

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY THE BOARD TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY BERNAL PARK RACING MANAGEMENT COMPANY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF RACE DATES FOR A NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMBINED FAIR RACING MEETING IN 2026.

Regular Board Meeting  
January 14, 2026

#### ISSUE:

On or about January 1, 2026, the California Horse Racing Board (“CHRB” or “the Board”) received a request for racing dates from Bernal Park Racing Management Company (“BPRMC”). BPRMC has requested race dates for a Northern California Combined Fair Racing Meeting for a total of 19 racing weeks beginning April 29, 2026, and concluding September 8, 2026. Specifically, BPRMC has requested the Board allocate a maximum of four racing weeks to each of the following fairs:

- Tehama District Fair, Red Bluff
- Alameda County Fair, Pleasanton
- Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center, McArthur
- Tulelake–Butte Valley Fair, Tulelake
- Humboldt County Fair, Ferndale

BPRMC does not request any racing take place at Inter-Mountain Fair or Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair, but proposes the following schedule where Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, and Humboldt County Fair “host” the racing weeks allocated to Inter-Mountain Fair and Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair:

- Tehama District Fair – April 29, 2026, through June 9, 2026 (6 racing weeks)
- Alameda County Fair – June 10, 2026, through July 21, 2026 (6 racing weeks)
- Humboldt County Fair – July 22, 2026, through September 8, 2026 (7 racing weeks)

BPRMC does not specify which weeks would be the weeks allocated to Inter-Mountain Fair and Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair.

BPRMC is not registered as a business entity on the California Secretary of State’s website, and BPRMC has not identified its organizational structure. However, the date allocation request submitted by BPRMC references the Bernal Park Racing Foundation, which is registered with the Secretary of State as a nonprofit corporation for the public benefit. BPRMC specifically states “This effort [the proposed combined fair meet] reflects the long-standing commitment of the **Bernal Park Racing Foundation / John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy** to preserve and expand fair-based racing as a vital part of California’s agricultural and sporting heritage.”

On or about December 26, 2025, BPRMC—along with the CEOs of Tehama District Fair, Tulelake 10-A DAA, and Humboldt County Fair—requested the California Department of Food and Agriculture (“CDFA”) approve its proposed Combined Fair Meet. Rather than request CDFA’s approval to form a new entity to conduct a Combined Fair Meet, this request asked approval for BPRMC “to operate the meet in a profit sharing/rental arrangement at absolutely

no financial risk to the fair.” As of the time this analysis was published, CDFA has not approved BPRMC’s proposal to operate a Combined Fair Meet on behalf of the above-listed fairs.

On or about December 30, 2025, BPRMC submitted to the CHRB—in partnership with the Tehama District Fair—a notice of intent file a future race meeting application pursuant to CHRB Rule 1431.

## ANALYSIS:

### *Legal Issues*

The CHRB cannot allocate racing dates to a non-fair racing association to conduct live horse racing at a fair unless that racing association was licensed by the CHRB to conduct race meetings prior to 2010. Bus. & Prof. Code § 19549.16(a). BPRMC is a newly formed entity and has never been licensed to conduct a race meeting. Therefore, the law appears to prohibit its operation as a private racing association conducting live racing at fairs.

Food & Agricultural Code section 4058 permits the District Agricultural Associations (“DAAs”) to form an entity to conduct combined fair race meets on days that are separated from the general fair activities. However, BPRMC is not an entity formed by the DAAs, unlike the California Authority of Racing Fairs (“CARF”). BPRMC is a private entity seeking “to operate the meet in a profit sharing/rental arrangement...” with the fairs. This is not an arrangement contemplated by or permitted under section 4058.

Furthermore, Food & Agricultural Code section 4058 specifically requires approval from CDFA to form an entity that will operate a Combined Fair Meet. BPRMC submitted a request for approval to the CDFA on December 26, 2025. As of the date of this analysis, CDFA has not approved BPRMC’s proposal to operate a Combined Fair Meet on behalf of the five fairs listed above. The CHRB cannot approve the operation of a Combined Fair Meet in absence of the CDFA’s approval.

Finally, Business & Professions Code section 19482 prohibits the CHRB from licensing “[a]ny non-profit corporation entitled to an exemption from any tax imposed by this State” to conduct a race meeting. It also prohibits licensing “[a]ny applicant who **proposes to conduct a horse racing meeting for the benefit of any such nonprofit corporation** or under any arrangement pursuant to which such nonprofit corporation is to share in the receipts of the licensee from the conduct of such meeting, whether by rentals or otherwise.” Bus. & Prof. Code § 19482(b) (emphasis added). The CHRB needs to understand with certainty BPRMC’s business organization—in particular, how it relates to the nonprofit Bernal Park Racing Foundation—before issuing a license to conduct a race meeting of any kind.

### *Deadlines*

BPRMC’s requests race dates for the Combined Fair Meet beginning April 29, 2026, at Tehama District Fair. Consequently, BPRMC’s race meet application would be due January 29, 2026, if the Board allocates the dates as requested. See CHRB Rule 1433. Because BPRMC has never been licensed to conduct a race meeting, it was also required to submit a Notice of

Intent to File a race meet application by December 30, 2025. CHRB Rule 1431. BPRMC has met this requirement.

Before the Board may issue BPRMC a license to conduct a race meet, the track(s) used at the meeting must be inspected by a CHRB safety steward. Specifically, Business & Professions Code section 19481.5 provides that “no license shall be issued to conduct a horse racing meeting upon a track unless the track has been inspected by the board within 30 days prior to the date of application for a license...” Pursuant to this statutory requirement, the track at Tehama District Fair must be inspected (and pass) between now and January 29, 2026. The track at Tehama District Fair has not been operational in forty (40) years. BPRMC has spent approximately \$104,000 improving the surface at Tehama’s track during December 2025. BPRMC, as part of its date allocation request, has also requested a CHRB inspection of that track. If the track does not pass a CHRB inspection prior to January 29, 2026, the CHRB cannot issue a license to conduct a race meeting beginning on April 29, 2026.

Based on the dates outlined in BPRMC’s date allocation request, the track at Alameda County Fair must be inspected (and pass) between February 12, 2026, and March 12, 2026, and the track at Humboldt County Fair must be inspected (and pass) between March 24, 2026, and April 23, 2026. Alternatively, if BPRMC intends to apply for a single license to conduct a Combined Fair Meet, then all three tracks must pass inspections prior to the application deadline on January 29, 2026.

#### BACKGROUND:

*Authority:*

**Bus. & Prof. Code § 19549.16(a):** Notwithstanding any other law, the board may allocate racing days, pursuant to this article, to a fair in the northern zone to be conducted by the fair or, at the request of the fair, the board may license a racing association that was licensed by the board to conduct racing meetings in California prior to 2010 to conduct live horse racing at the fair during the dates allocated to the fair by the board.

**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.

**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 § 19481.5(a):** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no license shall be issued to conduct a horse racing meeting upon a track unless the track has been inspected by the board within 30 days prior to the date of application for a license and the track has been approved by the board as conforming to the racetrack safety standards set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 19481.

**Bus. & Prof. Code § 19482:** No license to conduct horse racing meeting shall be issued to any of the following:

- (a) Any non-profit corporation entitled to an exemption from any tax imposed by this State.
- (b) Any applicant who proposes to conduct a horse racing meeting for the benefit of any such nonprofit corporation or under any arrangement pursuant to which such nonprofit corporation is to share in the receipts of the licensee from the conduct of such meeting, whether by rentals or otherwise.

Nothing in this section prohibits the board, in its discretion, from issuing a license to conduct a horse racing meeting to any corporation to which it has, prior to September 7, 1955, issued a license to conduct such a meeting.

**Food & Ag. Code § 4058(a):** Notwithstanding Section 4052, the California Exposition and State Fair, a district agricultural association fair, or county fair in the northern zone, with the approval of CDFA, may form an entity for conducting combined fair horseracing meetings and utilize their racing facilities for conducting horseracing meetings, with parimutuel wagering, on days other than the days on which general fair activities are conducted. A combined fair horseracing meeting pursuant to this section shall be a general fair activity for the purpose of Section 19549 of the Business and Professions Code.

**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.

**CHRB Rule 1431 (Notice of Intent to File for License):** Every person who has not held a license to conduct a horseracing meeting in the preceding year who intends to file an application to conduct an authorized race meeting and/or an application for license to conduct a horseracing meeting shall file with the Board a Notice of Intention to file such applications. The required notice of intention shall be filed no later than one hundred twenty (120) days in

advance of the proposed or scheduled date for the commencement of the meeting intended to be specified in the application for license. Any prospective applicant for license to conduct a horseracing meeting failing to file timely the notice of intention may be disqualified and its application for license refused summarily by the Board. In the absence of any timely notice of intention filed by a prospective applicant intending to file an application for a license for a race meeting conducted in the preceding year by any other person the presumption shall be that the person having held the license to conduct the horseracing meeting in the preceding year is deemed to have been allocated the racing weeks and dates for a like horseracing meeting as scheduled by the Board for the current annual racing calendar.

**CHRB Rule 1433 (Time for Filing of Race Meet Application):** (a) Unless the Board requires an earlier filing, at least 90 days before the time allocated by the Board for a race meeting to start, the association shall file with the Board an Application for License to Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting, CHRB-17 (Rev. 3/23), which is hereby incorporated by reference. Note: CHRB-17 incorporates by reference the Personal History Record, CHRB-25A (Rev. 4/23). A California fair shall file with the Board an Application for License to Conduct a Horse Racing Meeting of a California Fair, CHRB-18 (Rev. 3/23), which is hereby incorporated by reference. Copies of CHRB-17 and CHRB-18 may be obtained at the California Horse Racing Board headquarters office.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is presented for Board discussion and action.



January 1, 2026

California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Bernal Park Racing Foundation / John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy

Honorable Members,

On behalf of the Northern California fairs listed below and the Bernal Park Racing Management Company (BPRMC), we respectfully submit this request to the Board for approval of the allocation of racing dates in 2026 for a **Northern California Combined Fair Racing Meeting**. This proposal is aligned with the mission of the **Bernal Park Racing Foundation / John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy**, which is dedicated to preserving, strengthening, and modernizing fair-based racing throughout Northern California.

Pursuant to B&P Code Section 19549, we respectfully request a total of **19 racing weeks**, beginning **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**, and concluding **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**.

BPRMC will partner with the following fairs for the operation of the Northern California Combined Fair Racing Meetings. We respectfully request the allocation of a maximum of **four (4) weeks** of racing to the following fairs:

- Tehama District Fair, Red Bluff
- Alameda County Fair, Pleasanton
- Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center, McArthur
- Tulelake–Butte Valley Fair, Tulelake
- Humboldt County Fair, Ferndale

## Allocated Racing Dates

### Tehama District Fair – Red Bluff

**Host Period:** Wednesday 4/29/26 through Tuesday 6/9/26

**6 Host Weeks – 13 Live Racing Days:** May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 June 6, 7

## Alameda County Fair – Pleasanton

**Host Period:** Wednesday 6/10/26 through Tuesday 7/21/26 **6 Host Weeks – 16 Live Racing**

**Days:** June 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 July 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19

## Humboldt County Fair – Ferndale

**Host Period:** Wednesday 7/22/26 through Tuesday 9/8/26 **7 Host Weeks – 16 Live Racing**

**Days:** July 25, 26 August 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 September 5, 6, 7

## Purpose and Vision

The Northern California Fairs and BPRMC seek to bring racing back to Northern California, restoring fan interest, job growth, agricultural benefits, local economic activity, and racing opportunities for owners who cannot compete successfully in Southern California. This effort reflects the long-standing commitment of the **Bernal Park Racing Foundation / John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy** to preserve and expand fair-based racing as a vital part of California's agricultural and sporting heritage.

## Racing Program

- Live racing will be conducted **2 days per week** (as approved for Los Alamitos) to **3 days per week** (as approved for the southern associations), depending on herd size. A key goal is to re-generate fan interest by providing **family-friendly entertainment daily**.
- Post times will be set within a **15-minute window** of the southern association signal to benefit the statewide racing product.
- Base purse structure: **\$130,000 per racing day**, excluding sponsorships. All sponsorship funds will go toward overnight purses and stakes.
- Purses and commissions will be pooled among all fair entities. BPRMC will absorb any purse overpayments.
- Net profits from all combined fair racing meetings will be shared among participating fairs proportionate to their number of live racing days. BPRMC will absorb all financial risk.
- Pari-mutuel wagering will align closely with wagers offered by the southern associations.
- All required documents will be submitted during the CHRB License Application process, including: Stabling & Vanning Agreement, Fire Clearances, Backstretch & Track Safety Compliance, Workers' Compensation Proof, Inclement Weather Policy, Concussion Protocol, Track Emergency Procedures, Emergency & Security Contracts, Veterinary Services Contracts, ADW/CAW provider contracts with Horsemen's approvals, and all administrative licensing requirements.

- Daily entertainment will be provided to create a **family-fun experience**, including Frisbee Dog events, handicapping contests, Win-Place-Show contests, Ladies Day promotions, Bouncy Ball contests with jockeys/trainers/owners/fans, community outreach for National Anthem performers and school bands, Let It Roll promotions, and jockey helmet-cam race videos (with CHRB/jockey approval).

## Rationale and Benefits

We recognize the significant public-interest benefits of revitalizing a Northern California circuit. Our proposed schedule supports a dual-circuit model that provides opportunities for horses and trainers unable to compete successfully in Southern California. Many have left the state, creating a vacuum in the economics of California racing.

### Tehama District Fair – Red Bluff

**The Tehama District Fair has 3 distinctive Tribal Gaming Establishments within a 40-mile radius.**

- Three Tribal Gaming establishments within 40 miles: Colusa Casino Resort, Win River Casino Resort, and Rolling Hills Casino Resort. This fact establishes the realization that the area is a “gaming region” being able to support 3 casinos in close proximity to each other.
- Hosts the annual **3-day Red Bluff Rodeo**, attended by over **30,000 guests**.
- The Red Bluff Rodeo is the **largest 3-day rodeo in the country** for purse offerings, with **over \$500,000** in added money annually.
- Over **175 RV spaces** available for horsemen.
- Over **2,000 hotel rooms** and **51 restaurants** in the region.

### Humboldt County Fair – Ferndale

**There are 3 casinos within a 45-mile radius of the Humboldt County Fair.**

These are the Bear River Casino Resort in Loleta, the Blue Lake Casino/Hotel in Blue Lake, and the Cher-Ae Heights Casino in Trinidad. This fact establishes the realization that the area is a “gaming region” being able to support 3 casinos in close proximity to each other.

- Approximately **1,700 hotel rooms** in Ferndale, Fortuna, and Eureka.
- Approximately **125 restaurants** in the region.
- **75 RV spots** and **250+ camping spaces** with restrooms and showers.

### Alameda County Fair – Pleasanton

- Long regarded as a **jewel of Northern California racing**.
- Home to the **oldest one-mile dirt track** in the country.
- Annual fair attendance exceeds **400,000**, projected to exceed **500,000** with racing’s return.
- The racing facility, barns, track, grandstand, and support services are among the best in California.

- Ample space for large racing audiences, VIP experiences, major sponsorship opportunities, and upgraded experiences in the Sky Lounge.

## Additional Benefits

- **19 weeks** of Northern California Combined Fair Meets.
- **Economic impact:** revitalized activity for hotels, restaurants, gas stations, agricultural partners, and fairgrounds.
- **Job Creation:** Expanded opportunities include, but are not limited to, grooms, trainers, jockeys, support staff, veterinarians, racing office staff, placing and patrol judges, stewards, assistant starters and the starter, valets, track crew, barn crews, and janitorial staff—who are all among the approximately **900 personnel** directly or indirectly impacted by horse racing in Northern California.
- **Racing Opportunities:** viable options for owners unable to compete in Southern California.
- **Fan Engagement:** fairs provide accessible, community-driven entertainment.
- **Trainer Commitments:** commitments from trainers representing **over 500 horses** to support racing in Northern California.
- Expected participation from Southern California and Oregon.
- Collaboration with Turf Paradise to enhance participation through shipping incentives, rewards/bonus programs, and a year-round circuit.
- Additional beneficiaries include CHRB support, breeder incentive awards, local municipalities, UC Davis equine research, backstretch retirement/welfare programs, and racing promotion funding.
- BPRMC has agreed to supplement the **Teamsters Local 495 health benefit shortfall** expiring January 31, 2026, in addition to contractual obligations should dates be granted.
- The Northern California circuit will stimulate the California breeding industry.
- Off-track wagering promotions will be developed for Northern California OTB fans.

## Infrastructure and Compliance

- Track conditioning at Tehama District Fair began **December 3, 2025**.
- To date, **\$104,217** has been invested by BPRMC in track improvements.
- **1,600 tons** of sandy loam added to the ½-mile racetrack.
- Racetrack survey completed **December 11, 2025**.
- Track includes a ¼-mile chute for varied distances.
- Installation of **Maw Safe state-of-the-art safety rail** will be scheduled upon date approval.
- We respectfully request periodic visits from a **CHRB Track Safety Steward** during revitalization; BPRMC will address travel reimbursement if requested.
- Upon approval of 2026 dates, infrastructure work will begin immediately to ensure compliance with CHRB, union, public safety, and equine safety requirements.

- An additional **\$200,000–\$300,000** in improvements is anticipated, including: Track upgrades, jockey quarters, paddock, stewards stand, stewards office, CHRB investigators office, racing office, 200 portable stalls, security fencing, horsemen parking, pari-mutuel windows and money room, racetrack equipment, receiving barn/test barn, horsemen support areas, photo finish, announcer booth, photographer office, and other required improvements.
- All participating fair venues will complete necessary improvements in a timely manner.

Bernal Park Racing Foundation, a fully funded **501(c)(3)** organization, is committed to executing all required capital and infrastructure improvements.

## Strategic Positioning

- Northern California racing is essential to the survival of the sport in California, particularly as private-land racetracks in Southern California face uncertain futures.
- Our circuit provides a sustainable, community-based model that positions Northern California as a **viable long-term anchor** for racing in the state.
- With **475 California-breds** currently competing at Turf Paradise, the absence of a Northern California circuit has forced many to leave the state; this proposal offers them a homecoming.
- The Northern California circuit will expose **more than three-quarters of California's land mass** to live horse racing.

## Conclusion

We respectfully request the Committee's approval of this schedule and allocation of racing dates. The Northern California Combined Fair Racing Meetings represent not only a revival of tradition and heritage but also a forward-looking solution to sustain California racing.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with the Board to ensure a successful 2026 California racing season.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:



73E43B85853C431  
David Elliott

Chief Executive Officer  
Bernal Park Racing Management Company

## **Executive Overview- Revitalizing Live Horse Racing in Northern California**

### Current Situation

The outlook for horse racing in California during 2025 is concerning. A major factor is the absence of **live horse racing north of Los Angeles**, leaving Northern California communities without the economic and cultural benefits this sport traditionally provides.

The loss of live racing north of the Tehachapi Mountains has led to **significant negative economic and employment impacts**-especially across county fairs and nearby towns that once relied on racing events to drive tourism, hospitality, and local spending.

### Economic Impact on Local Communities

**Declining Fair Attendance & Revenues:** At least **three of the four fairs** that previously offered live racing have reported sharp declines in both attendance and revenue.

**Local Business Losses:** Restaurants, hotels, and other hospitality businesses near fairgrounds have been hit hard. The downturn has especially affected **working-class individuals** who depend on fair-season income from wages and gratuities.

**Regional Ripple Effect:** The downturn extends far beyond racing, touching the broader tourism and agricultural economies of Northern California.

### Impact on Trainers and the Horse Population

Northern California trainers have struggled under a **single-circuit system based in Southern California**, forcing many to relocate portions of their operations to other states. However, most trainers have expressed willingness to return if a **revived Northern California Fair/DAA program** is established-benefiting the entire state's racing ecosystem.

California's total horse population has also **declined sharply**-down approximately **600 horses (and rising)** compared to last year. Many **Cal-bred** horses have left the state, notably contributing to major successes elsewhere:

Cal-bred horses captured nearly **40% of all races at Emerald Downs (WA)**, including most of the stakes races.

Emerald Downs reported a **49% year-over-year increase in handle** and nearly one **additional horse per race** on average.

Similar trends have been observed at smaller tracks in **Wyoming and Colorado**, largely due to California's exodus of quality racehorses.

In contrast, California's single-circuit results show **minimal field growth, reduced handle, and ongoing economic losses** for Northern communities and the state as a whole.

The John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy Initiative

To address these challenges, the **Racing Fairs and District Agricultural Associations** have joined forces with **Bernal Park Racing Management Company** to form the *John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy*.

Bernal Park Racing acts as a **supportive management partner**, assisting fairs upon request to strengthen operations and sustainability.

Key elements of the plan include:

**Pooling purses and commissions** among participating fairs.

**Implementing common cost-accounting** standards to ensure transparency and equitable distribution.

**Sharing profits** based on the number of race days hosted at each fair.

This unified approach is designed to restore stability, fairness, and financial health to Northern California's fair racing circuit.

Future Plans & Sponsorship Opportunities

Efforts are underway to **secure major sponsorships** that will bolster live horse racing in Northern California.

While the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) has not yet approved race dates, multiple sponsors have expressed interest-pending confirmation of the schedule.

If finalized, these partnerships will significantly **enhance purses, revenue, and commissions**, supporting a long-term revival of fair racing.

## Looking Ahead to 2028 and Beyond

It's important to note that **Santa Anita Park** is scheduled to host the **Equestrian Games for the 2028 Olympics**. Preparations for this event are expected to last **at least six months**, temporarily limiting Southern California's racing capacity.

Maintaining a strong Northern California circuit will ensure that **horse racing continues uninterrupted** during that period-preserving jobs, revenue, and the sport's visibility across the state.

## Conclusion

Reviving live horse racing in Northern California is not just about restoring tradition-it's about **economic revitalization, community strength, and statewide opportunity**.

With the support of the CHRB, elected officials, and the broader horse racing community, this initiative can **rebuild California's northern racing economy** and position the state for a more sustainable, competitive future.

**We appreciate your consideration and support in granting the requested 2026 race dates for Northern California.**

**Bernal Park Racing LLC - Organization Chart.**

**LLC Management**

George Schmitt

CEO

David Elliott

Director of Racing	Racing Sec	Marketing Sponsor Ship	Business Development	Paymaster	Trackmaster/Notwinc HISA/CHRB
Tom Dautrich	Tom Dautrich	Stephanie Wedge	Anthony Cordova	TBD	Steve Wood

**Gate Crew**      **Assist. Sec**      **Web Design**

**Clockers**      **Racing** TBD      Jennifer Poncin

**Backside Mgmt.**

Sandy Rios

Kevin Ingram

11/6/25, 10:24 AM

Side, Inc Mail Re: Letter & Info

**Oside**  
<stephanie@rockfordrealtyinc.com>

**Stephanie Wedge**

**Re: Letter & Info**

1 message

**vincent sanchez**

vincentsanchez637@yahoo.com  
Reply To: Vincent sanchez  
Vincentsanchez637@yahoo.com  
To: Stephanie Wedge  
stephanie@rockfordrealtyinc.com

Thu, Nov 6, 2025 at  
10:19 AM

My name is Vincent Sanchez and speaking on behalf of the assistant starters of the North. We are hoping that *you* guys will *give* the racing dates to Northern California racing. So we can do the job we love doing and really miss. Thank *you*

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

Nov 7, 2025

HERZOG INSURANCE AGENCY INC 235  
MAIN STREET  
PLEASANTON CA 94566

Hi George,

This letter is to inform you that Herzog Insurance Agency Inc will be providing the insurance needs when called upon for the property, liability, Work comp, and bonds as needed, If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to reach out

Thank you,

All my best,

Christopher Ildiman

**Herzog Insurance  
Agency**

Agency Manager

License #0736952

235 Main Street Pleasanton. Ca. 94566

Ph: (925) 734-0530

Cell: (925) 872-3587

Fax: (925) 249-7317

Write us a google review here!

Write us a yelp review here!

## **JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY**

### **LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT**

This **LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT** (the "Agreement") shall be effective as of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025, and is entered into by and between Tehama District Fair ("Participant fair") and Bernal Park Racing, LLC, ("Contributor").

#### **I. RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement are each committed to perpetuating the vision of John C. Harris and longstanding tradition of providing live horse racing opportunities to the Northern California region to participating racing fairs. This is recognized as being in the best interest of expanding and promoting horse racing in venues accessible to participants throughout the State.

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of the California Authority of Racing Fairs, as a facilitator of live racing meets, following the permanent closure of Golden Gate Fields, has required all Participant Racing Fairs to identify a dedicated reliable funding source and operational organization to ensure each Participant Racing Fair has the financial wherewithal to conduct a live race meet, with purses adequate to attract sustaining horse population, at county fair facilities that are substantially compliant with all safety, HISA and appropriate regulatory requirements as may be reasonably requested by the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) and/or other entity with jurisdiction over the Participant Racing Fair facilities.

WHEREAS, the Participant Fair, wishes to re-establish its dates as a live racing venue in conjunction with other independent Participant Racing Fairs to restore exciting, safe and community supportive live racing opportunities throughout the Northern California Region as a part of the JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY.

WHEREAS, it is understood that in order to conduct a live race meet that the Participant Fair shall require, at a minimum, capital for operational expenses including, but not limited to startup expenses, maintenance, housing considerations, infrastructure, improvements, track maintenance, safety expenses, security expenses and all other expenses necessary and/or incidental to the conduct of a live race meet.

WHEREAS, Bernal Park Racing, LLC, "Contributor" in the interest of perpetuating live racing at the Participant Fair for the benefit of expanding access to live horse racing in the Northern part of the State, and providing income opportunities for existing California bred horses, breeders, stallion owners, horse owners and industry professionals. Therefore, Bernal Park Racing shall hereby agree to provide the Participant Fair with infrastructure and financial support including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Providing startup and/or restoration costs necessary to restore racing surface and facilities into race-ready condition;
- B. Provide capital needed for purses and change fund;
- C. Provide funds, as needed, for Participant Fair to comply with all safety rules; regulations and protocols for the protection of horses and persons alike;
- D. Provide a Chief Executive Officer;
- E. Provide a Racing Director;
- F. Provide a Gate Crew;
- G. Provide a Track Maintenance Crew;
- H. Assist in acquisition of housing;
- I. Provide Backside Management;
- J. Availability to assist, if requested, in marketing and sponsorship;

- K. Front costs associated with *HISA/CHRB* requirements and compliance;
- L. Provide advance for payroll and benefits;
- M. Negotiate and establish ADW/CAW contracts;
- N. Provide Security, as needed;
- O. Provide on-duty ambulance during training/racing;
- P. Provide Track Announcer;
- Q. Provide Catastrophic Insurance, as needed,
- R. Provide a simulcast signal provider;
- S. Provide Track Photographer; and
- T. Any other assistance reasonably required for Participant Fair to conduct a live race meet.

WHEREAS, all parties to this Agreement recognize the reciprocal benefit of having funds available to cover "operational" expenses incurred by Participant Fair, in order to conduct live horse racing in 2026, to ensure that purses, change funds and operational expenses are adequately funded in order to cover all related expenses during that time period for live horse racing. It is also recognized that having the "Contributor" providing support and services, as set forth above, to all Participant Racing Fairs ensures a cohesive, uniformly managed, mutually beneficial system for the benefit of the horse racing industry, the owners, trainers, industry professionals and racing patrons in the Northern region.

WHEREAS, all parties to this Agreement acknowledge this is a mutually beneficial Agreement necessary for the perpetuation of live racing at the Participant Fair in 2026. The goal for Contributor and Participant Racing Fairs is to work collaboratively for the establishment of a

permanent, self-sustaining, economically viable regional live horse racing opportunities collectively known as the JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY PATR RACING LEGACY.

## **II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A. It is understood and agreed that all "commissions" generated from the mutual handle for the racing dates at the Participant Fair in 2026, shall go to Participant Fair toward Operational Expenses for conducting a live race meet during that specific time period.

B. It is understood and agreed that all "purse" money generated from the mutual handle for the racing dates at Participant Fair in 2026 shall be allocated toward purses for the live race meet during the allocated race dates.

C. The Contributor shall, in reliance upon this Agreement, make an initial deposit adequate to fund purses and change fund requirements for the Participant Fair in advance of its authorized 2026 race dates into a separate account exclusively controlled by the Contributor with Fremont Bank in an interest-bearing account forthwith upon the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approval of the Participant Fair's request for live racing dates. The purpose of this account is as follows:

1. The deposited funds are available as contributions, to ensure that adequate funding is available to ensure the payment of purses, change fund deposits and operational expenses incurred by the Participant Fair in the preparation, and operation of their live horse racing meet in 2026.
2. The contribution of any funds from the Contributor is expressly contingent upon the following:
  - a. That the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approves race dates for the Participant Fair for live horse racing in 2026.

- b. That the CHR B allows Participant Fair to race a minimum of two (2) days a week during elates allocated in 2026.
- c. That all parties agree that to the extent the "commissions" generated by the mutual handle exceeds the actual operation costs of the Participant Fair advanced by Contributor during live horse racing in 2026, then the Participant Fair shall reimburse the Contributor for those costs advanced by virtue of this Agreement by the Contributor, from the "commissions" generated from the handle and the actual expenses.
- d. That the Participant Fair shall retain all "commissions" generated in excess of the reimbursable operational costs advanced by Contributor.
- e. If for any reason whatsoever, contributions made by Contributor are not paid back, then Participant Fair, as a non-profit entity, shall provide Contributor with documentation, as appropriate, for having made a charitable contribution to the nonprofit entity.
- f. The Contributor shall reasonably rely upon the Participant Fair to provide full and complete access to comprehensive cost accounting resources and information including, but not limited to, commissions, all food and beverage concessions sold in the grandstand area, admissions receipts and parking revenue. The agreed-upon percentage of each item included in the cost accounting is set forth in Exhibit A attached here which is incorporated herein by this reference. The portion of the Participant Fair defined as the "grandstand area" is outlined in the not-to-scale sketch attached here as Exhibit Band incorporated here in by this reference.

### III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### A. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous Agreements, representations and understandings of the parties. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any other provision. No supplement, modification or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by all parties.

#### B. No Strict Construction

This Agreement shall not be strictly construed against any party hereto.

#### C. Severability\_

In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof, and this Agreement shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal or non-enforceable provision had never been contained herein.

#### D. Review by Counsel

The parties to this Agreement, and each of them, acknowledge they have had the opportunity to review the terms of this Agreement with legal counsel of their choosing. This Agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Participating Fair Association Board of Directors and the Managing Member of Bernal Park Racing, LLC.

#### E. Further Documents

Each party hereto agrees to execute and deliver such other additional documents as may be required to effectuate each of the terms of this Agreement.

#### F. Counterparts

Due to the geographic separation between the parties to this Agreement, it is mutually agreed

that this Agreement shall be appropriately executed in counterparts by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on this 3 day of November, 2025.

**PARTICIPATING FAIR:**

Nov 3, 2025

By:

**CONTRIBUTOR:**

**Bernal Park Racing, LLC**

November 03, 2025

By: George Schmitt

George Schmitt, Managing Member

**JOHN C. HARIUS COUNTY FAIR RACING  
LEGACY LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT**

**EXHIBIT A**

**Forthwith upon receipt from the Participant Fair of the comprehensive cost accounting resources and information as required under Section II. C. 2. f. of the Live Racing 2026 Agreement, the Contributor shall receive payment from the Participant Fair as follows:**

**On days where there is both a Fair and Live Horse Racing:**

**15 <sup>(16)</sup> of concessions, food and beverages in the grandstand area as defined in Exhibit B.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ % of Admissions**

**\_\_\_\_\_ % of Parking**

**On days when there is only Live Horse Racing and no Fair:**

**100 % of concessions, food and beverages in the grandstand area as defined in Exhibit B.**

**100 % of Admissions**

**100 % of Parking**

**JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY**

**LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT**

**EXHIBIT B**

**For the purposes of this Agreement the "grandstand area" for the Participant Fair shall include the area outlined below:**



## **JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY**

### **LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT**

This **LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT** (the "Agreement") shall be effective as of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025, and is entered into by and between Humboldt County Fair Association ("Participant Pair") and Bernal Park Racing, LLC, ("Contributor").

#### **I. RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement are each committed to perpetuating the vision of John C. Harris and longstanding tradition of providing live horse racing opportunities to the Northern California region to participating racing fairs. This is recognized as being in the best interest of expanding and promoting horse racing in venues accessible to participants throughout the State.

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of the California Authority of Racing Fairs, as a facilitator of live racing meets, following the permanent closure of Golden Gate Fields, has required all Participant Racing Fairs to identify a dedicated reliable funding source and operational organization to ensure each Participant Racing Fair has the financial wherewithal to conduct a live race meet, with purses adequate to attract sustaining horse population, at county fair facilities that are substantially compliant with all safety, HISA and appropriate regulatory requirements as may be reasonably requested by the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) and/or other entity with jurisdiction over the Participant Racing Fair facilities.

WHEREAS, the Participant Fair, wishes to re-establish its dates as a live racing venue in conjunction with other independent Participant Racing Fairs to restore exciting, safe and community supported live racing opportunities throughout the Northern California Region as a part of the JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY.

WHEREAS, it is understood that in order to conduct a live race meet that the Participant Fair shall require, at a minimum, capital for operational expenses including, but not limited to startup expenses, maintenance, housing considerations, infrastructure, improvements, track maintenance, safety expenses, security expenses and all other expenses necessary and/or incidental to the conduct of a live race meet.

WHEREAS, Bernal Park Racing, LLC, "Contributor" in the interest of perpetuating live racing at the Participant Fair for the benefit of expanding access to live horse racing in the Northern part of the State, and providing income opportunities for existing California bred horses, breeders, stallion owners, horse owners and industry professionals. Therefore, Bernal Park Racing shall hereby agree to provide the Participant Fair with infrastructure and financial support including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Providing startup and/or restoration costs necessary to restore racing surface and facilities into race-ready condition;
- B. Provide capital needed for purses and change fund;
- C. Provide funds, as needed, for Participant Fair to *comply* with all safety rules; regulations and protocols for the protection of horses and persons alike;
- D. Provide a Chief Executive Officer;
- E. Provide a Racing Director;
- F. Provide a Gate Crew;
- G. Provide a Track Maintenance Crew;
- H. Assist in acquisition of housing;
- I. Provide Backside Management;
- J. Availability to assist, if requested, in marketing and sponsorship;

- K. Front costs associated with HISA/ CHRB requirements and compliance;
- L. Provide advance for payroll and benefits;
- M. Negotiate and establish ADW/CAW contracts;
- N. Provide Security, as needed;
- O. Provide on-duty ambulance during training/racing;
- P. Provide 'track .Announcer;
- Q. Provide Catastrophic Insurance, as needed,
- R. Provide a simulcast signal provider;
- S. Provide Track Photographer; and
- T. Any other assistance reasonably required for Participant Fair to conduct a live race meet.

WHEREAS, all parties to this Agreement recognize the reciprocal benefit of having funds available to cover "operational" expenses incurred by Participant Fair, in order to conduct live horse racing in 2026, to ensure that purses, change funds and operational expenses are adequately funded in order to cover all related expenses during that time period for live horse racing. It is also recognized that having the "Contributor" providing support and services, as set forth above, to all Participant Racing Fairs ensures a cohesive, uniformly managed, mutually beneficial system for the benefit of the horse racing industry, the owners, trainers, industry professionals and racing patrons in the Northern region.

WHEREAS, all parties to this Agreement acknowledge this is a mutually beneficial Agreement necessary for the perpetuation of live racing at the Participant Fair in 2026. The goal for Contributor and Participant Racing Fairs is to work collaboratively for the establishment of a

permanent, self-sustaining, economically viable regional live horse racing opportunities collectively known as the JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY PAIR RACING LEGACY.

## II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. It is understood and agreed that all "commissions" generated from the mutual handle for the racing dates at the Participant Fair in 2026, shall go to Participant Fair toward Operational Expenses for conducting a live race meet during that specific time period.

B. It is understood and agreed that all "purse" money generated from the mutual handle for the racing dates at Participant Fair in 2026 shall be allocated toward purses for the live race meet during the allocated race dates.

C. The Contributor shall, in reliance upon this Agreement, make an initial deposit adequate to fund purses and change fund requirements for the Participant Fair in advance of its authorized 2026 race dates into a separate account exclusively controlled by the Contributor with Fremont Bank in an interest-bearing account forthwith upon the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approval of the Participant Fair's request for live racing dates. The purpose of this account is as follows:

1. The deposited funds are available as contributions, to ensure that adequate funding is available to ensure the payment of purses, change fund deposits and operational expenses incurred by the Participant Fair in the preparation, and operation of their live horse racing meet in 2026.
2. The contribution of any funds from the Contributor is expressly contingent upon the following:
  - a. That the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approves race dates for the Participant Fair for live horse racing in 2026.

b. That the CHRB allows Participant Fair to race a minimum of two (2) days a week during elates allocated in 2026.

c. That all parties agree that to the extent the "commissions" generated by the mutual handle exceeds the actual operation costs of the Participant Fair advanced by Contributor during live horse racing in 2026, then the Participant Fair shall reimburse the Contributor for those costs advanced by virtue of this Agreement by the Contributor, from the "commissions" generated from the handle and the actual expenses.

cl. That the Participant Fair shall retain all "commissions" generated in excess of the reimbursable operational costs advanced by Contributor.

e. If for any reason whatsoever, contributions made by Contributor are not paid back, then Participant Fair, as a non-profit entity, shall provide Contributor with documentation, as appropriate, for having made a charitable contribution to the nonprofit entity.

f. The Contributor shall reasonably rely upon the Participant Fair to provide full and complete access to comprehensive cost accounting resources and information including, but not limited to, commissions, all food and beverage concessions sold in the grandstand area, admissions receipts and parking revenue. The agreed-upon percentage of each item included in the cost accounting is set forth in Exhibit A attached here which is incorporated herein by this reference. The portion of the Participant Fair defined as the "grandstand area" is outlined in the not-to-scale sketch attached here as Exhibit Band incorporated here in by this reference.

### III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### A. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous Agreements, representations and understandings of the parties. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any other provision. No supplement, modification or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by all parties.

#### B. No Strict Construction

This Agreement shall not be strictly construed against any party hereto.

#### C. Severability

In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof, and this Agreement shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal or non-enforceable provision had never been contained herein.

#### D. Review by Counsel

The parties to this Agreement, and each of them, acknowledge they have had the opportunity to review the terms of this Agreement with legal counsel of their choosing. This Agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Participating Fair Association Board of Directors and the Managing Member of Bernal Park Racing, LLC.

#### E. Further Documents

Each party hereto agrees to execute and deliver such other additional documents as may be required to effectuate each of the items of this Agreement.

F. Counterparts

Due to the geographic separation between the parties to this Agreement, it is mutually agreed that this Agreement shall be appropriately executed in counterparts by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on this 17th day of November, 2025.

**PARTICIPATING FAIR:**

November 17, 2025

By:



**CONTRIBUTOR:**

12/4/2025 | 09:43 PST

\_\_\_\_\_, 2025

**Bernal Park Racing, LLC**

  
George Schmitt

**Signed by George Schmitt, Managing Member  
Original Signature on File with the CHRB**

JOHN C. HARIUS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY

LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT

EXHIBIT A

Forthwith upon receipt from the Participant Fair of the comprehensive cost accounting resources and information as required under Section II. C. 2. f. of the Live Racing 2026 Agreement, the Contributor shall receive payment from the Participant Fair as follows:

On days where there is both a Fair and Live Horse Racing:

15 % of concessions, food and beverages in the grandstand area as defined in Exhibit B.

TBD % of Admissions

TBD % of Parking

On days when there is only Live Horse Racing and no Fair:

100 % of concessions, food and beverages in the grandstand area as **defined in Exhibit B.**

100 % of **Admissions**

100 % of **Parking**

All monetary percentages referenced in Exhibit A are provisional and subject to negotiation, and are contingent upon approval of the Humboldt County Fair Association's date allocation request by the California Horse Racing Board.

**JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY**

**LIVE RACING 2026 AGREEMENT**

**EXHIBIT B**

**For the purposes of this Agreement the "grandstand area" for the Participant shall include the area outlined below:**



ALAMEDA  
COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
PLEASANTON

January 5, 2026

Scott Chaney  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento CA, 95825

RE: 2026 Race Dates Allocation

Dear Mr. Chaney,

The Alameda County Agriculture Fair Association respectfully request to run a summer race meeting at Pleasanton June 19 through July 26, 2026. Live racing would be conducted Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the Fair and Saturday and Sunday on the fifth week. Simulcast days would be the remaining week days.

While not yet finalized, it is the intent of Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association to enter into a license agreement with Bernal Park Racing Management Company LLC, for the use of the racing enclosure and necessary support areas at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Bernal Park Racing Management Company LLC, plans to apply to the California Horse Racing Board for a race meeting license in cooperation with the Association. Bernal Park Racing Management Company LLC, intends to operate, staff, market, facilitate administrative functions, supply equipment, purse account and change fund for the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Jerome P. Hoban  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc:

David Haubert, Alameda County Board of Supervisor

Nate Miley, Alameda County Board of Supervisor

John Smith, Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association President

Allen Aldridge, Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association, Racing Committee Chair

George Schmidt, Bernal Park Racing Management Company LLC

## **Memorandum of Understanding as of 12-24-25**

Between the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association (“Association”) and Bernal Park Racing Management Company (“BPRMC”)

Subject: License and Use of the Racing Enclosure

---

### **1. Term of Use**

BPRMC shall license the use of the racing enclosure, including the track, grandstands, Jockey clubhouse and stables from June 12, 2026 through July 26, 2026. Live race dates during the Fair will be June 19- July 12, 2026 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Live Race dates not during the Fair will be July 25, and 26, 2026. Association shall retain office space for security, print shop and entertainers in the grandstand.

### **2. License Fee**

BPRMC shall pay the Association a total fee of \$ 135,000 calculated as 45 days at \$3,000.

### **3. Deposit**

A 50% refundable deposit shall be due 60 days prior to the start of the start of the License, April 26, 2026.

### **4. Indemnification and Insurance**

BPRMC shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Association, County and the State of California from all regulatory actions, penalties, or fines imposed by any governing authority, including the City, County, State Regional Water Board, DSRSD, and Fire Marshal. BPRMC shall provide proof of insurance naming the Association, Jetter Golf Inc., the County of Alameda, and the State of California as additional insured.

### **5. Financial Guarantee**

BPRMC shall guarantee that the Association and County will not incur financial losses associated with racing operations. All licensing and estimated service fees must be paid 30 days before the occupancy, May 12, 2026.

### **6. Services**

Ancillary services (security, janitorial, IT, box office, equipment rentals, etc.) shall be billed at published Association rates. Utility use will be reimbursed to Association at standard bill rates of PG&E.

### **7. Food & Beverage**

Net food and beverage revenue from the grandstand on race days shall be shared 27.5% to the Association and 72.5 % to BPRMC. BPRMC shall apply the revenue to the profit and loss calculation of the meet if there is a deficit. The food and beverage shall be managed by the Association through its vendor FairFirst. Sky Lounge and Trackside Terrace staff and ticketing services shall be invoiced as an ancillary service.

## **8. Parking**

The Association shall manage the parking lots. The Association will provide parking scan counts from the 2025 Fair for the hours of 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The paid parking scans will be compared to the actual 2026 parking scans on the same days and times. The difference in paid parking scans will be calculated at the average per car value. The calculated value in excess of the 2025 Fair shall be attributed to the profit and loss calculation of the meet if there is a deficit.

## **9. Ticket Sales, Commissions, Gate Admission**

BPRMC shall manage and retain 100% of ticket sales revenue from box seats, program sales revenue and wagering commissions. The Association shall manage the Fair admission gates. The Association will provide admission gate scans from the 2025 Fair for the hours of 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The difference in paid admission scans will be calculated at the average per cap value. The calculated value in excess of the 2025 Fair shall be attributed to the profit and loss calculation of the meet if there is a deficit.

## **10. Sponsorship**

BPRMC shall retain 100% of sponsorship revenue sold by and serviced by BPRMC. All sponsorship will require approval of the Association to assure there is no conflict with existing brands or relationships.

## **11. Damages, Repairs and Cleanup**

All damages, repairs and cleanup will be invoiced to BPRMC and subtracted from the refundable deposit. Association and BPRMC shall conduct a walk-through of the facilities to document preconditions prior to BPRMC occupancy.

## **12. Racing Agreements**

BPRMC shall negotiate and secure required agreements with TOC and CTT, or obtain a waiver from the CHRB.

## **13. Race Dates Allocation**

BPRMC shall apply for race dates through the CHRB. The Association will provide a letter of support and execute a license agreement as required. Agreement shall automatically terminate if BPRMC fails to be allocated race dates by January 16, 2026.

## **14. Racing License**

BPRMC must obtain an approved Racing License from the CHRB. Agreement automatically terminates if BPRMC fails to be licensed by the CHRB by April 17, 2026.

## **15. Labor Obligations**

BPRMC shall be solely responsible for all labor relations, including execution of union agreements, staff hiring, payroll, health and welfare benefits, pension obligations, workman's compensation, unemployment and compliance with all WARN Act requirements.

## **16. Racing Services**

BPRMC shall independently contract and pay for all race-related services, including but not limited to: NOTWINC, Amtote, Pegasus, Robert's Communication, Paymaster, horse ambulance, veterinarians,

medical Doctor, photographer, ambulance, fire, simulcast production, security, waste hauling, program production, and marketing.

**17. Simulcast and ADW/CAW**

BPRMC shall contract all simulcast rights and fees and negotiate all ADW/CAW agreements.

**18. Off Track Betting Facility**

Commissions and host fee revenues generated by the Pleasanton Off Track Betting (OTB) facility due the Association shall not be affected or altered by this agreement. All revenues generated at the OTB shall remain the revenue of the Association.

**19. Purse Account**

BPRMC shall establish and guarantee adequate purse accounts. Purse overpayment and underpayment of the purse accounts shall be the full responsibility of the PBRMC and will not be part of any profit and loss statement.

**20. Equipment**

BPRMC shall procure and maintain all track operations and safety equipment necessary for racing and training.

**21. RV Campground**

BPRMC shall cover all RV campground subsidies for backstretch workers. Association will manage and retain 100% of RV campground revenue.

**22. Marketing**

BPRMC shall purchase, produce and traffic all race meet advertising and placement. At its full discretion, the Association will incorporate racing in the general marketing plan of the Fair only.

**23. Golf Course Impact**

BPRMC shall reimburse the Association for golf course closures required during training and racing hours. The reimbursement shall be based on the 2025 golf course revenue performance for the same days and hours of the closures.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALLOCATION OF RACING WEEKS  
FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMBINED LIVE RACING  
MEET in 2026

WHEREAS Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center and pursuant to Cal Bus & Prof. Code section 19549 may be allocated four racing weeks each year.

Pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code section 19549.I and Cal. Food & Agr. Code section 4058, Bernal Park Racing and its member fairs and associations intend to seek an application to run a combined Live Racing Meet on days other than the days on which general fair activities are conducted and Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center will provide its racing weeks to said Live Racing Meet to be run at The Sonoma County Fair and/or The Tehama District Agricultural Association/ Tehama County Fair. Bernal Park Racing **shall** provide Live Racing Management services.

NOW THEREFORE, the CEO's of Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center with authority granted by its Board of Directors hereby resolves as follows:

- I. Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center shall contribute its four racing weeks allocated pursuant to Cal Bus. & Prof. Code section 19549 to the Combined Live Racing Meet to be conducted on days other than the days on which general fair activities are conducted and shall be included in the Racing Application submitted for said meet to the California Horse Racing Board.
2. This resolution shall be a continuing resolution not subject to annual approval until said time as the Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center determines to resolve to withdraw its allocation of its four racing weeks

Hereby Resolved

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Agreement effective / /2026

CEO



12/17/25

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALLOCATION OF RACING  
WEEKS FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMBINED LIVE  
RACING MEET in 2026**

WHEREAS Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds and pursuant to Cal Bus. & Prof. Code section 19549 may be allocated four racing weeks each year.

Pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code section 19549.1 and Cal. Food & Agr. Code section 4058, Bernal Park Racing and its member fairs and associations intend to seek an application to run a combined Live Racing Meet. on days other than the days on which general fair activities are conducted and Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds will provide its racing weeks to said Live Racing Meet to be run at The Sonoma County Fair and/or The Tehama District Agricultural Association/Tehama County Fair. Bernal Park Racing **shall** provide Live Racing Management services.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the CEO's of Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds with authority granted by its Board of Directors hereby resolves as follows:

1. Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds shall contribute its four racing weeks allocated pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code section 19549 to the Combined Live Racing Meet to be conducted on days other than the days on which general fair activities are conducted and shall be included in the Racing Application submitted for said meet to the California Horse Racing Board.
2. This resolution shall be a continuing resolution not subject to annual approval until said time as the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds determines to resolve to withdraw its allocation of its four racing weeks

Hereby Resolved

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Agreement effective 11/7/2025



Nancy Sites  
Tulelake-Butte Valley  
Fairgrounds CEO



April 16, 2025

Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 94825

Dear Mr. Chaney:

I am reaching out to express my strong support for the 2025 race dates proposed by the Humboldt County Racing Association.

The iconic Humboldt County Fair serves as a vital economic driver for both Humboldt and the surrounding region and draws visitors from throughout the West Coast. This upcoming year marks the Fair's historic 129th anniversary.

Given the economic challenges facing rural communities, I respectfully request the California Horse Racing Board give thorough and equitable consideration to approving Humboldt County's 2025 race meet dates as soon as possible, so they can complete their Fair program.

Please keep me posted on this important issue, and don't hesitate to contact me at 707-445-6508 if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike McGuire".

MIKE MCGUIRE  
Senate President pro Tempore

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002  
(916) 319-2002  
FAX (916) 319-2102

DISTRICT OFFICE  
50 D STREET, SUITE 450  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2526  
FAX: (707) 576-2297

**E-MAIL**

Assemblymember.Rogers@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly  
California Legislature



**CHRIS ROGERS**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
BUDGET  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
CONVEYANCE  
TRANSPORTATION  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY  
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON  
CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES,  
ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

April 25, 2025

Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 94285

Dear Director Chaney:

I am writing in support of the Humboldt County Racing Association's request for 2025 race dates.

The Humboldt County Fair has been of great importance to the community members and the regional economy for 129 years. Visitors travel from across the state to enjoy the race days, fair, and the beautiful North Coast. Rural economies receive much benefit from events that draw tourism and local residents.

I ask for your consideration in the request for the California Horse Racing Board to approve Humboldt County's race dates. Please feel free to contact my office at 707-445-7014 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Signed Chris Rogers (Original Signature on File with CHRB)  
Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

CR:hm

(HUMBOLDT COUNTY FAIR-OSCAR GONZALES)

MR. GONZALES,

Tom Ward is a good friend, and I certainly want to “second” his feeling about the Humboldt County Fair receiving dates for 2025. I also commend your efforts to stand up for the “little guy” in this seemingly one-sided fight.

Fairs like Ferndale have proved vital to Northern California horse racing. They introduce new fans to this great sport, give trainers and owners of smaller less successful stables during the year an opportunity to get back on their feet financially, continue the long-standing tradition of the Northern California summer circuit and provide a major contribution to the local economy. In short, the Humboldt Fair (Ferndale has hosted 128 years of horse racing) has been a cherished tradition that celebrates horse racing along with agriculture and entertainment and has become a cultural pillar for the community.

Ferndale is a town of approximately 1,700, but more than 5,000 fans have regularly packed the Humboldt track during summer race programs. It’s one of the few racetracks that attracts more fans than the population of the host town. Arguably, Ferndale has been the most popular stop on the Nor Cal summer fair circuit. It’s definitely been number one in local newspaper coverage and boasts the only radio coverage with post-race shows on a ESPN affiliate during the summer season.

Horse racing is promoted to the max, and fans have shown their appreciation.

Art Sherman, who trained 2014 Kentucky Derby winner and two-time Horse of the Year California Chrome, was a special 2018 guest of the Humboldt Fair and has expressed his love for Ferndale. Jay Hovdey and Jay Privman, both members of the Joe Hirsch Media Roll of Honor at the National Racing Hall of Fame, have also been guests of the Humboldt and would “second” Art Sherman’s admiration for Ferndale racing.

Doug O’Neill, who has saddled a pair of Kentucky Derby winners, won the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of the \$50,000 1-5/8-mile Humboldt Marathon last year with Mucino.

Frank Mirahmadi, current announcer at Santa Anita and Saratoga tracks, and Chris Griffin, the current Aqueduct (NY) race announcer, both called the Ferndale races for several seasons and can express their love for Humboldt Fair racing. Guy Fieri, an Emmy Award-winning media personality and restaurateur, has been one of the biggest financial supporters of the Humboldt Fair in the town where he sold pretzels as a youngster.

Stars of the sport and the common fan have a similar desire—for horse racing to

continue at the Humboldt County Fair.

Now, Ferndale has become the last hope to keep horse racing alive in Northern California. And all over the tug-of-war for simulcast revenue during just a three-week span in late August and early September.

Many trainers and backstretch work force have had their lives uprooted and forced to move to Southern California where their racehorses have quickly found they are severely overmatched and not competitive. Races that were at first restricted to just Nor Cal thoroughbreds now have clauses in the conditions that “open” races up to So Cal horses.

Want some examples of how prominent Nor Cal trainers are doing at Santa Anita: (through April 27<sup>th</sup>): Bill McLean 3 wins-57 starts; Isidro Tamayo (a multiple trainer champ at Golden Gate Fields and on the Fairs) 4-45; Samuel Calvario 1-43; Manuel Badilla 2-26; Marcia Stortz 2-34; Victor Trujillo 0-22; Blaine Wright 1-16; Faith Taylor 1-21; D Wayne Baker 1-14; Sergio Ledezma 1-14.

McLean, Tamayo, Trujillo, Stortz, Baker and Gary Greiner are among trainers who have expressed interest in sending their horses north for a possible Humboldt meet where their stock would relish the “drop-in class.” Along with several other California trainers and horses from Oregon there would be enough backstretch visitors to hold a three-week Humboldt meet.

Ferndale has become the last hope to keep horse racing, which dates back to 1858 in Northern California, alive. Vote to deny the Humboldt County Fair and you lose the sport for good in Northern California. There will not be racing in 2026 in Northern California—the horses will be gone.

Please keep horse racing alive in Northern California by voting to support dates for the Humboldt County Fair. Ferndale fans want to pack the stands again and Northern California does not want this great sport extinguished.

Ellis Davis

# California State Senate

## CAPITOL OFFICE

1021 O STREET, SUITE 7150  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4012

SENATOR.GROVE@SENATE.CA.GOV

## SENATOR SHANNON GROVE

TWELFTH SENATE DISTRICT

## DISTRICT OFFICES

5701 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 150  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309  
TEL (661) 323-0443

567 WEST SHAW AVE., SUITE A-3  
FRESNO, CA 93704  
TEL (559) 243-8580



November 10, 2025

Mr. Gregory Ferraro, DVM,  
Chairman California Horse Racing  
Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

## **RE: Request for Review and Clarification Regarding Northern California Fair Racing Operations**

Dear Chairman Ferraro:

Thank you for meeting with Senator McGuire and me on Monday, October 27. Following our discussion, we respectfully request clarification on the specific conditions or requirements the CHRB would need to approve continued racing dates and operational support for the Northern California fair circuit.

These fairs are essential to California's agricultural and racing heritage and provide important, community-based racing opportunities. While CHRB data shows the statewide horse population declined from approximately 3,302 in September 2024 to 2,659 in September 2025, this still represents a viable base to sustain the Northern circuit. It is our understanding that trainers and owners remain committed to racing in Northern California, and local and regional discussions are underway with Humboldt, Fresno, Tehama, and Sonoma to ensure a successful circuit.

Financially, the fair circuits have maintained profitable operations—apart from an isolated issue at Fresno in 2024—and now benefit from the strong financial backing of Bernal Park Racing/John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy. For 2026, John C. Harris Legacy Racing has pledged start-up funding, insurance coverage, and operating capital to ensure stable operations.

The recent success of Emerald Downs—where Cal-Bred horses won 162 of 413 races and handle increased by 49%—demonstrates the competitiveness and strength of Northern California's horses. We hope to bring these horses back to race in their home region next year.

We understand that Northern California fair venues continue to engage in local and regional efforts to maintain and modernize fair racing, reflecting the region's long-term commitment to sustaining this tradition.

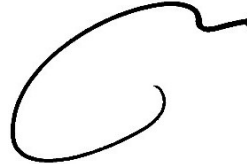
Given these factors, we respectfully request the CHRB's continued advocacy and approval of Northern California fair racing dates for 2026.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and for supporting California's diverse racing community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Shannon Grove  
Senator, 12th District  
District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McGuire". The signature is very stylized and abstract, consisting of a large loop and a few strokes.

Mike McGuire  
Senate President pro Tempore, 2<sup>nd</sup>

CC: Scott Chaney, Executive Director, California Horse Racing Board

**Scott Chaney  
Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurly Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825**

**May 5, 2025**

**Re: Allocation of Racing Dates for Humboldt County Fair Meet**

**Executive Director Chaney and CHRB Directors:**

**I am a lifelong resident of Ferndale and have been attending horse racing at the Humboldt County Fair (HCF) for over 60 years. My late father was a longtime Pari Mutuel clerk at HCF and several other Northern CA Fair racetracks, so I am very much aware of the importance horse racing has on this rural community. But I am not writing just for the community I so much cherish, but for the men and women involved in the meat and potatoes of what I call minor league horse racing. I am talking about the lower-end owners/trainers, jockeys, and backstretch people who not only put their sweat, but their heart and soul into making the sport the best it can be. They may not be your Bafferts, Coxs, or Fletchers, but they do have their part in making horseracing a valuable and viable business. There needs to be an entry place for people desiring to be the future of horse racing, and a rural meet like HCF gives them this opportunity. Without this opportunity, the upper end will eventually collapse from lack of new participants. Like all sports, the minor league is essential in the contineence of the majors. So, you see, it isn't**

**a money grab as some people are led to believe, but a love for the sport and it's future. Contraction is not the answer. Revenue enhancement and better promotion along with developing a new approach to the overall business plan will be the savior of the sport in California, not punishing the hard-working people who have always been the backbone for past successes.**

**I compare the HCF Meet with a small horse from Northern CA (buried at Ridgewood Ranch near Willits, CA) who took on a mighty horse from NY during the Great Depression years. People across this great country were lifted up by this little guy and through his determination, he represented CA gloriously. I believe you all know who I am talking about, and I encourage you to reach deep down and come up with a positive vote for the allocated dates for HCF and for the future of CA Horse Racing.**

**Sincerely I Remain,**

**Duane Martin**

**Avid Horse Race Fan & Loyal Supporter of HCF Racing**

**cc: Greg Ferraro, CHRB Chairman [walkingdog1@gmail.com](mailto:walkingdog1@gmail.com)**

**Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chair [oscargonzalsir@gmail.co](mailto:oscargonzalsir@gmail.co)**

**Brenda Davis [Bdavis@bwdlawgroup.com](mailto:Bdavis@bwdlawgroup.com)**

**Tom Hudnut [tom@tomhudnut.com](mailto:tom@tomhudnut.com)**

**Damascus Castellanos [dcastellanos@teamsters495.org](mailto:dcastellanos@teamsters495.org)**

**Dennis V. Alfieri**

**Peter Stern**



April 16, 2025

Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 94825

Dear Mr.Chaney:

As a son of Humboldt County and more specifically, Ferndale, the Humboldt County Fair holds a very special place in my heart. In a rural area like Ferndale, the Fair breathes life into the community, enriches the local economy, strengthens our sense place and celebrates everything that remains beautiful about Small Town America.

Without question, the highlight and driving force behind the Fair, now in its 129<sup>th</sup> year, is the horse racing meet. Without meet dates in 2025, I worry for the fate of the Humboldt County Fair and for every community member to whom the Fair means so much.

Respectfully, I urge you to please give every consideration to approving Humboldt's 2025 meet dates.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Guy!". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Guy Fieri  
Knuckle Sandwich LLC  
guy@guyfieri.com



December 26, 2025

Secretary Karen Ross  
California Department of Food & Agriculture  
1220 N. Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Ross,

On behalf of the below listed fairs, we respectfully request your approval pursuant to Food & Ag Code 4058 to participate in a Northern California Combined Fair Meeting in 2026. We will submit our request to the CHRB for the allocation of 4 weeks of racing as allowed by B&P Code Section 19549 at the January 14, 2026 meeting in Sacramento.

We will partner with Bernal Park Racing Management Company (BPRMC) to operate the meet in a profit sharing/rental arrangement at absolutely no financial risk to the fair.

We are excited to participate in the revitalization of horse racing in Northern California and are confident the resurgence of racing at fairs will provide the following:

- Solidify the agricultural impact fair racing brings to the Northern California region
- Provide job growth and hundreds of employment opportunities
- Provide funding for each fair to revitalize specific projects on their fairgrounds
- Boost the local economic impact of each fair region
- Increase additional funding for various horseracing beneficiaries including but not limited to CHRB/HISA funding, incentive awards for breeders promoting California agriculture, UC Davis for equine research, retirement and welfare plan benefits for backstretch personnel

Page 2

- Increase fan awareness for horse racing outside of Southern California

We will be requesting the allocation of 4 racing weeks per fair (20 weeks) for the Northern California Combined Fair Meeting for the following fairs:

Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair, and the Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center

To be contested at:

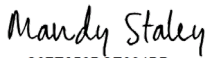
The Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, and Humboldt County Fair from April 29, 2026, through September 8, 2026, for a total of 45 racing days.

As you know, horse racing in California has a multimillion-dollar impact on the State's economy through agriculture, employment opportunities that create tax revenue, supporting the California breeding industry, and supporting the fair network from off-track betting commissions.

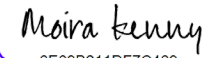
Bernal Park Racing Management Company has the financial backing to support this effort and will return all net profits of the fair race meets to the participating fairs. Net profit structure will be outlined in the joint contract between the parties. BPRMC is committed to completing all infrastructure improvements to the fair facilities required for CHRB/HISA compliance-related issues. As a matter of information, BPRMC has already expended \$104,217 in racetrack-related improvements at the Tehama District Fair.

In closing, we sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request to revitalize the Northern California horse racing industry. Your support will allow BPRMC to partner with fairs to operate fair race meetings and improve fair facilities with no financial risk to the fairs or the State of California, as BPRMC will cover all costs. This will support California agriculture, boost local fair region economies, and create job growth opportunities.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Mandy Staley  
007E2F6DCE99ABD  
 CEO, Tehama District Fair

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Nancy Sites  
B23A066D6D9D4A7...  
 CEO, Tulelake 10-A DAA

Signed by:  
  
 Moira Kenny  
8E69B211DE7C469...  
 CEO, Humboldt County

Robee Knoch  
Inter-Mountain Fair & Event

Jerome Hoban  
CEO, Alameda County Fair

Signed by:  
  
 David Elliott  
73E43B85853C431...  
 CEO, BPRMC



## 30TH DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 70, RED BLUFF, CA 96080  
(530)527-5920 FAX (530)527-1511  
INFO@TEHAMADISTRICTFAIR.COM

**Board of Directors:**

*Mark Mulliner, Pete Dagorret, Shanna Long, Linda Durrer, Jorge Lomeli, Jennifer Torres*

October 15, 2025

California Horse Racing  
Board 1010 Hurley Way,  
Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Members of the California Horse Racing Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the 30th District Agricultural Association, I am writing to express our strong support for hosting horse racing at the Tehama District Fair from April 30 to June 7, 2026.

With the backing of Bernal Park Racing, we are confident in our ability to successfully host horse racing events. Our facility spans 110 acres and includes 206 permanent stalls along with 250 portable stalls. Our ½ mile track can accommodate 10,000 patrons and is equipped with the infrastructure to support betting, vendors, and horse racing personnel. We are already investing in improvements to the grounds and are certain we will effectively meet the necessary requirements.

Our agriculture-focused community has already demonstrated enthusiasm for the prospect of horse racing in Red Bluff. We have secured commitments from various community organizations to expand the annual Fair and agricultural education events through June 7th. This new venture will offer exciting entertainment, agricultural education, and a VIP experience for attendees, all while contributing to our local economy.

Like many fairgrounds across the state, we are facing dire challenges in today's economy. The revenue generated from horse racing will be vital in maintaining our fairgrounds, ensuring they remain available and continue to serve as a center for emergency support, community enrichment, and economic development.

We are eager to collaborate closely with your board to ensure all regulatory requirements are met and to create a premier horse racing event that reflects the high standards of the California Horse Racing Board in a way that aligns with community values and economic growth. We believe that with your support, we can establish Red Bluff as a vibrant and exciting destination for horse racing enthusiasts across the state.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to work together and to the possibility of welcoming you to Red Bluff for our inaugural race in 2026.

Sincerely,

Mark Mulliner  
President  
30th District Agricultural Association

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0012  
(916) 319-2012  
FAX (916) 319-2112



COMMITTEES  
CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY  
AND TOXIC MATERIALS  
AGRICULTURE  
BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON  
CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES,  
ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION

April 25, 2025

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

**Re: Humboldt County Fair 2025 Race Dates**

Dear Director Chaney,

I am writing to respectfully express my strong support for the approval of the 2025 race dates requested by the Humboldt County Fair.

The Humboldt County Fair is not only a long-standing tradition, celebrating its 129th year, but also an important economic and cultural hub for our rural Northern California communities. The annual race meet brings together residents, visitors, and horsemen and women from across the region and beyond, providing a vital boost to the local economy by supporting jobs, tourism, and small businesses.

During the 2023-24 legislative session, I had the privilege of chairing the Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification. Through this role, I had the opportunity to tour the Humboldt County Fairgrounds and was impressed by the quality of their leadership, the institution's rich history, and its impact in the community. I remain involved in fair-related issues through the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 2143 last year and my authorship of AB 258 this legislative session. Ensuring the success of California's fairs continues to be one of my top priorities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the consideration of the California Horse Racing Board to approve the Humboldt County Fair's 2025 race date request. Your support is crucial to preserving this tradition and sustaining rural California communities and local economies.

If you need additional information in regards to this request, please email my Chief of Staff, Aaron Vad at [Aaron.Vad@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Aaron.Vad@asm.ca.gov) or call (916) 319-2012.

Sincerely,

DAMON CONNOLLY  
Assemblymember, 12th District

To Alameda County Board of Supervisors:

David Haubert, District 1

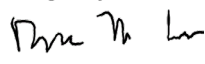

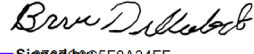
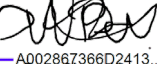
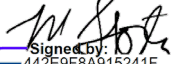
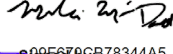

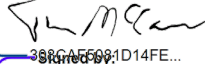

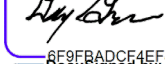
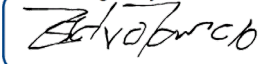
Elisa Marquez, District 2

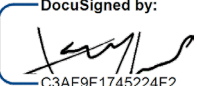

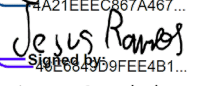

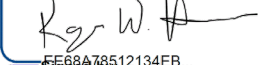
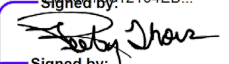
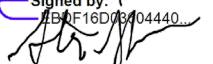

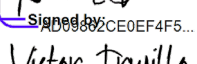
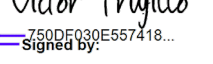

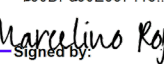
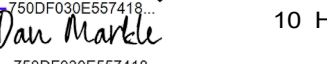


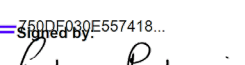
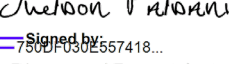

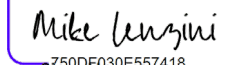
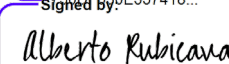
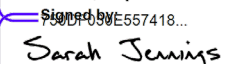
Lena Tam, District 3

Nate Miley, District 4

Nikki Fortunato Bas, District 5

I am committed to bring my barn back to the Northern California circuit May 01,2026 thru October 18,2026. This includes my horses (number below next to name) and my staW.

- 1.  20 Horses Bill McLean  
Signed by: 81720B1A67244F...
- 2.  10 Horses Blain Wright  
DocuSigned by: 00533BF3175744E...
- 3.  15 Horses Bruce Dillenbeck  
Signed by: C5F8A34FF...
- 4.  15 Horses D.W. Baker  
DocuSigned by: A002867366D2413...
- 5.  15 Horses MARCIA STORTZ  
Signed by: 442E9F8A915241F...
- 6.  4 Horses Melanie McDonald  
Signed by: BCB78344A5...
- 7.  10 Horses Monte Meier  
DocuSigned by: 5D41AD3BESA74...
- 8.  30 Horses Tim McCanna  
Signed by: 388CAF5081D14FE...
- 9.  15 Horses Gloria Haley  
Signed by: 97DAD5DC8C5492...
- 10.  15 Horses Gary Greiner  
DocuSigned by: 8F9FBADCF4EF4AB...
- 11.  30 Horses Isidro Tamayo  
DocuSigned by: 1A2A06ED13D4497...

- 12.  DocuSigned by: 15 Horses **Jamey Thomas**  
C3AF9F1745224F2...  
DocuSigned by:
- 13.  Firmado por: 10 Horses **Jeffrey Bonde**  
4A21EEEC867A467...
- 14.  Signed by: 20 Horses **Jesus Ramos**  
9FEE4B1...
- 15.  DocuSigned by: 10 Horses **Jose Bautista**  
750DF030E557418...
- 16.  Signed by: 10 Horses **Roger Hansen**  
5E88078512134EB...
- 17.  Signed by: 15 Horses **Ruby Thomas**  
7B0F16D0304440...
- 18.  Signed by: 20 Horses **Steve Sherman**  
30E0E15D4BC...
- 19.  Signed by: 15 Horses **Steve Specht**  
750DF030E557418...
- 20.  Signed by: 15 Horses **Victor Trujillo**  
750DF030E557418...
- 21.  Signed by: 15 Horses **Jose Puentes B.**  
750DF030E557418...
- 22.  Signed by: 5 Horses **12/4/2025 & 10:20 PST  
Marcelino Rojas**  
750DF030E557418...
- 23.  Signed by: 10 Horses **Dan Markle**  
750DF030E557418...
- 24.  Signed by: 10 Horses **Marcelino Trujillo**  
750DF030E557418...
- 25.  Signed by: 25 Horses **Samuel Calvario**  
750DF030E557418...
- 26.  Signed by: 15 Horses **Sheldon Paldanius**  
750DF030E557418...
- 27.  Signed by: 10 Horses **12/4/2025 \$ 11:46 PST  
Jorge Bautista**  
750DF030E557418...
- 28.  Signed by: 10 Horses **Mike Lenzini**  
750DF030E557418...
- 29.  Signed by: 15 Horses **Alberto Rubicava**  
750DF030E557418...
- 30.  Signed by: 6 Horses **Sarah Jennings**  
750DF030E557418...
- 31.  Signed by: 20 Horses **O.J. Jaregui**  
750DF030E557418...
- 32.  Signed by: 10 Horses **Jacqui Navarre**  
750DF030E557418...

33. over 450 Horses are committed to come race the Northern California Circuit that had to  
relocate when Pleasanton closed earlier this year.

34.

## **TURF PARADISE**

Members

California Horse Racing Board

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95825

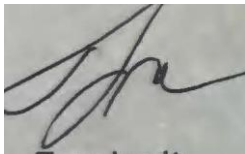
Dear Members,

On behalf of Turf Paradise racetrack, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the allocation of racing days in 2026 to Bernal Park Racing. I have been in contact with George Schmitt and David Elliott and we look forward to establishing a partnership between the entities which may include but is not limited to:

- Working together in recruiting efforts for both entities with incentives to Arizona and California horsemen
- Establishing a rewards or bonus program in overnight races that rewards California horses (Owners/Trainers) racing in Arizona and Arizona horses (Owners/Trainers) racing in California.
- Establish a year-round solid circuit of racing opportunities for all racing participants from November to May in Arizona and May to November in Northern California

We appreciate your consideration and approval of the requested racing dates allocation.

Tom Ludt



President and General Manager, Turf Paradise Racetrack

cc: Scott Chaney, CHRB

George Schmitt, Bernal Park Racing David Elliott, Bernal Park Racing

1501 W Bell Rd. • Phoenix, Arizona 85023 • 602-942-1101 • Fax

602-942-8659

JARED HUFFMAN  
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2330 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-5161  
WEBSITE: [huffman.house.gov](http://huffman.house.gov)

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0502

April 15, 2025

Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 94825

Dear Director Chaney:

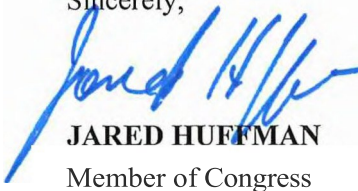
I am writing to support the 2025 race dates requested by the Humboldt County Racing Association.

The Humboldt County Fair has a major positive impact on Humboldt County and the region's economy, attracting attendees from all over California and Oregon. This will be the Humboldt County Fair's 129<sup>th</sup> year.

I ask for consideration for the struggling rural economies and your full and fair consideration of the request for California Horse Racing Board to approve Humboldt County's 2025 race meet dates at your earliest convenience.

Please contact my Senior Advisor Jenny Callaway at 415-258-9657 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Member of Congress

**SAN RAFAEL**  
999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901  
PHONE: (415) 258-9657  
FAX: (415) 258-9913

**PETALUMA**  
206 G STREET, #3  
PETALUMA, CA 94952  
PHONE: (707) 981-8967

**UKIAH**  
200 S. SCHOOL ST.  
UKIAH, CA 95482  
PHONE: (707) 671-7449  
FAX: (707) 962-0905

**FORT BRAGG**  
430 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET  
P.O. Box 2208  
FORT BRAGG, CA 95437  
PHONE: (707) 962-0933  
FAX: (707) 962-0905

**EUREKA**  
317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
PHONE: (707) 407-3585  
FAX: (707) 407-3559



December 28, 2025

Honorable Members  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Members,

On behalf of Bernal Park Racing Management Company in partnership with the Tehama District Fair, we respectfully submit this document to satisfy the requirement of CHRB Rule 1431 "Notice of Intent to file".

We are submitting this document to be compliant with the 120 day requirement.

Respectfully,

Signed by:

*David Elliott*

750DF030E5E7418  
David Elliott,

CEO, Bernal Park Racing Management Company

cc: Executive Director Chaney  
Mr. George Schmitt  
Mandy Staley

Law Offices  
**BLOOSTON, MORDKOFKY, DICKENS & PRENDERGAST, LLP**  
2120 L Street, NW Suite 825  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 659-0830  
Facsimile: (202) 828-5568

BENJAMIN H. DICKENS, JR.  
JOHN A. PRENDERGAST  
RICHARD D. RUBINO  
D. GARY MITCHELL  
SALVATORE TAILLEFER, JR.

ARTHUR BLOOSTON  
1914 - 1999

AFFILIATED SOUTH AMERICAN OFFICES

ESTUDIO JAUREGUI & ASSOCIATES  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

January 5, 2026

HAROLD MORDKOFKY  
RETIRED

To: Mr. Ferraro, Chairman  
Mr. Gonzalez, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Chaney, Executive Director

Re: Request for inclusion of BPR concerns in the board packet for January 14, 2026  
CHRB Board Meeting

Gentlemen:

Bernal Park Racing, LLC (BPR) hereby requests that this letter be included in the Board Member packets looking toward the January 14, 2026 board meeting concerning BPR's request for racing dates on behalf of several county racing fairs. It has been suggested that legal obstacles stand in the way of BPR's racing date requests. To date, we have not been provided any specifics that warrant such a conclusion, though we understand that there may be information from staff to be submitted later this week. We look forward to seeing any such information, and will respond with any material observations.

In the meantime, we would very much appreciate this letter being circulated to all board members for use at the January 14, 2026 meeting.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Ben Dickens*

750DF030E557418...

Benjamin H. Dickens, Jr.  
Counsel for Bernal Park Racing, LLC  
202-828-5510  
bhd@bloostonlaw.com



John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy

# BERNAL PARK RACING



[WWW.BERNALPARKRACING.COM](http://WWW.BERNALPARKRACING.COM)



*Seabiscuit with George “The Iceman” Woolf*

*Seabiscuit trained briefly at the Alameda County Fairgrounds during his legendary career.*

“ There where the course is,  
Delight makes all of the one mind,  
The riders upon the galloping horses,  
The crowd that closes in behind. ”

**- WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS**

*Irish poet and writer – awarded the  
1923 Nobel Prize in Literature*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy

**Overview of Management Company**

**Executive Summary**

**Market Research**

**Competitive Analysis**

**Marketing Strategy**

**Supporters**

**Confirmed Trainers**

**Fair Standing Dates**

**Request Overview**

**All Racing Events P/L Overview**

**Individual Racing Business Plans**

**Impact of Horse Racing**

**Professional Team**

**Contact**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**Event Name:** John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy

**Date:** April 29 – September 8

**Counties:** Tehama, Alameda, Humboldt

**Management:** Bernal Park Racing Management Co.

**Event Type:** Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed Racing

Northern California Combined Fair Racing Meetings featuring Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed racing events will be held at the Tehama District Fairgrounds, Alameda County Fairgrounds, and the Humboldt County Fairgrounds beginning April 29, 2026, thru September 8, 2026, with an expected attendance of 4,000 to 15,000 guests per racing day. The events will showcase competitive racing, an economic impact through tourism, sponsorship opportunities and exposure, revenue derived from pari-mutuel wagering, agricultural-based events, and family friendly entertainment. Bernal Park Racing Foundation, a 501(c)(3), is not just a business- it's a movement to preserve California's racing heritage while building a sustainable future for generations to come.

## VISION & MISSION

The mission of the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy/Bernal Park Racing Management Co. is to host competitive horse racing events honoring the memory of John C. Harris while offering Northern California Combined Fair Racing Meetings that celebrate Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed racing and offering engaging entertainment for all ages. These racing events aim to re-establish horse racing's rich history by delivering competitive race cards, memorable moments, and showcasing California authentic agricultural heritage. Through tourism, community and tribal sponsorships and partnerships, in addition to ADW & CAW wagering, we will together generate substantial revenue and contribute positively to job growth and to the local economy.

# MARKET RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

## INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Horse racing is a prominent global sport with an estimated \$176B industry. In the U.S. alone, horse racing generates approximately \$116B of legal betting revenue annually. The target audience for this event will primarily be sports enthusiasts, gamblers, residents, and tourists.

### KEY TRENDS

- Increased interest in betting, both in-person and online.
- A rise in family-oriented entertainment at racetracks
- Growing adoption of tech-driven fan experiences (e.g., mobile betting, apps, live streaming).

### TARGET AUDIENCE

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

- Age: 18-90
- Income: All income earners, with a particular focus on those who enjoy high-stakes betting or luxury experiences.
- Interests: Sports fans, gambling enthusiasts, families, event-goers.

#### PSYCHOGRAPHICS

- Attendees who appreciate the excitement and tradition of horse racing.
- Corporate groups and businesses looking for networking opportunities.
- Families seeking entertainment and outdoor activities.



# COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

## COMPETITION

- Casinos
- Card Rooms
- Illegal Online Sports Betting
- Illegal Book making
- Other Gambling Outlets

## COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

01.

### ELEVATED EXPERIENCE

Bernal Park Racing Management Co. stands out by combining both thrilling races and a comprehensive family experience, alongside top-tier hospitality and exclusive betting experiences.

02.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnership with renowned brands and sponsors in the horse racing industry.

03.

### EXPERT TEAM

Expert team brings decades of experience unique to the world of horse racing, with an insider's understanding to anticipate needs and deliver results that stand out from competitors who lack our specialized background.

# MARKETING STRATEGY

## PROMOTIONAL CHANNELS

### PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

**Tiered Sponsorships:** Offer a range of community, tribal, and brand sponsorship packages (e.g., Title Sponsorship, Race Sponsorships, VIP Experience Sponsor).

**Media Partners:** Collaborate with local media outlets to increase exposure and provide coverage.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Send press releases to local and national media outlets.
- Organize press conferences and pre-event media coverage.



### BRANDING & POSITIONING

- Create a strong brand identity for John C. Harris County Fair Legacy Fairgrounds with a catchy tagline like “Where Racing Meets Excellence.”
- Design a professional logo and consistent visual themes for use across all event materials, including posters, social media, and event merchandise.



### SOCIAL MEDIA

- Engage on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and X with interactive posts, live updates, giveaways, and behind-the-scenes content.
- Utilize paid ads on Facebook and Instagram for targeted advertising to racing fans, sports enthusiasts, and residents.



### WEB PRESENCE

- Develop a dedicated event website featuring race schedules, ticket information, and detailed vendor listings. Include an online ticketing system to drive early sales.



### TRADITIONAL MEDIA

- Advertise on local radio stations, and TV channels, and place billboards and posters around the city, particularly near local businesses, restaurants, and hotels. Consideration will be given to horseracing industry outlets for advertising such as Daily Racing Form etc.

# SUPPORTERS

## ELECTED OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR LIVE RACING AT THE JOHN C. HARRIS COUNTY FAIR RACING LEGACY

**Jared Huffman**, United States House of Representatives, California 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
**Eric Swalwell**, United States House of Representatives, California 14<sup>th</sup> District  
**Mike McGuire**, State Senator, California 2<sup>nd</sup> District

### CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

Shannon Grove, Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Chris Rogers, Assemblymember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
James Gallagher, Assemblymember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
David Tangipa, Assemblymember, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Damon Connolly, Assemblymember, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Joaquin Arambula, Assemblymember, 31<sup>st</sup> District  
Stan Ellis, Assemblymember, 32<sup>nd</sup> District

### TEHAMA

Matthew Hansen, Tehama County Supervisor District 4  
Gregory Jones, Tehama County Supervisor District 5  
Mark Mulliner, Board Chair Tehama District Fair

### ALAMEDA/PLEASANTON

Jack Balch, Mayor, City of Pleasanton  
David Haubert, Alameda County Supervisor, District 1  
Matt Gaidos, City of Pleasanton, Councilmember

### HUMBOLDT

Rex Bohn, Humboldt County Supervisor, District 1  
Guy Fieri, Celebrity Chef  
Garth Sundberg Sr., Tribal Chairperson, Trinidad Rancheria

# CONFIRMED TRAINERS

Confirmed Trainers in support for Fair Racing will move back to Nor Cal

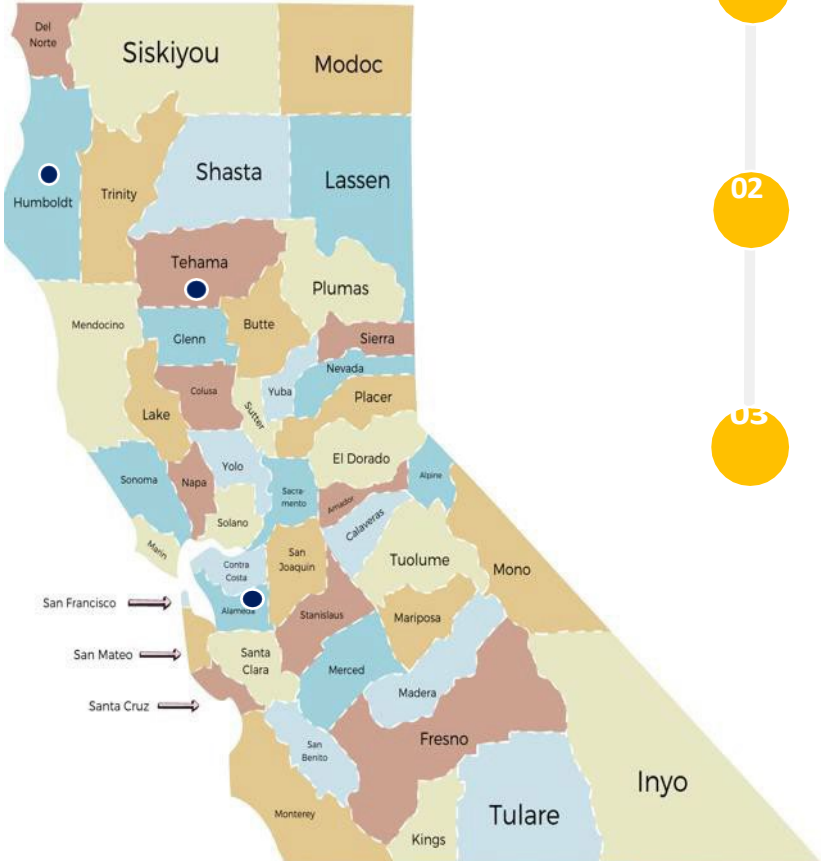
\*still live in Nor Cal and currently commute to So Cal to attend their barns



Tim Mc Canna  
Monte Meier  
Steve Specht  
O.J. Jauregui\*  
Faith Taylor  
D. Wayne Baker  
Melanie MacDonald\*  
Steve Sherman\*  
Bill McLean\*  
Gary "Butch" Greiner  
Jose Puentes  
Quentin Miller\*  
Sammy Calverio  
Mike Lenzini\*  
Aggie Ordonez

Aggie Ordonez  
Terri Eaton\*  
Marcia Stortz  
Bruce Dillenbeck  
G. Preciado  
Rubi Cava\*  
Jamie Thomas\*  
Dean Pederson  
Debbie Winick  
Gloria Haley\*  
Isadore Tamayo\*  
Blaine Wright  
Danny Morgan  
Sheldon Paladorius  
Debbie Perry

# FAIR STANDING DATES



01

**TEHAMA DISTRICT FAIR, RED BLUFF**  
April 29 – June 9

02

**ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR, PLEASANTON**  
June 10 – July 21

03

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY FAIR, FERNDALE**  
July 22 – September 8

# REQUEST OVERVIEW

## John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy/Bernal Park Racing Management Company Requested Race Dates:

- Tehama District Fair at Red Bluff - April 29 to June 9
- Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton - June 10 to July 21
- Humboldt County Fair at Ferndale - July 22 to September 8

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Consolidated Business Plan/Purses \$5,850,000 (without sponsorships)
- Combined Revenues \$7,000,000
- Combined Expenses \$6,440,000
- Based on a combined 45 Live Racing Days

# ALL RACING EVENTS PROFIT & LOSS

TEHAMA DISTRICT FAIR, ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR, HUMBOLDT COUNTY FAIR

## REVENUE PROJECTIONS \$7,000,000

### REVENUE

- Admission: \$625,000
- Sponsorships Net: \$325,000
- Wagering Commissions:  
\$4,875,000
- Concessions \$625,000
- Parking \$550,000

### RISK MANAGEMENT

- Pooling of purses and commissions with all other live racing Fairs
- Common Cost Accounting across racing entities

## EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS \$6,440,000

### OPERATIONS

- Rental/Lease: \$710,000
- Marketing: \$400,000
- Backstretch: \$400,000
- Management Staff: \$225,000
- Support Staff Benefits  
\$500,000

### OVERHEAD

- Track Maintenance/Labor:  
\$400,000 Test Barn: \$305,000
- Insurance: \$150,000
- Contractors/Regulatory  
(Incl. HISA/CHRB): \$725,000
- Video/Uplink/Tote/PhotoFin:  
\$1,900,000 Racing Office:  
\$350,000
- Housing \$225,000 Misc:  
\$150,000

**Profit: \$560,000**

# TEHAMA / RED BLUFF

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy is a combined fair meet with a 2-3 day a week horse racing meet that will feature 7-9 races a day for Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed racing while creating family-friendly activities in the Agricultural space.

## DATES

April 29, 2026 - June 09, 2026 – 13 Live Racing Days - 6 weeks

**Expected Attendance:** 5000 a day during racing days

**Event Type:** Combined Fair Racing Meet for Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed Racing

## VENUE

The Tehama Fairgrounds in Red Bluff provides ample space for large racing audiences, professional facilities for horse racing, and elevated VIP experiences. Tehama Fairgrounds has excellent relationships with local tribal communities and looks to foster mutually beneficial sponsorship and new revenue opportunities with our neighbors.

## RACES

2 or 3 Thoroughbred Race Days weekly during the Fair

## PRIZE POOL / PURSES

\$130,000 x 13 = \$1,690,000 total

## HORSE POPULATION NEEDED FOR 6 WEEKS OF RACING

- Minimum of 350 horses needed for 2 racing days per week schedule
- We have over 30 committed trainers bringing horses from Arizona, Oregon, and Southern California..

**HORSES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL AT OUR FAIR TRACKS.**

## KEY ATTRACTIONS

- Signature Events including Fan clubs, luxury brand activations, Corporate Outings & Team Building events & “Glamour Days”
- A VIP Experience offering exclusive access to racehorses and behind-the-scenes tours
- Live music performances from local artists.
- Full-service concession stand that brings in profit
- Charity auction featuring exclusive items like memorabilia from famous races
- Competitive Racing Programs

## DAILY PROMOTIONS

- Hat Contests
- Frisbee Dog Events
- On and Off-site handicapping contests
- Win Place Show contest
- Ladies Day Promotions
- Bouncy Ball events with Jockeys, Trainers, Owners & Fans
- Corn hole contests
- Community outreach for National Anthem performers
- Community outreach for Local Middle/High School bands & performers

# TEHAMA / RED BLUFF

## EVENT REVENUE PROFIT & LOSS

### REVENUE PROJECTIONS \$2,050,000

#### REVENUE

- Admission: \$200,000
- Sponsorships Net: \$100,000
- Wagering Commissions:  
\$1,500,000
- Concessions \$150,000
- Parking \$100,000

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

- Pooling of purses and commissions with all other live racing Fairs
- Common Cost Accounting across racing entities

### EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS \$1,890,000

#### OPERATIONS

- Rental/Lease: \$150,000
- Marketing: \$100,000
- Backstretch: \$125,000
- Management Staff: \$75,000
- Support Staff and Benefits:  
\$150,000

#### OVERHEAD

- Track Maintenance/Labor:  
\$100,000
- Test Barn: \$90,000
- Insurance: \$50,000
- Contracting/Regulatory  
(Incl. HISA/CHRB): \$225,000
- Video/Uplink/Tote/PhotoFin:  
\$600,000
- Racing Office: \$100,000
- Housing \$75,000
- Misc: \$50,000

**Profit: \$160,000**

# ALAMEDA COUNTY / PLEASANTON

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy is a combined fair meet with a 2-3 day a week horse racing meet that will feature 8-10 races a day for Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed while creating family-friendly activities in the Agricultural space.

## DATES

June 10, 2026 – July 21, 2026 = 16 race days, 6 weeks

**Expected Attendance:** Up to 6000 a day during racing days

**Event Type:** Combined Fair Racing for Thoroughbred /Mixed Breed Racing

## VENUE

The Alameda County Fairgrounds provides ample space for large racing audiences, professional facilities for horse racing, and the Sky Lounge for elevated VIP experiences. The City of Pleasanton is proud of being home to the oldest one-mile dirt racetrack in America.

## RACES

2 or 3 Thoroughbred Race Days weekly during the Fair

## PRIZE POOL / PURSES

\$130,000 x 16 = \$2,080,000 total

## HORSE POPULATION NEEDED FOR 6 WEEKS OF RACING

- Minimum of 450 horses
- Horses coming from Arizona, So Cal, Oregon and Red Bluff
- We have over 30 committed trainers.

**HORSES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL AT OUR FAIR TRACKS.**

## KEY ATTRACTIONS

- Signature Events including Fan clubs, luxury brand activations, Corporate Outings & Team Building events & “Glamour Days”
- Competitive Racing Programs
- A VIP Experience offering exclusive access to racehorses and behind-the-scenes tours.
- Live music performances from local artists.
- Full-service concession stand that brings in profit
- Charity auction featuring exclusive items like memorabilia from famous races.

## DAILY PROMOTIONS

- Hat Contests
- Frisbee Dog Events
- On and Off-site handicapping contests
- Win Place Show contest
- Ladies Day Promotions
- Bouncy Ball events with Jockeys, Trainers, Owners & Fans
- Corn hole contests
- Community outreach for National Anthem performers
- Community outreach for Local Middle/High School bands & performers

# ALAMEDA COUNTY / PLEASANTON

## EVENT REVENUE PROFIT & LOSS

### REVENUE PROJECTIONS \$2,600,000

#### REVENUE

- Admissions: \$225,000
- Sponsorships Net: \$125,000
- Wagering Commissions:  
\$1,775,000
- Concessions \$225,000
- Parking \$250,000

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

- Pooling of purses and commissions with all other live racing Fairs
- Common Cost Accounting across racing entities

### EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS \$2,400,000

#### OPERATIONS

- Rental/Lease: \$365,000
- Marketing: \$150,000
- Backstretch: \$150,000
- Management Staff: \$75,000
- Support Staff and Benefits:  
\$200,000

#### OVERHEAD

- Track Maintenance/Labor:  
\$150,000
- Test Barn: \$110,000
- Insurance: \$50,000
- Contractors/Regulatory  
(Incl. HISA/CHRB): \$250,000
- Uplink/Video/Tote/PhotoFin:  
\$650,000
- Racing Office: \$125,000
- Housing \$75,000
- Misc: \$50,000

**Profit: \$200,000**

# HUMBOLDT COUNTY / FERNDALE

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy is a combined fair meet with a 2-3 day a week horse racing meet that will feature 8-10 races a day for Thoroughbred/Mixed Breed while creating family-friendly activities in the Agricultural space.

## DATES

July 22, 2026 - September 8, 2026 = 16 race days, 7 weeks

**Expected Attendance:** 4000 per every race day

**Event Type:** Combined Fair Racing for Thoroughbred /Mixed Breed Racing

## VENUE

The Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale provides ample space for large racing audiences, professional facilities for horse racing, and elevated VIP experiences. Additionally, the location has a designated area for VIP / Simulcast in the Ferndale Board Room.

## RACES

2 or 3 Thoroughbred Race Days weekly during the Fair

## PRIZE POOL / PURSES

\$130,000 x 13 = \$1,690,000 total

## HORSE POPULATION NEEDED FOR 7 WEEKS OF RACING

- Minimum of 350 horses for 7 weeks of racing coming from Pleasanton, Oregon, and So Cal
- We have over 30 committed trainers

**HORSES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL AT OUR FAIR TRACKS.**

## KEY ATTRACTIONS

- Signature Events including Ladies Hat Day, fan clubs, luxury brand activations, Corporate Outings & Team Building events & “Glamour Days”
- A VIP Experience offering exclusive access to racehorses and behind-the-scenes tours.
- Live music performances from local artists.
- Full-service concession stand that brings in profit
- Charity auction featuring exclusive items like memorabilia from famous races.

## BETWEEN RACE PROMOTIONS

- Hat Contests
- Frisbee Dog Events
- On and Off-site handicapping contests
- Win Place Show contest
- Ladies Day Promotions
- Bouncy Ball events with Jockeys, Trainers, Owners & Fans
- Corn hole contests
- Community outreach for National Anthem performers
- Community outreach for Local Middle/High School bands & performers

# HUMBOLDT COUNTY / FERNDALE

## EVENT REVENUE PROFIT & LOSS

### REVENUE PROJECTIONS \$2,350,000

#### REVENUE

- Admission: \$200,000
- Sponsorships Net: \$100,000
- Wagering Commissions:  
\$1,600,000
- Concessions \$250,000
- Parking \$200,000

### EXPENDITURE PROJECTIONS \$2,150,000

#### OPERATIONS

- Rental/Lease: \$195,000
- Marketing: \$150,000
- Backstretch: \$125,000
- Management Staff: \$75,000
- Support Staff and Benefits:  
\$150,000

#### OVERHEAD

- Track Maintenance/Labor:  
\$150,000
- Test Barn: \$105,000
- Insurance: \$50,000
- Contractors/Regulatory  
(Incl. HISA/CHRB): \$250,000
- Uplink/Video/Tote/PhotoFin:  
\$650,000
- Racing Office: \$125,000
- Housing: \$75,000
- Misc: \$50,000

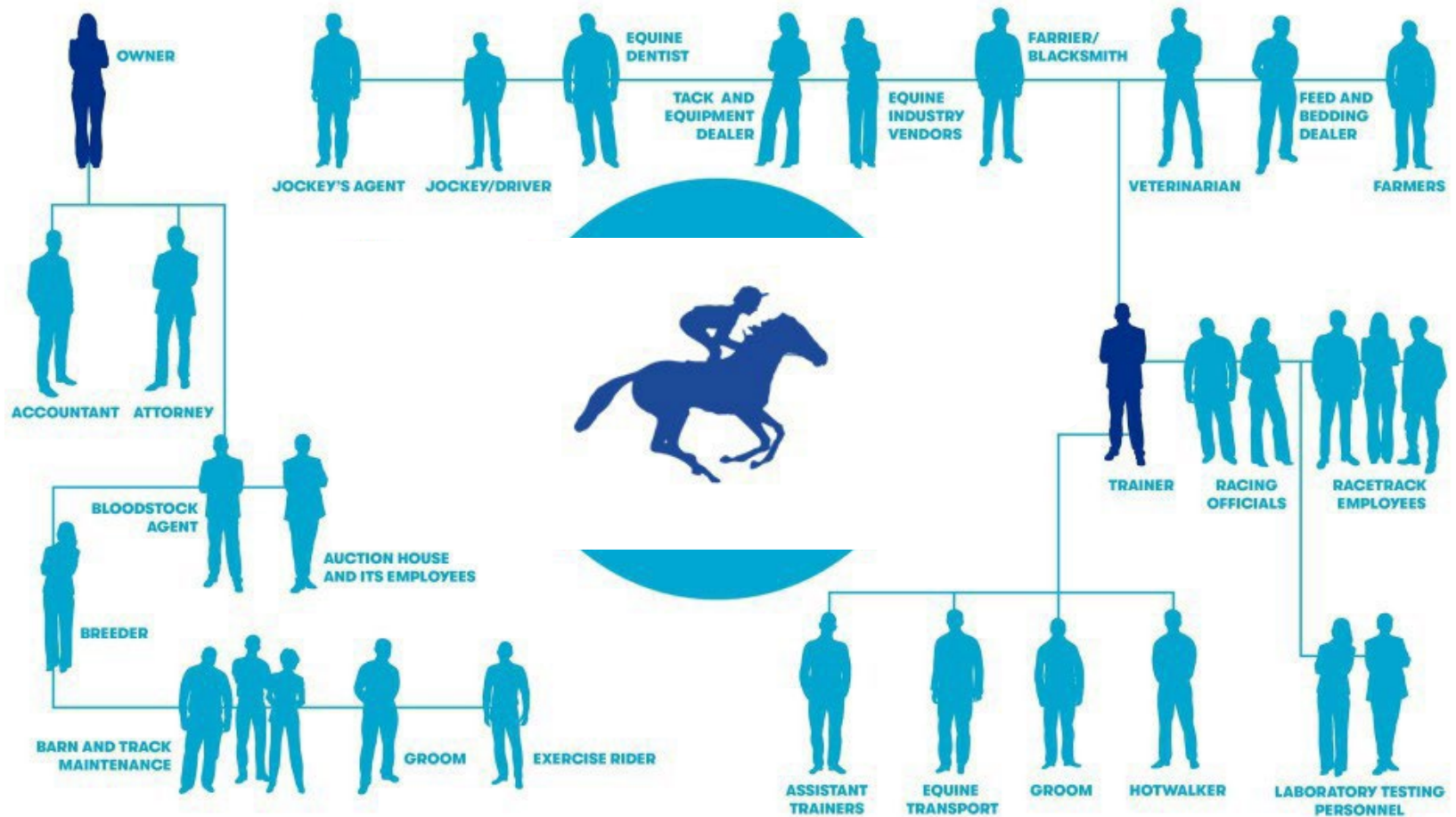
**Profit: \$200,000**

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

- Pooling of purses and commissions with all other live racing Fairs
- Common Cost Accounting across racing entities

# IMPACT OF HORSE RACING

## WHO DOES ONE RACEHORSE EMPLOY?



# PROFESSIONAL TEAM



**GEORGE SCHMITT**  
*CO-FOUNDER*



**JOHN C. HARRIS**  
*CO-FOUNDER  
IN MEMORIAM*



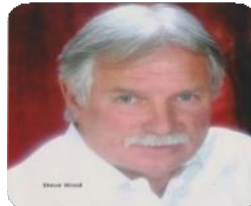
**DAVID ELLIOTT**  
*CEO, Union Relations  
HISA/CHRB*



**TOM DOUTRICH**  
*Director of Racing  
Racing Secretary*



**STEPHANIE WEDGE**  
*Marketing &  
Sponsorships*



**STEVE WOOD**  
*Track  
Superintendent*



**ANTHONY CORDOVA**  
*Business  
Development*



**JENNY PONCIN**  
*Brand & Media*



## **CONTACT**

**GEORGE SCHMITT**

(201) 757-2405

[clareomni@aol.com](mailto:clareomni@aol.com)

**STEPHANIE WEDGE**

(408) 438-0038

[stephanie@rockfordrealtyinc.com](mailto:stephanie@rockfordrealtyinc.com)



October 17, 2025

California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: **SUPPORT** John C. Harris County Fair Racing

Legacy Dear California Horse Racing Board,

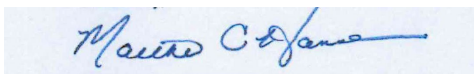
I am proud to express my support for the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, which aims to bring horse racing back to Northern California in 2026 at the Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and Big Fresno Fair. Hosting races at these Northern California fairs will not only boost revenue for each Fairgrounds but also benefit their surrounding communities.

As a supporter and partner of the Tehama District Fair, I believe that their success translates to our success. This initiative is projected to create over 900 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue. The increased revenue for the fairgrounds and the community is essential for the sustainability of our Northern California Fairs.

As you are aware, Fairgrounds across the state serve as vital hubs for community enrichment, emergency support, and agricultural education. The funds generated from horse racing will ensure that these Fairgrounds are maintained and readily available when called upon.

It is for these reasons that I support the John C Harris County Fair Racing Legacy and request your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew C. Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Matthew C. Hansen  
Tehama County Supervisor, District 4  
cc: Mandy Staley, Tehama District  
Fair

October 17, 2025

California Horse Racing Board 1010 Hurley Way Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: SUPPORT John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy Dear California Horse Racing Board,

I am proud to express my support for the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, which aims to bring horse racing back to Northern California in 2026 at the Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and Big Fresno Fair.

Hosting races at these Northern California fairs will not only boost revenue for each Fairgrounds but also benefit their surrounding communities.

As a supporter and partner of the Tehama District Fair, I believe that their success translates to our success. This initiative is projected to create over 900 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue. The increased revenue for the fairgrounds and the community is essential for the sustainability of our Northern California Fairs.

As you are aware, Fairgrounds across the state serve as vital hubs for community enrichment, emergency support, and agricultural education. The funds generated from horse racing will ensure that these Fairgrounds are maintained and readily available when called upon.

It is for these reasons that I support the John C Harris County Fair Racing Legacy and request your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Signed on Matthew C. Hansen (Original Signature on File with the CHRB)

Matthew C. Hansen

Tehama County Supervisor, District 4

cc: Mandy Staley, Tehama District Fair

October 15, 2025

California Horse Racing Board 1010 Hurley Way Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: SUPPORT John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy Dear California Horse Racing Board,

I am proud to express my support for the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, which aims to bring horse racing back to Northern California in 2026 at the Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and Big Fresno Fair.

Hosting races at these Northern California fairs will not only boost revenue for each Fairgrounds but also benefit their surrounding communities.

As a supporter and partner of the Tehama District Fair, I believe that their success translates to our success. This initiative is projected to create over 900 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue. The increased revenue for the fairgrounds and the community is essential for the sustainability of our Northern California Fairs.

As you are aware, Fairgrounds across the state serve as vital hubs for community enrichment, emergency support, and agricultural education. The funds generated from horse racing will ensure that these Fairgrounds are maintained and readily available when called upon.

It is for these reasons that I support the John C Harris County Fair Racing Legacy and request your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Signed Gregory B. Jones Jr (Original Signature on File with the CHRB)

Gregory B. Jones Jr. 10/15/2025

Tehama County Supervisor, District 5

cc: Mandy Staley, Tehama District Fair



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

Sent via email to: [cschaney@chrh.com](mailto:cschaney@chrh.com)

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

May 3 2025

Re: Humboldt County Reliance on Traditional Live Horse Racing Dates

Executive Director Chaney and CHRB Board Members:

As long as I have been alive, horse racing at the Humboldt County Fair (HCF) has been embraced and cherished as the magnetic event that pulls our community together for a fabulous farewell to summer event. Class and Family Re-unions are scheduled years in advance to coordinate around our live racing dates.

After decades of battling to race without overlap, 2024 was the most successful year ever with three weeks of live racing. The community supported the event each and every race day. Purses and commissions were generated to support this ongoing tradition.

I am a longtime Supervisor for Humboldt County, which owns the fairgrounds. In anticipation of perpetuating this important community tradition, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$1,000,000 in earthquake relief funds to make sure that the HCF Grandstand was safely retrofitted in the wake of a damaging earthquake. The HCF Board and sponsors have spared no expense in maintaining the barns and racing surface for the protection of the horses that come to race.

This is the main event each year on the Humboldt County calendar. Horse racing generates more than \$7,000,000 each year to the non-fair connected shops, restaurants and accommodations. More importantly, it is an event that brings the citizens of our County and visitors together for a live horse racing event like no other.

Last year was our best year ever. We have fought tenaciously against the powers that be to maintain our historic place on the racing calendar since 1895. This year we have procured guaranteed funding and based on our track record from last year we are confident in our ability to generate sustaining commissions, provide competitive purses and to perpetuate our tradition of exciting live racing.

Scott Chaney Executive  
Director  
,Page 2  
May 3, 2025

Industry influencers with vested self-interests should not be sanctioned to wipe out the 129-year tradition of live racing at a California venue that is self-supporting, well attended and crucial to the economic welfare of Humboldt County.

Respectfully submitted,




Rex Bohn  
Humboldt County Supervisor

cc: Greg Ferraro, CHRB Chairman [walkingdog:l@gmail.com](mailto:walkingdog:l@gmail.com)  
Oscar Gozales, Vice Chair [oscargonzalesjr@gmail.com](mailto:oscargonzalesjr@gmail.com)  
Brenda Davis [BDavis@bwdlawgroup.com](mailto:BDavis@bwdlawgroup.com)  
Tom Hudnut [tom@tomhudnut.com](mailto:tom@tomhudnut.com)  
Damascus Castellanos [dcastellanos@teamsters495.org](mailto:dcastellanos@teamsters495.org)  
Dennis V. Alfieri

Start a petition




## Reinstate Horse Racing at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton


 Sign petition


2,002

Verified signatures

+ 200 Signatures - "wet"

 Decision Makers: David Haubert +4

 4 Supporter Voices

 1 Update

### The Issue

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0003  
(916) 319-2003  
FAX (916) 319-2103

E-MAIL  
Assemblymember.Gallagher@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly  
California Legislature



**JAMES GALLAGHER**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE  
2060 TALBERT DRIVE, SUITE 110  
CHICO, CA 95928  
(530) 895-4217  
FAX (530)895-4219

10/31/2025

California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: **SUPPORT** John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy

Dear California Horse Racing Board,

I am proud to express my support for the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, which aims to bring horse racing back to Northern California in 2026 at the Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and Big Fresno Fair. Hosting races at these Northern California fairs will not only boost revenue for each Fairgrounds but also benefit their surrounding communities.

As a supporter and partner of the Tehama District Fair, I believe that their success translates to our success. This initiative is projected to create over 900 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue. The increased revenue for the fairgrounds and the community is essential for the sustainability of our Northern California Fairs.

As you are aware, Fairgrounds across the state serve as vital hubs for community enrichment, emergency support, and agricultural education. The funds generated from horse racing will ensure that these Fairgrounds are maintained and readily available when called upon.

It is for these reasons that I support the John C Harris County Fair Racing Legacy and request your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Gallagher".

JAMES GALLAGHER

Assemblymember, Third District

10/15/2025

California Horse Racing Board 1010 Hurley  
Way Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: **SUPPORT** John C. Harris County Fair Racing legacy Dear

California Horse Racing Board,

I am proud to express my support for the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, which aims to bring horse racing back to Northern California in 2026 at the Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and Big Fresno Fair. Hosting races at these Northern California fairs will not only boost revenue for each Fairgrounds but also benefit their surrounding communities.

As a supporter and partner of the Tehama District Fair, I believe that their success translates to our success. This initiative is projected to create over 900 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue. The increased revenue for the fairgrounds and the community is essential for the sustainability of our Northern California Fairs.

As you are aware, Fairgrounds across the state serve as vital hubs for community enrichment, emergency support, and agricultural education. The funds generated from horse racing will ensure that these Fairgrounds are maintained and readily available when called upon.

It is for these reasons that I support the John C Harris County Fair Racing Legacy and request your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory B Jones, Jr.', followed by the date '10/15/2025' written in a similar cursive style.

Gregory B Jones, Jr.

Tehama County Supervisor, District 5

cc: Mandy Staley, Tehama District Fair

October 17, 2025

California Horse Racing Board 1010  
Hurley Way Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: **SUPPORT** John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy Dear

California Horse Racing Board,

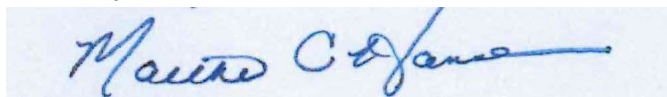
I am proud to express my support for the John C. Harris County Fair Racing Legacy, which aims to bring horse racing back to Northern California in 2026 at the Tehama District Fair, Alameda County Fair, Humboldt County Fair, Sonoma County Fair, and Big Fresno Fair. Hosting races at these Northern California fairs will not only boost revenue for each Fairgrounds but also benefit their surrounding communities.

As a supporter and partner of the Tehama District Fair, I believe that their success translates to our success. This initiative is projected to create over 900 jobs and generate millions of dollars in revenue. The increased revenue for the fairgrounds and the community is essential for the sustainability of our Northern California Fairs.

As you are aware, Fairgrounds across the state serve as vital hubs for community enrichment, emergency support, and agricultural education. The funds generated from horse racing will ensure that these Fairgrounds are maintained and readily available when called upon.

It is for these reasons that I support the John C Harris County Fair Racing Legacy and request your approval. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew C. Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

Matthew C. Hansen  
Tehama County Supervisor, District 4

cc: Mandy Staley, Tehama District Fair

## RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF RACING WEEKS FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMBINED LIVE RACING MEET IN 2026

WHEREAS the undersigned District Agricultural Associations and County Fairs, pursuant to California Business & Professions Code section 19549, request to be allocated four racing weeks for 2026, to be part of a Northern California Combined Live Racing Meet. This will be managed in partnership with Bernal Park Racing Management Company.

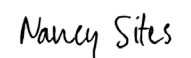
The allocated weeks will be held at the Tehama District Fair, the Alameda County Fair, and the Humboldt County Fair.

Be it resolved that the undersigned fairs hereby respectfully request the allocation of 4 racing weeks per fair.

DocuSigned by:  
  
C07E256DCE994BD...

Mandy Staley

CEO Tehama

DocuSigned by:  
  
B23A066D6D9D4A7...

Nancy Sites

Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair

Signed by:  
  
6F69B211DF7C469...

Moira Kenny

CEO Humboldt

Signed by:  
  
7F3BC80DB72F417...

Robee Knock

Inter-Mountain Fair & Event Center




# NorCal Trainers 2024 compared to 2/3's of 2025 -

Aidan Molinaro

Data Source: <https://www.equibase.com>

Of the trainers to stay in CA, only one, Andy Mathis, is projected to have his horses earn more money this year than in 2024, although he is slowing down now as fall and winter progresses. Marcia Stortz earnings come close to 2024, and with the addition of Los Al 1000 yard races could very well exceed 2024. Only one other trainer has a positive earnings projection for 2025, Terri Eaton. She has raced the majority of her horses outside of the state of California.

KEY:

- 2024 compared against 1/1/25 through 9/1/25
- Asterisk - not counting 1,000 yard races
-  = **major decline**

Totals:

- 34 trainers (Stats comparison to follow)
- 20 trainers remained in CA
- 14 raced elsewhere / out-of-state
- 8 retired (**Ex: Steve Specht, Faith Taylor etc...**)  
(most out of necessity due to shift to single circuit in SoCal)
- Meaning that 41% of trainers ran the majority of their barns outside of CA in 2025 -  
(losing any chance at Cal-bred incentives)

Previously based NorCal trainers statistics listed below: (2024 over 1/1/25 through 9/1/25)

## TRAINER NAME

(DATE/YEAR) STARTS-1ST-2ND-3RD (EARNINGS)

### Gloria Haley

(2024) 149-12-19-16 (\$271,536)

(9/1/2025) 49-4-0-7 (\$119,598)

### Andy Mathis

(2024) 210-44-25-20 (\$843,998)

(9/1/2025) 87-16-12-11 (\$706,876)

**Tim McCanna** ↓

(2024) 318-70-53-60 (\$1,351,986)  
(9/1/2025) 185-29-28-22 (\$486,279)

**Bill McLean** ↓

(2024) 298-47-32-59 (\$902,473)  
(9/1/2025) 108-8-10-9 (\$221,406)

**Gary Greiner**

(2024) 197-20-25-26 (\$317,656)  
(9/1/2025) 56-5-7-6 (\$59,208)

**Ruby Thomas**

(2024) 104-20-13-17 (\$244,255)  
(9/1/2025) 34-7-4-6 (\$81,315)

**Jamey Thomas** ↓

(2024) 173-29-38-35 (\$644,703)  
(9/1/2025) 63-4-11-11 (\$94,637)

**Marcelino Trujillo**

(2024) 94-6-16-21 (\$185,116)  
(9/1/2025) 48-2-4-4 (\$38,103)

**Victor Trujillo**

(2024) 223-27-44-41 (\$557,382)  
(9/7/2025) 68-7-7-11 (\$113,914)

**Manuel Badilla** ↓

(2024) 173-35-24-28 (\$866,136)  
(9/1/2025) 59-5-4-6 (\$211,311)

**Jose Bautista** ↓

(2024) 100-9-13-17 (\$252,191)  
(9/1/2025) 25-1-2-4 (\$90,180)

### **Jorge Bautista**

(2024) 109-9-10-15 (\$231,552)  
(9/1/2025) 32-1-0-2 (\$28,790)

### **OJ Jauregui**

(2024) 156-26-24-18 (\$595,790)  
(9/1/2025) 62-6-7-6 (\$201,710)

### **Monty Meier**

(2024) 60-9-7-13 (\$177,660)  
(9/1/2025) 16-3-2-0 (\$39,500)

### **Sheldon Paldanius**

(2024) 87-17-19-17 (\$206,175)  
(9/1/2025) 23-1-4-4 (\$41,465)

### **Isidro Tamayo**

(2024) 529-83-93-79 (\$1,513,409)  
(9/1/2025) 211-26-28-37 (\$561,679)

### **Blaine Wright**

(2024) 388-83-62-47 (\$1,580,811)  
(9/1/2025) 167-29-35-26 (\$730,021)

### **Mike Lenzini**

(2024) 78-12-6-14 (\$208,893)  
(9/1/2025) 21-5-0-1 (\$46,800)

### **Jorge Maravilla**

(2024) 68-10-9-9 (\$126,930)  
(9/1/2025) 64-6-4-9 (\$92,118)

### **Jacqui Navarre**

(2024) 20-4-4-2 (\$56,440)  
(9/1/2025) 14-3-2-4 (\$40,480)

**Francisco Rodriguez\***

(2024) 98-27-11-12 (\$280,510)  
(9/1/2025) 42-6-8-7 (\$108,315)

**Felix Rondan**

(2024) 150-19-21-35 (\$404,238)  
(9/1/2025) 47-2-8-9 (\$166,870)

**Marcia Stortz\***

(2024) 157-11-17-25 (\$243,178)  
(9/1/2025) 109-8-7-12 (\$166,036)

**Steve Sherman** 

(2024) 265-62-54-39 (\$1,112,115)  
(9/1/2025) 67-11-9-6 (\$236,875)

**Alberto Ruvalcaba\***

(2024) 143-23-17-26 (\$428,594)  
(9/1/2025) 29-1-2-1 (\$39,920)

**Jesus Ramos\*** 

(2024) 219-29-37-40 (\$607,238)  
(9/1/2025) 51-1-4-2 (\$36,618)

**Terri Eaton**

(2024) 64-1-3-10 (\$78,377)  
(9/1/2025) 44-4-6-4 (\$83,016)

**D. Wayne Baker**

(2024) 156-18-23-31 (\$466,299)  
(9/1/2025) 40-3-2-7 (\$69,740)

**Guillermo Preciado\*** 

(2024) 105-11-13-10 (\$149,986)  
(9/1/2025) 21-0-1-2 (\$13,360)

**Samuel Calvario** ↓

(2024) 361-66-61-48 (\$1,023,809)  
(9/1/2025) 177-8-20-15 (\$264,395)

**Melanie McDonald**

(2024) 33-3-4-3 (\$48,100)  
(9/1/2025) 15-0-1-3 (\$32,470)

**Sergio Ledezma\***

(2024) 45-3-4-6 (\$90,643)  
(9/1/2025) 36-1-3-1 (\$40,335)

**Wendell McDaniel**

(2024) 32-4-4-3 (\$85,985)  
(9/1/2025) 7-0-0-2 (\$9,720)

 **MAJOR DECLINE GROUP**

**Tim McCanna** ↓

(2024) 318-70-53-60 (\$1,351,986)  
(9/1/2025) 185-29-28-22 (\$486,279)

**Bill McLean** ↓

(2024) 298-47-32-59 (\$902,473)  
(9/1/2025) 108-8-10-9 (\$221,406)

**Jamey Thomas** ↓

(2024) 173-29-38-35 (\$644,703)  
(9/1/2025) 63-4-11-11 (\$94,637)

**Manuel Badilla** ↓

(2024) 173-35-24-28 (\$866,136)  
(9/1/2025) 59-5-4-6 (\$211,311)

**Isidro Tamayo** ↓

(2024) 529-83-93-79 (\$1,513,409)  
(9/1/2025) 211-26-28-37 (\$561,679)

**Blaine Wright** ↓

(2024) 388-83-62-47 (\$1,580,811)  
(9/1/2025) 167-29-35-26 (\$730,021)

**Steve Sherman** ↓

(2024) 265-62-54-39 (\$1,112,115)  
(9/1/2025) 67-11-9-6 (\$236,875)

**Jesus Ramos** ↓

(2024) 219-29-37-40 (\$607,238)  
(9/1/2025) 51-1-4-2 (\$36,618)

**Samuel Calvario** ↓

(2024) 361-66-61-48 (\$1,023,809)  
(9/1/2025) 177-8-20-15 (\$264,395)

**D. Wayne Baker**

(2024) 156-18-23-31 (\$466,299)  
(9/1/2025) 40-3-2-7 (\$69,740)

**Out / Retired List — Trainer Start Comparison**

Trainer	2024 Starts	2025 Starts
Clifford DeLima	71	6
Miguel Ramirez	70	8
Faith Taylor	96	21
Steve Specht	170	0

Tim Bellasis	55	4
Quentin Miller	39	0
Roger Hansen	62	1
Arnold B. Torres	56	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>48</b>

## Summary & Analysis of Northern California Trainer Statistics (2024 → 2/3 of 2025)

### *How the Shutdown of NorCal Racing Has Crushed Stables, Collapsed Earnings, and Threatens California's Racing & Breeding Future*

The data compiled paints a clear and objective picture of what the loss of Northern California racing has meant for the horsemen who built their livelihoods here. Across dozens of trainers—large, mid-sized, and small—the shift from a full NorCal circuit in 2024 to an exclusively Southern California-based racing landscape in 2025 has resulted in **massive earnings declines**, premature retirements, stable closures, and a restructuring of nearly every Northern California operation.

This is not a small adjustment.  
It is an economic eradication of an entire racing community.

---

## 1. Earnings Declines Are Systemic, Not Isolated

The largest declines are devastating:

- **Isidro Tamayo: ↓ \$951,730**

- **Steve Sherman: ↓ \$875,240**
- **Tim McCanna: ↓ \$865,707**
- **Blaine Wright: ↓ \$850,790**
- **Bill McLean: ↓ \$681,067**
- **Samuel Calvario: ↓ \$759,414**
- **Manuel Badilla: ↓ \$654,825**
- **Jesus Ramos: ↓ \$570,620**
- **Jamey Thomas: ↓ \$550,066**

Above is a group of the leading Northern California trainers—people who field large barns, employ assistant trainers, grooms, exercise riders, foremen, farriers, and support dozens of families. Every one of them suffered **massive year-over-year income losses**, ranging from half a million dollars to nearly one million.

This is not “tightening the margins.”  
This is **a collapse of their business model.**

---

## **2. Smaller Stables Weren’t Spared — Many Collapsed Entirely**

Mid-tier and small barns saw equally brutal declines:

- **Ruby Thomas: ↓ \$162,940**
- **Francisco Rodriguez: ↓ \$172,195**
- **Alberto Ruvalcaba: ↓ \$388,674**
- **Melanie McDonald: ↓ \$15,630** but with nearly no 2025 activity

Even trainers who tried racing elsewhere—Grants Pass, Emerald Downs, Turf Paradise, Wyoming—could not match the stability of a year-round NorCal purse structure.

**Closures, downsizing, and complete exits from the industry** followed.  
42 NorCal-based trainers. Now:

- **8 retired (Ex: Steve Specht, Faith Taylor etc...)**

- **14 left the state**
  - Of the 20 who stayed in CA, only **one** (Mathis) is *even close* to surpassing 2024 earnings—and even he is slowing down.
  - Marcia Stortz & Francisco Rodriguez are close to being on pace to hit their earnings mark of 2024, albeit still forced to relocate their operations, or stay and likely struggle.
  - Terri Eaton is the only trainer to match her 2024 earnings mark, however her hand was forced to move her stable to Wyoming.
- 

### **3. The Cost of Relocation to SoCal Is Unmanageable**

Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Los Alamitos operate on a completely different economic model:

- Stalls are limited
- Most everyday claiming horses previously based in NorCal don't fit the condition book
- Purse distribution skews toward large stables
- Living, labor, and operational costs in Southern California are significantly higher
- The year-round support system (vets, farriers, feed, help) is already saturated

Trainers who spent **decades** building operations in NorCal simply cannot replicate that model in SoCal.

The result?

**Their businesses evaporated in a single season.**

---

### **4. Ripple Effects on the California Thoroughbred Breeding Industry**

This is the part policymakers often overlook—but the consequences are enormous.

Northern California racing supported:

- A significant portion of **California's foal crop**

- Small and mid-sized breeders
- Farms in places like Vacaville, Hollister, Gilroy, Sonoma, Fresno, and the Foothills
- Low- to mid-level claiming stables that bought and raced CA-breds

Now, look what has happened:

### **Fewer NorCal stables = fewer mares bred**

When trainers vanish, breeders lose customers.

### **Fewer races for CA-breds = declining economic incentive**

Golden Gate Fields carded dozens of Cal-bred restricted maiden and allowance races. Those fuel the breeding economy.

Southern California cannot—and will not—replace that volume.

### **Reduced foal crop is inevitable**

The statistical collapse of NorCal trainer earnings guarantees:

- Fewer owners
- Fewer horses in training
- Fewer mares booked to California stallions
- More farms closing or downsizing

This is a **direct threat to the statewide breeding ecosystem**, not just a regional inconvenience.

---

## **5. The Data Confirms What Horsemen Have Been Saying All Year**

Ending Northern California racing didn't just "redistribute" horses south.

It **destroyed** the backbone of California's grassroots racing community.

Your data shows:

- **Most barns halved or lost more than half their earnings**
- **Multiple operations ceased entirely**
- **Forced relocations failed economically**
- **Only 1 trainer in the entire region is even trending upward**

This is, in hard numbers, the largest industry contraction California racing has ever experienced.

---

## **6. Conclusion: The NorCal Shutdown Was a Structural Collapse**

The 2025 data proves one thing decisively:

**Ending Northern California racing eliminated the economic foundation for the majority of horsemen who lived and raced there.**

It has already:

- Destroyed livelihoods
- Forced the closure of multi-generation family barns
- Reduced horse inventory statewide
- Crushed earnings at every level
- Triggered breeder contraction
- Accelerated the shrinking of California's foal crop
- Damaged the long-term sustainability of the sport in CA

If unaddressed, the 2025 season will be remembered as the moment California racing entered an irreversible decline. The numbers don't lie.

The loss of Northern California racing wasn't a regional adjustment—  
It was an extinction-level event for an entire segment of the industry.

Data Source: <https://www.equibase.com>

Report conducted by: Aidan D. Molinaro

