

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY THE BOARD TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY THE THOROUGHBRED OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA FOR RACE DATES IN 2025-2026.

Regular Board Meeting  
October 16, 2025

#### ISSUE:

On or about October 6, 2025, the California Horse Racing Board (“CHRB” of “the Board”) received a request for racing dates from the Thoroughbred Owners of California (“TOC”). The TOC has requested the following race meeting dates for the Central and Southern Zones:

#### **Thoroughbred Meetings**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposed Dates</u>
Santa Anita	12/17/25 – 06/16/26
Del Mar	07/08/26 – 09/08/26
Los Alamitos	09/09/26 – 09/22/26
Santa Anita	09/23/26 – 11/03/26
Del Mar	11/04/26 – 12/01/26
Los Alamitos	12/02/26 – 12/15/26

#### **Fair Meeting**

LA County Fair at Los Alamitos	06/17/26 – 07/07/26
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All parties have agreed that the minimum requirement for an allocated race week is three days.

#### ANALYSIS:

Business & Professions Code § 19440(a)(6) authorizes the Board to allocate racing dates and CHRB Rule 1430 requires that the Board allocate racing dates in a way that “will best subserve the purposes of the Horse Racing Law and which will be in the best interests of the people of California in accord with the intent of the Horse Racing Law.” The Board is authorized to allocate fractional racing weeks of four days or less. See Bus. & Prof. Code § 19414.5. The Board may, at any time, change, limit, restrict, or reallocate racing weeks. Bus. & Prof. Code § 19530(b).

#### BACKGROUND:

##### *Authority:*

**Bus. & Prof. Code § 19440 (in part):** (a) The board shall have all powers necessary and proper to enable it to carry out fully and effectually the purposes of this chapter. Responsibilities of the board shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(6) Allocation of racing dates to qualified associations in accordance with law.

**CHRB Rule 1430 (Board Allocation of Racing Dates):** The Board shall allocate racing weeks and dates for the conduct of horse racing in this State for such time periods and at such racing facilities as the Board determines will best subserve the purposes of the Horse Racing Law and which will be in the best interests of the people of California in accord with the intent of the Horse Racing Law. Upon a finding by the Board that the allocation of racing weeks and dates for any racing year is completed, the racing weeks and dates so allocated shall be subject to reconsideration or amendment only for conditions unforeseen at the time of the allocations. The allocation of racing weeks and dates does not commit the Board to the granting of a license to conduct a horseracing meeting to any specific racing association nor for the allotted time period nor at the racing facility scheduled for such racing weeks and dates.

**Bus. & Prof. Code § 19414.5 (Racing Days, Weeks, and Fractional Weeks):** (a) "Racing days" are days on which a licensed racing association or fair is authorized by the board to conduct horse racing.

(b) "Racing weeks" are seven consecutive days during which a licensed racing association or fair is authorized by the board to conduct horse racing for a minimum of five racing days. The board, however, upon joint petition of the association or fair and the organization representing horsemen participating in the meeting of that association or fair, may authorize the conduct of horse racing for less than five racing days. Fractional racing weeks of four days or less may be authorized by the board at the beginning and end of any horse racing meeting. Fractional weeks may also be authorized during weeks containing holidays and during periods of overlap with thoroughbred meetings and fairs if the total number of weeks authorized by the board in any calendar year for each breed does not exceed the maximum annual allocation of racing weeks provided for in Article 6 (commencing with Section 19530). If a licensed racing association holds a split meeting, each part of the split meeting shall be deemed a horse racing meeting solely for the purposes of authorizing fractional racing weeks.

**Bus. & Prof. Code § 19530:** (a) The board shall have the authority to allocate racing weeks to an applicant or applicants pursuant to the provisions of this article and Article 6.5 (commencing with Section 19540) and to specify such racing days, dates, and hours for horse racing meetings as will be in the public interest, and will subserve the purposes of this chapter. The decision of the board as to those racing days, dates, and hours shall be subject to change, limitation, restriction, or reallocation only by the board. No municipality or county shall adopt or enforce any ordinance or regulation that has or may have the effect of directly or indirectly regulating, limiting, restricting, or reallocating the racing days and dates of horse racing meetings.

(b) The board may, at any time, change, limit, restrict, or reallocate racing weeks, days, or dates that are allocated pursuant to this section regardless of whether a condition giving rise to that action is foreseen at the time of allocation or whether a license is issued to conduct a horse racing meeting during an allocated week, day, or date. The board's exercise of authority pursuant to this subdivision is not a revocation subject to the proceedings required by Section 19461, regardless of any effect on a license issued under this chapter.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for Board discussion and action.

The John C. Harris County Fair Legacy  
8016 Golden Eagle Way  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

September 26, 2025

Mr. C. Scott Chaney  
Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Chaney,

On behalf of The John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, DBA: Bernal Park Racing. I am respectfully submitting this document as a placeholder on the October 2025 CHRB Meeting agenda in the event that 2026 California racing dates are discussed. We would like to be part of the discussion, and at a point directed by the CHRB, we will submit date requests for Northern California.

If 2026 California racing dates are not going to be discussed at the October 2025 meeting, we will submit our request to be heard at the November 2025 meeting.

Respectfully,

*Stephanie Wedge*

Stephanie Wedge for George Schmitt/Bernal Park Racing



October 6, 2025

C. Scott Chaney  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Scott,

The Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) and the racing associations operating in Southern California – Santa Anita, Los Alamitos, and Del Mar – agree to race date allocations for 2026 as set forth below, subject to California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approval. The allocation begins on the Wednesday prior to opening day and concludes on the Tuesday following closing day.

#### THOROUGHBRED MEETINGS – CENTRAL & SOUTHERN ZONES

<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposed Dates*</u>
Santa Anita	12/17/25 – 06/16/26
Del Mar	07/08/26 – 09/08/26
Los Alamitos	09/09/26 – 09/22/26
Santa Anita	09/23/26 - 11/03/26
Del Mar	11/04/26 – 12/01/26
Los Alamitos	12/02/26 – 12/15/26

#### FAIR MEETING

LA County Fair at Los Alamitos	06/17/26 – 07/07/26
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\*All parties agree that the minimum requirement for an allocated race week is three days.

Sincerely,

William Nader  
President & CEO