breeders' Cup
8 Turf Sprint on November 1st, her first race in the U.S.
9 after 23 races in England, France, and Ireland. Four dead
10 racehorses under four years old is enough for this year at
11 Del Mar Racetrack.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

14 Cheeva [sic] Reynolds, did I get that correct?

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Chaun.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Chaun, is it? Oh, all
17 right. Hard to read.

18 MR. REYNOLDS: Good morning. We don't need a
19 second thoroughbred racing meet in San Diego County this
20 year. The neighbors and communities

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Is your mic on?

22 MR. REYNOLDS: Oh.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: Is the green button on?

24 MR. REYNOLDS: Is it on now?

25 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, there you go.

1 MR. REYNOLDS: Oh, okay. Sorry.

2 We don't need a second thoroughbred racing meet in
3 San Diego County this year. The neighborhood, neighboring
4 communities, whose hospitality and retail businesses benefit
5 economically from Del Mar racing are very exclusive. For a
6 state-owned and operated venue like the Del Mar Fairgrounds
7 to be providing so much economic support to communities with
8 vastly higher incomes than most of San Diego County
9 residents and a very little racial diversity is in contrast
10 to the rest of the county and is in very poor use of this
11 public asset.

12 The Del Mar Racetrack is located in the City of
13 Del Mar with a median household income of \$185,335 in 2022,
14 which is almost twice that of San Diego County at \$96,974.
15 The percentage of residents living in poverty in 2022 in the
16 City of Del Mar is 1.7 percent, while for the county of San
17 Diego it's 10.7 percent, over five times that of Del Mar.
18 The 3,954 residents in the City of Del Mar are 85 percent
19 white compared to San Diego County's 43 percent. Seven-
20 tenths of one percent of Del Mar residents are Hispanic
21 compared to San Diego County's 35 percent. Four-tenths of
22 one percent of Del Mar's residents are Asian compared to San
23 Diego's 13.1 percent. And less than one-tenth of one
24 percent of Del Mar's residents are black compared to San
25 Diego County's 5.6 percent.

1 I live in Imperial Beach, a small coastal border
2 city with a medium income 20 percent lower than San Diego
3 County's and 54 percent lower than Del Mar's with a majority
4 renter and Latino population.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

7 Jamie Sanders?

8 MS. SANDERS: Hello, can you hear me?

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Yep.

10 MS. SANDERS: Okay. Hi. Good morning.

11 Granting this license is granting a license to
12 kill horses. The so-called safest track in America recently
13 killed three horses in less than two weeks of racing,
14 including two horses in one day. Three-year-old filly Can
15 You Dream died on July 26th, four-year-old Colt Cornucopian
16 died on July 26th, and three-year-old filly Valentina Jan
17 died August 6th.

18 Why wasn't Rule 1435 implemented? You have the
19 authority to suspend a racing license if, and I quote, "an
20 above-average number of injuries to horses and/or riders
21 participating in the race meeting have occurred."

22 Riders choose. Horses do not choose. These
23 magnificent animals never consented to have their lives
24 virtually gambled on. Does this mean that the CHRB
25 considers three racing fatalities in less than two weeks to

1 be average or less than average? How many more innocent
2 horses will be sacrificed when you inevitably unanimously
3 give your rubber stamp approval for this upcoming racing
4 meet?

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

7 Raelene Downs?

8 MS. DOWNS: Good morning. My name is Raelene
9 Downs and I am an animal advocate.

10 The Del Mar racing license should not be granted.
11 Not only does Del Mar kill horses, it then buries the
12 evidence. Per CHRB Rule 1444, quote,

13 "No person shall cut, mutilate, alter, or change any
14 videotape recording for the purpose of deceit or fraud
15 of any type." Per CHRB Rule 1442, quote, "Except with
16 prior approval of the Board, every race -- every other
17 race than a race solely -- ran solely on a straight
18 course shall be recorded by use of at least three
19 cameras to provide both panoramic and head-on views of
20 the race."

21 The three recent racing deaths have all had video
22 replays butchered, violation of Rule 1444. Furthermore,
23 there are no head-on replays available, violation of Rule
24 1442. This racetrack deliberately mutilated, altered, and
25 omitted racing videos that depicted life-ending injuries of

1 horses that later required euthanasia. Clearly this was
2 done to deceive the public, to shield them from the ugly
3 truth.

4 Rest in peace, Can You Dream, Cornucopian and
5 Valentina Jam. Del Mar wants the public to forget about
6 you. Del Mar wants to erase you and pretend as if you never
7 existed. Del Mar wants to keep spinning the lie that their
8 racetrack is safe. This license should not be granted.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you very much.

11 Any further comments or questions from the Board?
12 Do we have a motion? Let's have a motion.

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

15 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellano seconds.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Second with Peter Stern, was it?

17 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay. Commissioner Alfieri?

19 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Damascus?

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

25 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

1 CHAIR FERRARO: The Chairman votes yes. Thank
2 you, gentlemen.

3 MR. RUBINSTEIN: Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Number two or three, we're
5 actually on three, discussion and action by the Board on the
6 Application for Approval to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering
7 of Xpressbet, LLC, an out-of-state multi jurisdictional
8 wagering hub, from January 1, 2027, through December 31,
9 2028.

10 Gene, nice to have you. First time.

11 MR. CHABRIER: No, no, I've been here a couple of
12 times.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Oh, you have?

14 MR. CHABRIER: I'm Gene Chabrier. I'm the Vice
15 President of Regulatory Affairs and Business Development for
16 Xpressbet.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Is your green button on?

18 MR. CHABRIER: There we go.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: There you go.

20 MR. CHABRIER: Sorry about that.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: It's okay.

22 MR. CHABRIER: I'll do it again.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I think you might have
24 to be a little closer, too.

25 MR. CHABRIER: Okay. I am Gene Chabrier, Vice

1 President of Regulatory Affairs and Business Development for
2 Xpressbet and 1/ST Technology. I'm here for my ADW out-of-
3 state license renewal. And if you have any questions or,
4 you know, I'd be more than happy to answer anything you
5 have.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: Any questions?

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: For the Board, it's an
8 ADW license, and they last two years here in California, and
9 their license is fully complete.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I've got a quick question.
11 You also -- are you also involved in CAW at all, or is that
12 separate?

13 MR. CHABRIER: It is under our license, yes.

14 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Anything you'd like to
15 update us on as it relates to CAW, you know, what NYRA's
16 doing, what you guys are doing, cut-off time, this is an
17 opportunity to --

18 MR. CHABRIER: We don't have anything to do with
19 the NYRA cut-off times. You know, we don't.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: What about you guys
21 specifically? So you guys are involved in CAW or you're
22 not, Xpressbet?

23 MR. CHABRIER: No, we do have a few CAW players.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay. So, yeah, I'm just
25 asking if you'd like to share any updates with us on CAW?

1 Because a lot of people listen to this.

2 MR. CHABRIER: I really don't have anything on
3 CAW, I'm sorry.

4 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: But you are involved in CAW,
5 you have nothing to share?

6 MR. CHABRIER: Correct.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Okay, that's fine. We'll
8 have to get the right guy --

9 CHAIR FERRARO: No --

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: -- in front of us next time.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: -- no public comment on this?

12 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah.

13 CHAIR FERRARO: There's no public comment. Any
14 further questions from the Board? Do we have a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER STERN: Stern; motion to approve.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Second.

17 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Second. Alfieri.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, Commissioner Alfieri?

19 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: No.

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 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: And good luck.

3 MR. CHABRIER: Thank you very much.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thanks.

5 Okay, number four, discussion and action by the
6 Board regarding the proposed amendments to Board Rule 2000,
7 General Provisions, Article 20, Conflict of Interest, to
8 update the Conflict of Interest Code?

9 Scott?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman. Good morning, Commissioners. This is pretty in
12 the weeds from a regulatory standpoint, but we are asking --
13 the Board saw this about two months ago and approved it, but
14 we'd like to add one more position to the conflict of
15 interest. Just sort of a quick synopsis.

16 Every state department has to have a conflict of
17 interest code and have the positions that are required to
18 abide by it under that regulation. So today we're asking,
19 in addition to what you saw about two months ago, we're
20 adding the PIO position to the Conflict of Interest Code.

21 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. Martha?

22 MS. SULLIVAN: I don't see any good reason why
23 racing officials, stewards, and official veterinarians
24 should not be required to report on all the investments,
25 business positions, and sources of income, including gifts,

1 loans, and travel payments in a source that's listed in
2 Category 1, as are all other designated positions. Stewards
3 and the official veterinarian are two of the most
4 influential and impactful of these designated positions.
5 Why is their reporting so limited?

6 Specifically, stewards would not be required to
7 report on a source which: A, is a racing association or
8 entity which has a financial interest in a racing
9 association or racetrack, or any management company which
10 participates in or earns any income from term mutual agent;
11 B, is a business or person attendant upon horses and is
12 subject to licensing and or regulation by the California
13 Horse Racing Board; C, is a concessionaire of a racing
14 association subject to approval by the Board; D, the
15 designated employee knows or has reason to know, has
16 contracted with, or plans to contract with, any
17 concessionaire of a racing association to provide products
18 for use by that concessionaire in connection with the
19 concession; F, is that any person against whom the Board is
20 contemplating legal or administrative action or is
21 intervening in such action; G, is a manufacturer or
22 wholesaler or distributor of products required or approved
23 by the Board for use of racing associations. And the
24 official veterinarian would not be required to report on a
25 source that as described as C, D, F, E, D.

1 This just doesn't make any sense to me at all and
2 I think we need to reconsider it. And I also don't think we
3 should give this open-ended position carte blanche at the
4 Executive Director's whim.

5 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

6 Allison, you're next.

7 MS. PRATER: Allison Prater, Imperial Beach again.

8 In addition to having a Conflict of Interest Code
9 for your employees and contractors, this Board should also
10 have a Conflict of Interest Code for those it licenses. For
11 example, racetrack owners, executives, racing secretaries,
12 and any individual who controls access to a racetrack,
13 entries to races, stabling, and training should not have an
14 ownership interest in horses raced at said racetrack. It's
15 far too easy for competitors to periodically yield to those
16 who control their livelihood.

17 Another way that racetrack owners and managers
18 have an inherent conflict of interest in owning racehorses
19 who race at the track they own and manage is that they
20 control and direct security resources, which can deter and
21 capture behavior in violation of state and federal
22 regulations and laws. Literally, the fox guarding the
23 henhouse. A clear example of such a conflict of interest is
24 Ed Allred, the owner of Los Alamitos Race Course, who
25 breeds, owns, and races horses at this track and also puts

1 on the annual equine sale there.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Allison. Mr. Chaney,
4 this kind of brings us in line with state regulations;
5 right? Is that what this --

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Yes, correct.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: -- change does?

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I mean, it's for state
9 employees and contractors.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah. Okay. Any questions or
11 comments from the Board again? Can we have a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Castellanos' motion?

13 CHAIR FERRARO: Second? I'll second it.

14 Commissioner Alfieri?

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

17 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellano?

19 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

21 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes. Thank
23 you very much.

24 Next item, number five. This is a creation of our
25 Executive Director. Discussion and action by the Board

1 regarding the future and challenges of horse racing in
2 California.

3 Scott, what do you have in mind?

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I'm providing it just
5 as an opportunity for any board members to talk about, you
6 know, sort of catchall, like things that aren't listed in
7 the agenda. And just for the note, it's discussion only.
8 The Board can't take actual action because it's not, you
9 know, properly noticed.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Right, right, right. Any comments
11 or any questions?

12 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes, please. I appreciate
13 you accommodating my opportunity to speak here. But I've
14 been in the technology industry for 25 years, and I've
15 actually never seen it move faster right now. A lot of it
16 is because of AI, obviously, but a lot of advancements
17 across the board. And the scary thing is for sports and our
18 industry and every sport, for that matter, is that there's
19 more people that actually watch esports finals in many cases
20 than the NBA finals. And it's just a testament, and it's
21 showing that it's really going to impact all of us. And so
22 you're going to hear me talk a lot about ideas and thoughts
23 that I have as it relates to the industry and how we can
24 continue to promote it.

25 And so one thing that we've done in the technology

1 industry and many other industries, and also we did it at
2 the San Francisco International Airport when I was on the
3 commission, is this idea of a hackathon. And that's really
4 taking a pool of entrepreneurs and presenting a problem
5 statement. And that problem statement could be, how do we
6 drive more tenants to the track? How do we drive more
7 interest and betting to these tracks and to the industry?

8 And so one suggestion I had was somebody could
9 sponsor, obviously we can't, just this idea of pulling
10 together 10, 50, 100 different entrepreneurs and
11 technologists and give them that problem statement and see
12 what they can actually build from a technology perspective.

13 And the outcome for them is they could start businesses,
14 they can learn more about technology, they can build a
15 community, and it really helps evangelize what we're trying
16 to do within the industry to drive technology through and
17 through.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Peter. It's the
19 future. That's the future.

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, is this still open
21 mic?

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, go ahead.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah. Yeah, just a couple
24 of items from me.

25 Well, first, again, congratulations to Del Mar for

1 a successful meet. And, you know, there's always room for
2 improvement in the area of safety. So for those who did
3 show up, we hear you loud and clear. We will continue to do
4 what we can. But again, overall, a successful meet.

5 My comment earlier about the CAW, when we have a
6 representative who comes before us, has zero to say about
7 CAW when a huge reliance upon this industry depends on
8 online wagering. And CAW, whether it's what we were able to
9 support the TOC on, on a better revenue split with the
10 horsemen or cutoff time or other matters that other
11 jurisdictions are doing, and to have them not say a single
12 word.

13 So maybe what we ought to be doing is, rather than
14 rubber stamping the online platforms that come before us, is
15 to really figure out what we can do to support them and also
16 to try to make sure that we are on par with other
17 jurisdictions as it relates to CAW.

18 I know your average better continues to be pushed
19 away from the industry in terms of betting because they feel
20 that they're just being preyed upon by the advantages that
21 the CAW community brings. Now, I've always said that we do
22 need big betters and we need small betters, but we also need
23 parity and fairness.

24 So I also believe that perhaps it's just in
25 prepping us Commissioners as to what issues. You know, it

1 wasn't that long ago when the *Wall Street Journal* published
2 a report that one of the eliter betters was cornering the
3 Texas lottery, which I was able to bring that to your
4 attention, Scott. And so, you know, CAWs are not licensees.
5 We know they're out there.

6 But I believe that a follow-up conversation needs
7 to be had, as we did before with Mr. Nader, who's here at
8 the microphone, thank you for coming forward with Mr.
9 Daruty. But perhaps another follow-up conversation, because
10 I do believe that one conversation we did have ended up in
11 better negotiations as it relates to the TOC and the
12 platforms, and hopefully it did benefit some of the
13 horsemen.

14 So if you were to ask me what we ought to continue
15 to put at the top of our list, it's just making sure that we
16 have our arms around the moving dynamics as it relates to
17 CAW.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Bill?

19 MR. NADER: Thank you, Chairman. I just want to
20 address the Vice Chairman's points. With CAW, as you might
21 recall, we implemented the two-minute cutoff at Del Mar
22 August of last year. And that's continued throughout and
23 will continue again at the Santa Anita Fall Meet coming up.
24 That's been already agreed.

25 If you look at the Del Mar summer meet, due to

1 different business terms, much like Saratoga, CAW handle was
2 down for the meet, but overall handle was up. So pretty
3 much a mirror image of what happened at Saratoga.

4 But with respect to your question about cutoffs,
5 the two-minute cutoff of the win pool has been in place now
6 for over a year and will continue.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Great. Thank you for that,
8 Bill. Much appreciated.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thanks, Bill.

10 Any other comments?

11 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Mr. Chairman --

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Yes?

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: -- you know, just want
14 to -- very good, by the way. Very good.

15 I want to go back to Commissioner Stern's
16 comment. I like that a lot. I think that's, you know,
17 you're thinking out of the box; right? It's the future.
18 You know, I'd love to see us try to look at next steps to at
19 least think about a hackathon or whatever you're calling it.
20 And maybe you want to spearhead this, Peter, but I think we
21 should move forward on your thoughts and just explore it.

22 That's all. Thank you.

23 CHAIR FERRARO: I agree completely with that. In
24 fact, let's see if I could talk Peter into having classes
25 for the Board on teaching us about this stuff, because it's

1 hard to understand. But we're fortunate enough to have
2 somebody who understands it and can work with it, so I
3 encourage him to continue.

4 Okay, with that, let's start with Martha again.

5 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan once more.

6 Published July 21st in the *New Yorker*, quote,
7 "Fewer people are attending live races and fewer people
8 are betting on horses. Bettors in the U.S. placed a
9 record \$167 billion on sports in 2025. Just \$11
10 billion of that was on horse racing. In some states,
11 including New York, the sport is largely bolstered by
12 state-subsidized loans.

13 "There is no real way to defend the sport. Racing
14 kills about 850 horses in the U.S. each year. When
15 private training facilities are included, the annual
16 death toll may reach 1,800," end quote.

17 With the three racing deaths in two weeks, so far
18 this year, there's now 132 horse deaths at Del Mar Racing in
19 13 years. No legitimate sport would tolerate such deaths of
20 its athletes in just one venue during competition for only
21 12 weeks each year.

22 California voters and lawmakers have been leaders
23 in banning cruel industries like the manufacturing sale of
24 fur products, the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits,
25 the use of wild species in services and animal testing of

1 cosmetic and personal care items. These industries all have
2 employees, yet Californians have acted to end them in our
3 state due to the cruelty to animals inherent in these
4 industries. The employees, contractors, and vendors in
5 these industries will migrate to other industries, just as
6 those in past defunct industries have.

7 I've been telling you this for a while. We need
8 to be planning for the end of this industry because it's
9 dying.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

11 Allison?

12 MS. PRATER: Allison Prater again.

13 Wagering on live horse racing was made legal by
14 California voters in 1933, 50 years before the authorized
15 California Lottery and Native American Gaming became legal
16 in California. These two gambling options have boomed while
17 gambling on live horse racing has continued to shrink.

18 Per the most recent annual report of the
19 California Horse Racing Board, \$2.69 billion was wagered on
20 California racing between July 1st, 2024 and June 30th,
21 2025, down from \$2.8 billion the prior year. At only two-
22 year round tracks and a handful of fairground tracks running
23 a few months annually, now down to two year-round tracks and
24 one fairground track, California horse racing wagering will
25 be down again in the next CHRB annual report, fully

1 reflecting the loss of six operating tracks in 2025.

2 In contrast, the California Lottery recorded
3 nearly \$9 billion in sales, resulting in more than \$1.9
4 billion to school districts, educational institutions, and
5 state agencies. The Lottery's network of over 23,000 retail
6 partners across California earned over \$612.2 million in
7 commissions and bonuses in the fiscal year 2024 to 2025.
8 Last year, tribal gambling operations in California
9 generated \$8.5 billion in gross gaming revenue at 85 tribal
10 casinos.

11 Get your affairs in order. The end is near.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. Chaun, your turn.

13 MR. REYNOLDS: Good morning again. The major
14 online travel company TripAdvisor recently announced that it
15 will no longer allow ticket sales via its platform and will
16 not generate booking revenue from specific experiences where
17 domesticated animals are put at heightened risk of injury or
18 death for the sake of sport or entertainment. This means
19 that TripAdvisor does not enable booking for experiences
20 that involve animal racing, such as most dog, horse, and
21 camel racing, or for rodeo-style events where the format of
22 the activity typically creates these risks.

23 The context for this recent development.

24 "As a platform used by millions, we recognize our role
25 in celebrating responsibility and driving improvements

1 in animal welfare standards throughout the tourism
2 industry. Therefore, we have developed a set of
3 industry-leading animal welfare guidelines that all
4 bookable experiences on our platform must meet. These
5 guidelines are informed by the five domains of animal
6 welfare, a globally recognized framework that assesses
7 an animal's quality of life."

8 Increasingly, risking animals' lives and the
9 taking of them for entertainment or experiences is not
10 considered acceptable as reflected in the closure of at
11 least 53 U.S. horse racing tracks since 2000 and the
12 nosedive in the U.S. wagering of 57 percent since 2003,
13 adjusted for inflation. This Board needs to consider this
14 in your planning for the inevitable demise of live horse
15 racing in California.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Chaun.

18 Melanie Shaw?

19 MS. SHAW: Hi. Melanie Shaw.

20 There is no future of horse racing in California.
21 The challenges should be focused on making sure that every
22 single horse has a soft place to land, the racehorses and
23 the pony horses. It is no secret that horse racing is
24 decreasing in popularity. What are your plans for the
25 horses when the unavoidable happens?

1 Since the year 2000, attendance at racehorses has
2 decreased by 30 percent. This decline is attributed to
3 increased competition from other sports and forms of
4 gambling, as well as growing concerns over animal welfare.
5 The number of races has been cut in half. Total race days
6 are down approximately 50 percent. These are not
7 encouraging numbers for your animal-abusing industry and
8 these numbers are cited from pro racing sources.

9 In 2019, the Santa Anita Racetrack shut down for
10 nearly a month after multiple horses died in the span of
11 three months. Poor racetrack conditions may be elevating
12 deaths and injuries, but usually drug issues are blamed.
13 The life of a racehorse is full of stress, misery and drugs.
14 Doping scandals continually rock the industry. Horse racing
15 isn't any good for humans either. Industry practices put
16 jockeys at risk, as well as the horses they ride on average
17 2 jockeys die and 60 are paralyzed.

18 This is only the tip of the iceberg. The horse
19 racing industry is so full of cruelty that repeated attempts
20 at reform have not yet had any real or widespread success.
21 It is simply structured systematically around animal abuse.
22 It's no surprise that for many of us, the only way to save
23 horses is to stop them from having to race.

24 According to numbers from Jockey Club, from 2009
25 to 2022, 7,062 horses died at animal racetracks -- American

1 racetracks. So far in 2026, Del Mar racetrack has had 3
2 dead racehorses, Los Alamitos here, 8 dead racehorses, Santa
3 Anita, 13 dead racehorses, San Luis Rey Downs, 2 dead
4 racehorses. If you truly care about these magnificent,
5 iconic animals, then you need to start planning now.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

8 Jamie Sanders?

9 MS. SANDERS: Jamie Sanders again. Orange County.

10 Here is an incomplete list of the shuttered
11 racetracks in California. Tanforan in San Francisco, 1964.
12 Devonshire Downs in Northridge, 1971. Bay Meadows, 2008.
13 Solano Racetrack, 2009. Hollywood Park, now SoFi Stadium,
14 2013. Pomona Fairplex, now a soccer field, 2014. Golden
15 Gate, 2024. Northern California Fairs, no more thoroughbred
16 or Quarter Horse racing as of 2024. Cal Expo, 2025.
17 Pleasanton, 2025.

18 So instead of having a discussion about the future
19 of horse racing in California, this Board should see the
20 writing on the wall. A careful, thought out exit plan is in
21 order to ensure that the horses go to good homes. It is
22 exceedingly obvious that the industry is in decline.

23 What are your plans for the hundreds of racehorses
24 that are in California? The responsible thing to do is to
25 figure out what will become of all of these animals who were

1 literally bred into existence for the sole purpose of this
2 dying industry.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

5 Any further comments from the Board? There's no
6 action taken, so there's no need for a motion.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Can we have the
8 Executive Director's Report, please?

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman, and good morning, Commissioners.

11 I'll begin with the handle report for the month of
12 June. Day racing handle is down 10 percent, night racing
13 down 21 percent, and total handle 11 percent compared to
14 June of 2025. For the month of July, day racing handle was
15 down 4 percent, night racing was down 3 percent, and total
16 handle down 4 percent compared to 2025. Total handle year
17 to date, day racing down 3 percent, night racing 14 percent,
18 and total handle is down 4 percent compared to the first
19 seven months of 2025.

20 A few other things. We have added a new race -- a
21 new Track Surface Data section to our website. It can be
22 found under the Racing Safety page.

23 Additionally, recently I attended two conferences,
24 the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States, and
25 the Racing and Gaming Conference at Saratoga. Both

1 conferences were dominated by discussions surrounding
2 prediction markets. Saratoga also served as the venue for
3 the ARCI Model Rules Committee, as well as the ARCI
4 quarterly meeting.

5 A few administrative notes. The November meeting
6 will be held on Wednesday, November 18th, which is the third
7 Wednesday of the month, rather than the second.
8 Additionally, it will be held in Davis, California, rather
9 than the city of Sacramento. To stakeholders, please note
10 deadlines for Board meeting submissions.

11 That, Mr. Chairman, is my report.

12 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

13 Jeffrey?

14 DR. BLEA: Good morning, Chairman Ferraro, Vice
15 Chairman Gonzales, Commissioners, and Executive Director,
16 Mr. Scott Chaney. I'm going to re-save this file because
17 it's -- give me one second. I don't think you're going to
18 want to -- this is what I'm going to read, if that was up in
19 front.

20 I'll begin my report this morning with an update
21 on New World screwworm. The United States Department of
22 Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
23 APHIS, has recently approved the release of the only New
24 World screwworm-infested zone in New Mexico and approved the
25 release of two New World screwworm infested zones in Texas.

1 However, several infested zones in Texas remain in place
2 today. Currently, there is one active case of New World
3 screwworm and 47 inactive cases. None of these cases are
4 occurring in California and none of them are occurring in
5 horses.

6 Regarding a Sleip app update to Commissioner
7 Stern's comments earlier, for the past nine months, with
8 three CHRB veterinarians utilizing the Sleip app, we have a
9 total number of 351 recordings performed on a total of 294
10 unique horses. As the users become more familiar with this
11 AI-powered app that measures gait and asymmetry at the trot,
12 I'm hoping to increase our utilization of this tool and
13 encourage more California regulatory vets to utilize this
14 technology in the future for safety and welfare.

15 Moving on to fatalities, in the month of July
16 there were two musculoskeletal fatalities in racing in
17 California. In the month of August, there was one
18 musculoskeletal fatality in racing in California. There
19 were no training fatalities in July or in August at CHRB
20 racetrack or training centers. The three racing fatalities
21 in the past two months were related to fetlock injuries.

22 Regarding the Maddy Lab, in CHRB testing at the Maddy
23 Lab in July, 99 paired blood and urine samples and one
24 blood-only sample underwent routine post-race testing.
25 Moreover, 142 post-race samples underwent supplementary

1 analysis for anabolic steroids, beta-2 agonist, EPO, and
2 cobalt. Eight out-of-competition blood samples were
3 submitted for routine testing, including EPO. Eight
4 official work bloods were also tested and there was one
5 adverse analytical finding of phenylbutazone in the month of
6 July.

7 In CHRB testing at the Maddy Lab in August, 101
8 paired blood and urine samples and three blood-only samples
9 underwent routine post-race testing. Moreover, 145 post-
10 race samples underwent supplementary analysis for anabolic
11 steroids, EPO, and cobalt. Twenty-six out-of-competition
12 blood, hair, and urine samples were also submitted for
13 routine testing, including beta-2 agonist and EPO. Eight
14 official vet list work bloods were tested and eight evidence
15 samples with the help of CHRB investigators were
16 confiscated, submitted, and tested. There were no adverse
17 analytical findings in August.

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

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Questions for the Board?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes, I've got one for Dr.
22 Blea. Good report as always, Doc.

23 I'm following what Oklahoma and New Mexico are
24 doing with regard to testing for physiological abnormalities
25 prior to racing. It is something that's different. It

1 seems like they're all in on this approach. I guess an
2 example would be the thyroid testing or any other markers
3 that may be off. Can you share with us what there is to
4 know about that? Number one. And number two, is this the
5 kind of a new approach that would ever be considered here in
6 California?

7 DR. BLEA: It's a complicated process, but
8 essentially, in summary, what they did is they did,
9 basically, look at metabolic parameters, two in particular
10 on horses in New Mexico, thyroid blood testing and troponin,
11 which is a cardiac marker. It's a cardiac marker in humans.
12 We also use it as a cardiac marker in horses. And they were
13 able to identify irregularities in their thyroid levels on
14 their blood test, as well as the cardiac troponin levels. I
15 don't know the details of their testing. It's somewhat of a
16 nuanced approach. The challenge -- and Kentucky, by the
17 way, has just concluded their Quarter Horse meet, so their
18 executive director -- or equine medical director and I
19 discussed this at length.

20 The challenge is there's nothing in the regs that
21 would prohibit or permit you, essentially, to put that horse
22 on the vet's list or prohibit them from racing in California
23 from what I understand. So the different states, Oklahoma,
24 New Mexico, Kentucky, ourselves, we're looking at different
25 opportunities whereby we can use some of these physiological

1 blood tests to somewhat restrict horses from proceeding down
2 a path where they may become at risk for exercise-associated
3 sudden death.

4 So there's more to come on that. It's in the
5 early stages. And I think we have to look at it and
6 different states are looking at it from a regulatory
7 standpoint to give it some teeth.

8 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: If this body here can help
9 out in any way, because I know if you're saying there's no
10 rule or reg, just to give, you know, you and your team more
11 options. Because we do know it's a whack-a-mole where the
12 science doesn't always keep up with where the bad guys are
13 at. And this does appear to be in response to that. So if
14 you're able to just think this through and whatever we could
15 do to get a start on that. So thank you very much for that.

16 DR. BLEA: And I appreciate that. And
17 thyrotoxicosis is a debatable condition. Cardiac troponin,
18 we actually utilize that test here in California. When we
19 place horses on the medically-compromised vets' list for --

20 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Right.

21 DR. BLEA: -- exhaustion, collapse, one of the
22 requirements is they have to produce a cardiac troponin
23 within normal limits before they can move forward.

24 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Got it. And if we're trying
25 to figure out sudden death and the science and the

1 challenges around that, and if there's a way to identify
2 abnormalities, markers ahead of time, I mean, why wouldn't
3 we; right? If a heart rhythm is off, it's an elevated
4 temperature, if thyroid, we would want to protect that
5 horse. And I know a lot of good ideas come out of
6 California and other states, but in this case, Oklahoma and
7 New Mexico, I think we can learn something from them. And
8 I've been on calls with you when we're trying to share, for
9 example, what we're doing here at Los Alamitos. That was
10 just six short months ago.

11 So continue to think this through, Doc. But
12 again, on the rulemaking end, even if it's just to have it
13 on the books, to give you that flexibility, but also to send
14 a message to the racing community that we are going to be
15 exhausting all avenues to make sure our horses are taken
16 care of.

17 So along those lines, and the second question I
18 have is there was a trainer that was recently caught up with
19 a HIWU matter, and there's been a lot of chatter about why
20 the sentence and penalty was so light. This particular
21 trainer, whether it was he or one of his employees, had been
22 caught doing some things beforehand.

23 And I'm bringing this up only because I think we
24 owe it to the people who do play by the rules, because I
25 know there's some very unhappy people on the backstretch

1 where this trainer is at about why, literally, it was just a
2 slap on the wrist. I mean, 45 days is almost nothing.

3 And so I'm just wanting to know from our, is this
4 something that was out of the CHRB's hands? I know we had
5 to be involved with, you know, getting, whether it was his
6 foreman or his groom beforehand, but this guy's been in the
7 news. And I think he's probably turned some heads as to
8 what he's been able to do on the track. So I just think we
9 probably should, you know, share what we do know, what we
10 don't know, what we can share, and whether things were just
11 completely out of our hands as it relates to the 45 days.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: I can add a little
13 insight into that. Kudos to Vito, our Chief of Enforcement,
14 and his investigative team, because we were involved in the
15 initial search, because I think you're talking about --

16 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: -- some contraband.
18 So we were involved in that and the discovery, which is
19 fantastic. Sadly, on the flip side, you're right, we don't
20 have any involvement in adjudication or the penalty when it
21 comes to like a HIWU violation.

22 DR. BLEA: Yeah.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: If, let's say, if HIWU or
24 HISA would not have been around, we would have handled this
25 way differently than the way they did; right?

1 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

2 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: I mean, this guy wouldn't be
3 around, in my opinion; is it fair to say?

4 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Well, it's just, I mean,
6 once again, I just think that for all the upsides of HISA
7 and HIWU, there still remains some challenges, whether it's
8 us being ahead of them on the crop rule, or it's us being
9 ahead of them on joint injections. And here we have another
10 situation where they seem to be real soft on what we believe
11 is somebody who has committed infractions, plural,
12 infractions. So, I mean, I want to speak with you both.

13 But I just really believe there are people who are
14 concerned about this. And you've answered my question
15 satisfactorily, unless you would like to add something?

16 DR. BLEA: Well, I will add that there are a lot
17 of people in California and around the country, horsemen,
18 who are extremely disappointed and frustrated about that
19 penalty and that decision. They try to follow the rules.
20 They do a good job following the rules and they felt that --
21 I get a lot of phone calls from frustrated horsemen about
22 that ruling, just to share your point.

23 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you. I mean, the
24 reality is if you get caught with needles on the
25 backstretch, you're probably up to no good, or you're

1 probably going around your vet, and you're probably doing
2 some things that just are not allowable. And I think, you
3 know, Doc, I know you have relationships with folks across
4 the country. And if there's anything that we can do to
5 officially/unofficially convey that we did bring this up in
6 a meeting, that we wish that there was some other options,
7 some, perhaps, more latitude that we as a racing
8 jurisdiction have, I think that would go a long way.

9 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Jeffrey.

10 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thanks, Doc.

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Any further comments from the
12 Board?

13 Okay, we have some public comments. Let's turn it
14 up and start with Jamie Sanders. She's not here? Jamie?

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: It is public.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah. I'm saving you for this
17 starring role, Martha.

18 MS. SANDERS: Pardon?

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Go ahead.

20 MS. SANDERS: Okay.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: No, no, no, this is
22 public comment for agenda item six.

23 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Oh, I see. I'm sorry.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: Yeah, six, item six.

25 MS. SANDERS: Yes. Thank you. Jamie Sanders.

1 Orange County.

2 Regarding the Equine Medical Director's Report,
3 which is never in the meeting packet, your former Equine
4 Medical Director, Rick Arthur, is quoted as saying,

5 "It's hard to justify how many horses we go through.
6 In humans, you never see someone snap their leg off
7 running in the Olympics, but you see it in horse
8 racing."

9 That being said, I want to talk about some recent
10 catastrophic injuries that occurred in the dirt right
11 outside this window at Los Alamitos. A few months ago, June
12 21st, 2026, this racetrack had two deaths in one day. Just
13 Deal, a four-year-old gelding, raced the 20th of June at the
14 daytime thoroughbred meet, killed the following day, June
15 21st, due to a fetlock fracture. Johnny Lightning, two-
16 year-old gelding, raced and killed June 21st during
17 nighttime Quarter racing. He suffered from a scapula
18 fracture.

19 And since the CHRB never has the nerve to come to
20 Southern California for their meetings, we did not have an
21 opportunity earlier to address the three kills in one night.
22 Futurity Trials, November 23rd, 2025. Be Ratified
23 (phonetic), a two-year-old filly. Backside Ace, a two-year-
24 old gelding, suffered injury in gallop out, which was
25 removed. But thankfully the live stream was recorded and

1 you can find it on YouTube. Champions Run, a two-year-old
2 gelding, entire replay deleted from RTN, but his death race
3 is also found on YouTube.

4 That's three baby horses in one horrific night of
5 racing. All three horses suffered carpus fractures, and yet
6 that was not enough to get the CHRB to shut down this dump.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Lauren [sic].

8 Chaun?

9 MR. REYNOLDS: This Board and the public you serve
10 need to be briefed by the Equine Medical Director and
11 Executive Director on the revelation by the U.S. Department
12 of Agriculture in July that a top racehorse owner caused
13 dirty needles to be used to dope racehorses, which resulted
14 in 12 Quarter Horse deaths at Los Alamitos in the fall of
15 2024. As reported by the *Paulick Report*,

16 "The connection to Heath Taylor's horses allegedly
17 occurring through Sammy Valeriano, owner of 11 of the
18 25 EIA-affected horses, and according to the USDA
19 report, a confirmed unsanctioned bush track racing
20 participant."

21 The report posits that, "Valeriano's groom administers
22 Robinson's juice by, quote, 'hurriedly going from stall
23 to stall, often at night in the dark, and sometimes is
24 reported not to even use a halter to restrain the horse
25 for a quick injection of the small half-milliliter

1 dose.'

2 "In this attempt to avoid detection, the same needle
3 and syringe is being used between horses to draw off the
4 small dose, inject, then dip back into the bottle to inject
5 directly into the next horse quickly, which is, in absence
6 of sterile technique, guaranteeing blood contamination of
7 the bottle of Robinson's juice.

8 "Despite being repeatedly identified throughout the
9 USDA report, Sammy Valeriano's owner's license remains
10 active in California, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The stable
11 has won 19 of 49 starts this year with earnings of \$1.9
12 million. Asked about the USDA's reports' allegations
13 involving Valeriano, the CHRB Executive Director Scott
14 Chaney told the *Paulick Report*, 'We don't comment on pending
15 investigations. The CHRB finds the contents of the USDA
16 report troubling.'"

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

19 Allison?

20 MS. PRATER: This Board owes the public a full
21 explanation of why the InCompass veterinarians list has not
22 been publicly accessible on the CHRB website as it had for
23 years prior, since at least January 23rd of this year. The
24 cryptic message on the CHRB website about third-party
25 control is not enough. I regularly use the InCompass

1 veterinarians list to check on the condition of horses who
2 had been ambulated from races or otherwise seemed in
3 distress. Knowing if the horse was listed as unsound or
4 bled or exhausted heat, for example, was important public
5 information about the status of these horses.

6 How has this public access to the InCompass
7 veterinarians list been stopped? The CHRB website message
8 implies that the web link no longer works, which would be
9 the InCompass owner-operator part of the U.S. Jockey Club.
10 Was the CHRB advised that this web link would be disabled
11 and what reason was given? What are California
12 veterinarians, racehorse trainers, and owners now using, and
13 has public access to that been expressly forbidden by
14 InCompass Jockey Club? If so, why, after years of public
15 access to this information? This California state agency
16 needs to be transparent, not act as an agent to obfuscate
17 for the U.S. horse racing industry?

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Allison.

20 Martha?

21 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan once more.

22 This Board provided public access to the InCompass
23 veterinarians list on its website until about January 23rd
24 of this year. A few months ago, a message was added
25 attributing this to a third party controlling the InCompass

1 best list link.

2 Then, a huge industry scandal erupted this summer
3 about unauthorized use of vet list info by a Jockey Club
4 member, leading horseplayer and racehorse owner, college
5 professor Marshall Graham. The ensuing discussion has
6 raised the demand that vet list info should be public.

7 From racing industry media passthewire.com on
8 August 23rd, quote,

9 "There should be a public layer containing standardized
10 material, veterinary information, significant injuries,
11 meaningful lameness, major respiratory findings,
12 relevant surgeries, veterinarians list history, shock
13 wave treatments and the corresponding stand-down
14 period, other defined medical events that materially
15 concern soundness, safety or reasonable assessment of a
16 horse's physical condition. Date, status, cleared or
17 not cleared. No novel. No veterinarian's private
18 running commentary. No trainer's playbook. There will
19 be gray areas.

20 "Ulcers are a perfect example. A clinically
21 significant condition affecting a horse's health and
22 performance might belong in the public disclosure
23 category. A trainer's proprietary program for
24 preventing and managing ulcers probably doesn't.

25 "Dentistry is another. A significant infection

1 requiring treatment may be a fact about the horse. A
2 trainer's routine of having every new horse examined by
3 a particular dental specialist because he has learned
4 something about his competitors -- learned something
5 his competitors haven't is arguably a fact about the
6 trainer," end quote.

7 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

8 MS. SULLIVAN: We need to know about what's going
9 on with the vets list.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. We're going to go to
11 public comment, so we must have a sheet there.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: Just, I try not to get
13 shot into these things, Mr. Chairman, but just for the
14 edification of the Board, the California veterinarians list
15 is on the website and current.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay, we'll begin with Melanie
17 Shaw. Can you handle this one?

18 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yeah, sure. Yes.

19 MS. SHAW: This beautiful California-bred dark bay
20 mare had a lucrative career, earning over \$300,000 in her 32
21 starts, 12 wins spanning over three years. Nineteen of her
22 races were in California, mostly at Santa Anita and at
23 tracks that no longer exist, including Hollywood Park, Santa
24 Rosa, and Pomona Fairplex. The later half of her racing was
25 in New York at the top tier tracks.

1 On July 16, 2016, she placed fifth at Belmont
2 Park. Her tendons blew out and was vanned off. This was
3 her final race. Just like that, she disappeared, shipped to
4 Claymont Farm, out of site, out of mind.

5 In 2019, Unbridled Sanctuary rescued her from a
6 freezing cold pasture. She was skeletal, starved, eating
7 her own muscle just to stay alive and desperately needing
8 rescue. Time for Angie's former breeder, owners, trainers,
9 and jockeys could not be bothered and had no time for her.
10 They chose to breed these horses, profit off their backs,
11 and then abandon responsibility for a life they choose to
12 create and use. Not a single one contributed a single penny
13 of her winnings for her care.

14 Her current caregivers have time for her. She is
15 safe, well-fed, and not expected to perform. She is no
16 longer whipped, no longer drugged, no longer forced to run
17 as fast as possible and risk her life.

18 Angie was California-bred, California-raced, and
19 just one more horse that also slipped through the cracks.
20 Angie exists. Angie matters. Angie was rescued, no thanks
21 to California.

22 Angie stands for thousands of abandoned racehorses
23 dumped by people who call themselves horse lovers with no
24 more profit to be made. Time to abolish this bloodsport
25 that treats horses as disposable objects, just like Angie.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: J. Sanders. I can't make out the
3 first name, but --

4 MS. SANDERS: Jamie.

5 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Janie. Thanks, Janie.

6 MS. SANDERS: Jamie.

7 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Jamie. Thank you, Jamie.

8 MS. SANDERS: Jamie Sanders. Orange County.

9 Legal Moose was a California-bred thoroughbred,
10 Bay Gelding, born April 19th, 2021. He started out his so-
11 called career at Santa Anita. He then ran three times at
12 Los Alamitos Thoroughbreds and once at Del Mar. In five
13 starts, he never placed higher than sixth place. He was
14 destined to be downgraded, as he was not considered a high-
15 earning horse.

16 Just one month after his last California race, he
17 lands in the Southwest Racing Circuit. He races in New
18 Mexico, at Albuquerque, then Zia Park. Final stop, Turf
19 Paradise, Arizona. January 20 of this year, 2026, Legal
20 Moose bursts out of the starting gate for the last time. He
21 is pulled up almost immediately with a life-ending injury on
22 his hind leg and is euthanized.

23 The sad story of Legal Moose is not isolated.
24 What makes him unique is that his story is actually being
25 told. Racehorses are expected to earn money for their

1 captors. They are forced to unwillingly and unknowingly
2 risk their lives every single time they are tethered to a
3 pony and led up to the starting gate.

4 Legal Moose was bred in California, trained in
5 California, and raced in California. He should have been
6 retired in California, instead of being dumped out of state
7 and killed. Rest in peace, Legal Moose. To us, you
8 mattered.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you. Anyone else?

11 MR. REYNOLDS: For the fourth month in a row and
12 seventh time in eight months in 2026, wagering on U.S.
13 thoroughbred racing has declined in August, according to the
14 statistics released by Equibase LLC, the industry's official
15 database. It wasn't just wagering that fell. Available
16 purses dropped by double digits, and the number of race
17 days, races, and starts also declined, as did the average
18 field size.

19 For the month, almost \$1.13 billion was wagered on
20 2,964 races in August, a betting decline of \$78 million, or
21 6.43 percent, from August of 2025. The number of races was
22 down 6.85 percent. The race days declined 6.48 percent.
23 The number of starts dipped 8.22 percent, with the average
24 field size falling 1.47 percent, from 7.19 runners per race
25 to 7.08. Available purses took the biggest hit, down 10.62

1 percent.

2 August, in both 2025 and 2026, had 10 weekend days
3 when wagering is highest. Saratoga Racecourse and Del Mar
4 Racing, the biggest thoroughbred meetings annually in New
5 York and California, were in full swing in August. Yet,
6 year-to-date, wagering is down 4.8 percent, with purses
7 declining by six-tenths of one percent when compared to 2025
8 statistics. Wagering has fallen every month this year,
9 except April, when a higher number of race days and races
10 led to a 2.23 percent wagering gain. Annual wagering on
11 U.S. thoroughbred racing is on pace to decline for the fifth
12 consecutive year.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Chaun.

15 Allison Prater?

16 MS. PRATER: Please forgive my pronunciation of a
17 couple of these words.

18 I do have good news from New Zealand, from the
19 Greyhound Protection League of New Zealand. On July 31st,
20 it's done, the last-ever race at Whanganui's Hatrick Raceway
21 has just been run. Now, no more beautiful greyhounds will
22 suffer and die on New Zealand tracks for entertainment and
23 gambling. It took over a decade of campaigning, countless
24 compassionate people refusing to look away, multiple
25 independent reviews, and a government willing to finally

1 act.

2 Our deepest thanks to every single person who
3 spoke up for the hounds of Aotearoa, who signed a petition,
4 wrote a submission, attended a protest, fostered or adopted
5 a greyhound, donated, shared a post, challenged the excuses,
6 or simply refused to accept that this barbaric sport was
7 welcome in a civilized society. We're celebrating because
8 no more dogs will suffer at the hands of this industry, and
9 we remember every greyhound whose life was cut short before
10 this day finally arrived.

11 This day is coming for U.S. horse racing, one
12 state at a time.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you.

15 Martha?

16 MS. SULLIVAN: Martha Sullivan.

17 Did Del Mar pad average field size this summer?
18 From just this past weekend, Thursday, September 3rd, in
19 race four, three-year-old filly Separator finished eighth
20 and last for a \$47,000 purse for trainer Michael McCarthy,
21 who last raced her on September 12th, 2025, for a \$23,000
22 purse in the Los Alamos thoroughbred meet.

23 Friday, September 4th, race four's \$81,000 purse
24 had two four-year-old fillies last run in mixed races here
25 at Los Al for \$14,000 purses. Legal Fiction was just raced

1 August 22nd and finished sixth of eighth on September --
2 finished sixth of eighth at Del Mar on September 4th for
3 trainer Robert Lucas.

4 Nina was last raced on August 9th and finished
5 eighth -- fifth of eighth on September 4th for trainer Sam
6 Walensky.

7 Saturday, September 5th, race four's \$81,000
8 purse, six-year-old foal (phonetic) horse Knight to King
9 last raced May 12th, 2024, at Leopardstown in Ireland, prior
10 four starts at other Ireland tracks, finished seventh and
11 last on September 5th for trainer Doug O'Neill.

12 Sunday, September 6th, two \$81,000 purses, race
13 seven, six-year-old mare Una Palabra last raced July 3rd,
14 2025, at Canterbury Park, Minnesota for \$24,000 purse,
15 September 6th, finished last for trainer Vann Belvoir and
16 breeder owner Coal Creek Farm. Race 11, four-year-old
17 gelding Infinite Spirit last raced August 8th, '26, in a
18 mixed race here at Los Al for a \$13,500 purse for owner Ed
19 Allred and trainer James Glenn.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Thank you, Martha.

21 MS. SULLIVAN: Patting (phonetic).

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Do we go to closed session now?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: We do, Mr. Chairman.

24 And just for edification of the audience, closed session is
25 going to be a bit lengthy today, in case you were wanting to

1 stick around for the adjournment after.

2 CHAIR FERRARO: Okay.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHANEY: And then we'd also ask
4 you that you leave the room because we're just going to do a
5 closed session here.

6 CHAIR FERRARO: So thank you all for coming.
7 Thank you to our public commentators. You're welcome here
8 anytime.

9 (The Board convened closed session from 10:51 a.m.
10 until 11:42 a.m.)

11 CHAIR FERRARO: Can I have a motion to adjourn,
12 please.

13 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Motion to adjourn.

14 CHAIR FERRARO: Second? The Chairman seconds.

15 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Stern?

17 COMMISSIONER STERN: Yes.

18 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Castellanos?

19 COMMISSIONER CASTELLANOS: Yes.

20 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Gonzales?

21 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERRARO: Commissioner Alfieri?

23 COMMISSIONER ALFIERI: Yes.

24 CHAIR FERRARO: And the Chairman votes yes. Thank
25 you all for --

1 VICE CHAIR GONZALES: Thank you, everyone. Good
2 meeting.

3 CHAIR FERRARO: -- tolerance, your tolerance.

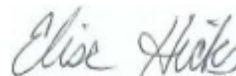
4 (The Board adjourned at 11:42 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of October, 2026.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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

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

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



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

October 7, 2026