

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD  
1010 HURLEY WAY, SUITE 300  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825  
(916) 263-6000  
FAX (916) 263-6042



## **NOTICE OF RACE DATES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the **California Horse Racing Board's Race Dates Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, March 23, 2005**, commencing at **11:00 a.m.**, at **The Bay Meadows Race Track, The Longchamps Room**, 2600 South Delaware Street, **San Mateo**, California. Non-committee members attending the Board's committee meeting may participate in the public discussion, but shall not participate in any official committee vote or committee executive session.

The agenda for the race dates committee meeting will consist of the following matters:

### **Action Items**

1. Discussion and action regarding the **allocation of harness race dates for the 2005 racing year at:**
  - A. The California Exposition and State Fair (Cal-Expo).
  - B. The Los Angeles County Fair (Fairplex).

Further information regarding the committee meeting may be obtained from John Reagan, Senior Management Auditor, at the CHRB Administrative Office, 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300, Sacramento, California, 95825; telephone (916) 263-6000 or fax (916) 263-6042. A copy of this notice can be located on the CHRB website at [www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)

## **RACE DATES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Richard B. Shapiro, Chairman  
Commissioner John C. Sperry, Member  
Commissioner Marie G. Moretti, Member

**Date of Notice:** March 11, 2005

**STAFF ANALYSIS**  
ALLOCATION OF HARNESS DATES FOR 2005

RACE DATES COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2005

**Background:**

At its March 7, 2005, the Race Dates Committee took testimony from interested parties on the matter of allocating harness dates for the remainder of 2005. In order to fully discuss this matter the Committee scheduled this meeting.

It should be noted that although the Notice of Meeting for the Dates Committee indicated the allocation of race dates for 2005 the proposal from Fairplex actually includes dates for 2006. As such, any action by the Committee or the Board should be limited to 2005. Cal Expo addresses this issue in their attached letter whereby they indicate that if dates for 2006 should be recommended during this process, they amend their request to ask for harness dates at their facility through July 2006. However, as noted above, staff does not believe that this would be appropriate given the wording of the Notice of Meeting. For comparative purposes for 2005, the number of harness race dates requested by Cal Expo is approximately 78 and the number of race dates requested by Fairplex is approximately 50.

In addition to the Cal Expo letter, emails from interested horsemen's organizations and members of the public have been included for your review.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Committee hear from interested parties regarding this matter.



# CAL EXPO

March 11, 2005

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

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the California Exposition & State Fair, we submit our request for the allocation of harness racing dates for the period July 31 through December 31 at Cal Expo operated by Cal Expo and the Sacramento Harness Association.

We are under the impression the Board wanted only to discuss 2005 harness racing dates. We are confused at the Fairplex harness dates request in that it requests dates until January 29, 2006. Please understand if the Board wishes to allocate racing dates into 2006, we would respectfully modify our request to include harness racing dates from July 31, 2005 through July 30, 2006.

We ask your indulgence in the length of this letter but we want to ensure the Board is clear in the understanding of our concept.

We are aware of the dramatic changes this concept presents and are proposing a **ONE YEAR EXPERIMENTAL CONCEPT**, with approvals, that consist of **1) Cal Expo operating harness racing dates during August and September; 2) the Sacramento Harness Association operating the meet beginning September 23, 2005. 3) Our Thoroughbred and Mixed Breed meet would be operated at another fair racing facility during the annual state fair racing period of August 24 through September 5, 2005.**

We believe this concept, if approved, is what presents the best opportunities for the entire racing industry at this time.

- Testimony provided indicated the Fairplex/Capitol purse schedule will average \$52,000 per racing program. The Cal Expo and SHA purse proposal is a minimum of \$60,000 per racing program. Any effort to supplement purses at Fairplex, as suggested, is not allowable under current statute, B&P Code Section 19618.1.
- The Fairplex/Capitol proposal is 47 days through December 23, 2005 AFTER the harness industry has taken a 10 week break.
- At no time, in recent history, has the night industry operated racing programs without the benefit of a daytime thoroughbred program. The daytime thoroughbred Christmas break period begins December 20, 2005. The Fairplex/Capitol proposal includes racing dates of December 21, 22, and 23. If we conclude that these dates will not be

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

CHRB Commissioners

March 11, 2005

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operated, the Fairplex/Capitol proposal consists of 44 racing dates for the Fall period of 2005.

- The Cal Expo/SHA dates proposal consists of 78 racing dates during the Fall period. The Cal Expo/SHA proposal provides and creates additional racing and employment opportunities during the period.

In closing, we respectfully request the CHRB approve that all harness racing dates be allocated at Cal Expo until such time that the Board believes it is in best interest of harness racing to pursue other appropriate venues. If we can answer any questions you may have, please contact us at 916-263-3283.

Your consideration of our request is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

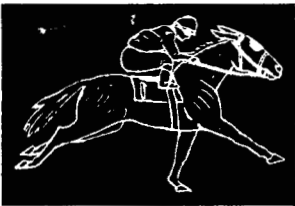


David Elliott  
Assistant General Manager, Racing Events



Norbert J. Bartosik  
General Manager/CEO

NJB:DE:lvc



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P.O. Box 660651

Sacramento, CA

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(916) 263-1529

March 2, 2005

Commissioners  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Ste. 300  
Sacramento, CA 95815

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The American Mule Racing Association offers full and complete willingness to assist and support the California Horse Racing Board and the California State Fair in their final decision regarding the subject of horse racing verses harness racing from July 31 – December 31 on a one-year experimental basis. This is provided that Cal Expo form a combined fair race meeting with another Northern California fair and the race meet take place at an operating racing fair.

While we do not endorse the loss of the Cal Expo venue from the Fair Racing Circuit, we will abide by and strongly support your joint and final decision.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald W. Jacklin*

Donald W. Jacklin, President  
American Mule Racing Association



# Arabian Racing Association of California

March 4, 2005

California Horse Racing Board  
Racing Dates Committee  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, Ca. 95825

Re: Harness Race Date Application  
Cal-Expo

Commissioners:

The Arabian Racing Association of California (ARAC) represents the Arabian horsemen and women who support the racing fairs program in our state. We are aware that Cal-Expo has requested dates for the harness racing interests to compete through December 2005 which would include the dates of the California Exposition and State Fair.

The mixed meet normally held at Cal-Expo has been an integral part of the fair racing program and our horsemen have expressed concerns about changes that may result from this application. Our horsemen, who would prefer that the mixed meet remain at Cal-Expo, will obviously abide by and support any decision by the Board as regards this matter. Our Board of Directors would like to make it clear that we can only support this "experimental" program provided it in no way alters, or results in the loss of, the dates or terms our program currently enjoys during the mixed meeting normally held at Cal-Expo.

Respectfully,



Jay R. Corcoran,  
Administrator

Cc: ARAC Board  
Cal-Expo  
California Authority of Racing Fairs

(714) 820-2817 • Fax (714) 820-2818  
4961 Katella Avenue Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
Web Site [www.arac.org](http://www.arac.org) e-mail [arac@LosAlamitos.com](mailto:arac@LosAlamitos.com)

**Minami, Roy**

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**From:** CHUCK HECHT [mr\_chucksterh@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2005 11:20 AM  
**To:** darrington@sacbee.com  
**Subject:** CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

I was so shocked today when I read your article. Why is it that the State Fair with its rich horse racing tradition is always the one to take a beating when some crisis arises? Way back it was the overlap with Bay Meadows at Fairs end. Then it was reduction in allocated days! The Board can't be serious about stomping the daylights out of 150 years of tradition! Not only are the thoroughbreds hurt, but consider the emerging breeds who have races at the State Fair. Now instead of an afternoon program they want a 430 pm post time all through the Fair's operation. My friends and I have a boxseat we buy every year for the past 20 years and thoroughly enjoy the live and simulcast racing. We have been fans for over 50 years. Nobody asked us about this capricious change! A good number of fans are Seniors who for the most part enjoy an afternoon program of live horse racing. To me this proposal mocks those who most support the Fair and that is the the fans.

Chuck Hecht  
9271 Linda Rio Drive  
Sacramento, Ca 95826  
916 261 1364  
[mr\\_chucksterh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mr_chucksterh@sbcglobal.net)

## Minami, Roy

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**From:** Mark Kohnen [MKohnen@Intercareins.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2005 9:56 AM  
**To:** Minami, Roy  
**Subject:** Proposed Harness Meet at the State Fair

As a Sacramento based owner and fan I wanted to lodge my opposition to the proposed replacement of the regular State Fair racing schedule with a Harness meet.

I have requested an agenda for the forthcoming meeting from Brook at your office, however, she was unsure if public comment would be heard so I thought I would at least e-mail my concerns.

First, the cancellation of this meet would be an extreme injustice to the many loyal owners in the Sacramento area who look forward to two weeks a year when they do not have to either spend a day driving or flying to see their horses (or mules) run. I do not have statistics of how many owners there are in Sacramento, however, I do feel that taking this meet away will ultimately impact willingness to invest in future horses especially for the fair circuit.

Second, the State Fair is the only showcase of Live Thoroughbred racing in Northern California each year and is the one opportunity to really generate new fans in this area, therefore, the pulling of the meet will have an impact on a major market in California.

It seems grossly unfair that the Harness community would be given such a windfall when they have a monopoly on live racing for 10 months out of the year here in Sacramento

I would appreciate it if you would advise if public comment will be heard at the meeting. Additionally, if appropriate and allowable I would also respectfully request that these comments would be entered into the minutes of the meeting as well.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to advise should you have any questions.

Mark Kohnen  
CHRB License 256482  
916-569-5317



**Minami, Roy**

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**From:** Dennis [karenanddennis@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 06, 2005 3:29 PM  
**To:** Minami, Roy  
**Subject:** State Fair Racing

I am a long time box holder at the California State Fair. My friends and I clear our calendars a year in advance for State Fair racing, it is one of the highlights of the year.

I was appalled to learn that it is to be converted to harness racing. Please, please do not let this happen.

Thank you

Dennis Bellinger  
Racing fan, Citizen

**Reagan, John**

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**From:** Minami, Roy  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2005 8:14 AM  
**To:** Reagan, John  
**Subject:** FW: Fair Racing

Would you respond? Thanx, roy.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jay Kessler [mailto:[lcdrjkk@earthlink.net](mailto:lcdrjkk@earthlink.net)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 12, 2005 1:37 AM  
**To:** Minami, Roy  
**Subject:** Fair Racing

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a fan of both harness and thoroughbred racing since 1975, I have seen the general demise of harness racing throughout the country, including California. In the not too distant past, there used to be harness meets conducted at Hollywood Park, Los Alamitos, and Bay Meadows in addition to Sacramento, with some of the top horses and drivers competing at these venues. For example, Ross Croghan, one of California's top drivers for many years is now a leading trainer at The Meadowlands in New Jersey. Currently, only Cal-Expo in Sacramento holds a harness racing meet and that facility is clearly less than top notch. I also am aware that there are many in the thoroughbred racing industry who lament the summers, when the only meets in Northern California are at the various fairs. This causes many horsemen to take their better stock out of state thereby diluting an already "minor league" racing program in Northern California. In addition, except for a brief meet associated with the San Mateo Fair in September, both Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields sit relatively idle during the summer months. I would suggest the below measure to (1) breath some life into harness racing and potentially create some new fans; and (2) allow thoroughbred racing to continue at either Bay Meadows and/or Golden Gate Fields during the summer months with a better product of racing than at the various fairs.

**Suggestion**

Harness racing has had a long and storied history of Fair racing throughout the United States. I would have harness racing meet moved to the various Fair sites during the Summer Fair season rather than have it stagnant in Sacramento. This would expose many more individuals to "live" harness racing as the various Fair venues cover a great deal of territory and admission comes free with admission to the fair one is attending. In this regard, Northern California could potentially have one of the most lucrative Fair harness meets in the country. As for thoroughbred racing, Bay Meadows would be a great location for a summer meet as it has an infield that could be used by many for summer barbecues, etc. Golden Gate Fields would also be nice due to its location on the Bay and generally cooler weather during the hot summer months. In any event, this would keep one or both of Northern California's major thoroughbred race tracks open, keep the majority of horsemen in town, and allow for turf racing to continue during the summer months.

I strongly feel that the above suggestion would be of benefit to California racing as it has potential to strengthen both harness and thoroughbred racing in Northern California. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Kessler  
Attorney at Law

Jay Kessler  
[lcdrjkk@earthlink.net](mailto:lcdrjkk@earthlink.net)  
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

3/16/2005