

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

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Notice of Meeting

California Exposition & State Fair
Meeting of the Board of Directors
To Be Held

Friday, January 24, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

The Board will meet in closed session at 10:00 a.m.

Public Board Meeting will resume at 10:45 a.m.

**In the Administration Building Boardroom at
California Exposition and State Fair**

1600 Exposition Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95815

Kim Craig, Chair
Nick Hardeman, Vice Chair

Arturo Barajas, Director
Heather Bernikoff, Director
Che Salinas, Director

Rina V. DiMare, Director
Willie Pelote, Director

Sonney Chong, Honorary Director

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Governor Gavin Newsom

Senator Angelique Ashby
Senator Melissa Hurtado

Assembly Member Maggy Krell
Assembly Member Esmeralda Soria

169 days to California State Fair (July 11-27, 2025)

This notice is also available on the Internet at: www.CalExpoStateFair.com

Mission Statement

The California Exposition & State Fair mission is to create a State Fair experience reflecting California including its industries, agriculture, and diversity of its people, traditions and trends shaping its future supported by year-round events.

Policy Statement

The Board shall serve as the policy-making body for the California Exposition & State Fair and shall have full responsibility for the year-round management and operation of all facilities of the California Exposition & State Fair.

Public Comment

Any member of the public wishing to address the Board on any matter listed for consideration on this agenda shall fill out a Speaker's Form and provide it to the Board's Recording Secretary. All speakers will be recognized by the Chair and be allowed a maximum of three minutes to address the Board at the time the agenda item is being considered by the Board.

If you wish to address the Board on a matter not listed on the agenda, you have that right. If you wish to exercise that right, please fill out a Speaker's Form and provide it to the Board's Recording Secretary. You will be allowed a maximum of three minutes to address the Board during the Public Comment item on the agenda.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER – Public Meeting

All matters noticed on this agenda, in any category, may be considered for action as listed. Any items not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order, at the discretion of the Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

3. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Pursuant to Government Code §11126.2(a) the Board will convene in closed session for the purposes of discussing the final draft Audit Report.

4. RESUME PUBLIC MEETING

- b. Report out of Closed Session, if needed.

5. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & STAFF

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

In accordance with state law, the Board will not comment or otherwise consider Public Comment matters until and unless such item has been properly noticed for a future meeting.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion unless a Board Member requests a separate action on a specific item.

- c. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2024
- d. Service Contracts/Purchase Orders Requiring Board Notification/Approval

10. NEW BUSINESS

- e. H5N1 – Livestock Update Regarding Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

11. OLD BUSINESS

- f. Horse Racing

12. CORRESPONDENCE

None

13. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

- g. CEO Comments
- h. Directors Comments/Agenda Items for Future Meetings
- i. Next Board Meeting **Friday, February 28, 2025**
- j. Other, if any

14. ADJOURNMENT

Date of Notice: January 14, 2025

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who, because of a disability, need special assistance to attend or participate in any Cal Expo Board, Committee or any Advisory meetings, or in connection with other Cal Expo Activities, may request assistance at the Cal Expo Administration Building Offices, 1600 Exposition Boulevard, or by calling 916-263-3247, during normal business hours. Requests should be made one week in advance whenever possible.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

C. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes 12-13-24

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Held Pursuant to Due Notice
December 13, 2024

California Exposition & State Fair
1600 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815

Directors Present

Director Willie Pelote, Chair
Director Kim Craig, Vice Chair
Director Arturo Barajas
Director Heather Bernikoff
Director Sonney Chong
Director Rina DiMare
Director Nick Hardeman
Director Brian May
Director Che Salinas

Executive Staff Present

Tom Martinez, Chief Executive Officer
Matt Cranford, Chief Deputy General Manager
Marcia Shell, Deputy General Manager
Sue O'Brien, Recording Secretary

Staff and Guests

Alex Alcantar, Business Development
Diana Barrios, Accounting Manager
Jaime Ramirez, Programs Manager
Mitch Pryor, Chief of Plant
Craig Walton, Chief of Police
Angel Preciado, Graphic Designer
Allison Wagaman, Special Assistant
Pat Conner, IT Computer Operations
Heidi Turpen, Contracts
Lindy Munguia, Contracts
Stephanie Dyer, Human Resources
Darla Givens, Public Relations
Tim Beren, IT Sound
Kameni Gandher, IT Sound
Holly Palandoken, Event Partnership
David Mori, JAI

1. CALL TO ORDER – Public Meeting

Chair Pelote called the public meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.. Chair Pelote read the Mission Statement, Policy Statement and the Public Comment Statement into the record.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. The Board convened into closed session at 10:05 a.m.

3. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Pursuant to Government Code §11126(c)(7)(A) the Board will convene in closed session for the purposes of discussing a matter of leasing real property 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento CA – Rock & Brews.
- b. Pursuant to Government Code §11126.2(a) the Board will convene in closed session for the purposes of receiving and discussing the final draft audit and its response to that report.

4. RESUME PUBLIC MEETING

- c. Report out of Closed Session, if needed.
Public Meeting resumed at 10:58 a.m. and Chair Pelote reported out that the Board directed staff to come back monthly with information on payments made by Rock & Brews and continue to work on boards information related to finances.

5. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Pelote read the Land Acknowledgement

6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pelote asked Director Hardeman to lead the Board and Staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Pelote asked the Board if there were any objections to taking item 8 out of order? Seeing none item 8 was heard out of order.

7. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST AND STAFF

Chair Pelote asked Deputy General Manager Shell to introduce guest and staff that were in the audience.

8. SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Chair Pelote administered the oath to New Police Officers: Michael Always, Justin Coletti, Kelly Maldonado, Jarrod Nunes and Andrey Protsyuk.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

In accordance with state law, the Board will not comment or otherwise consider Public Comment matters until and unless such item has been properly noticed for a future meeting.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion unless a Board Member requests a separate action on a specific item.

d. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2024

Chair Pelote asked for a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2024. It was moved by Director Hardeman and seconded by Director Chong. Discussion-None Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, yes; Vice Chair Craig, yes; Chair Pelote, yes. Motion passes.

e. Service Contracts/Purchase Orders Requiring Board Notification/Approval

Chair Pelote asked for a motion to approve item e. It was moved by Director Chong and seconded by Director Salinas. Discussion-None Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, yes; Vice Chair Craig, recuse; Chair Pelote, yes. Motion passes – 7 yes 1 recuse

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

f. Finance Committee

- 1) 2024 Ca State Fair Revenue Report & 2025 Proposed State Fair Budget
- 2) Proposed 2025 Annual Budget
- 3) 2020 Audit Report
- 4) Financial Stability Plan

Chief Deputy General Manager Cranford reviewed and answered questions for the proposed 2025 State Fair Budget and the proposed 2025 California Exposition & State Fair Annual Budget.

MOTION:

Director May made a motion to approve 2025 State Fair Budget and the 2025 California Exposition & State Fair Annual Budget. Vice Chair Craig seconded the motion. Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, yes; Vice Chair Craig, aye; Chair Pelote, aye. Motion passes.

Under item 11, f-3 – 2020 Audit Report has been moved to the January, 2025 Board Meeting.

Finance Manager Barrios reviewed the Financial Stability Plan with the Board.

12. OLD BUSINESS

g. Update of 2025 State Fair Hours

Director Alcantar reviewed the staff report with the Board. He explained the plan for the hour change and after consulting with our partners he explained the options to maintain special promotions for the kids.

13. NEW BUSINESS

h. Proposed 2025 Cal Expo State Fair Board Meeting Dates

After reviewing Board Meeting dates the Chair asked for a motion.

MOTION:

Director Salinas made a motion to accept the 2025 Board Meeting Dates as proposed. Vice Chair Craig seconded the motion. Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, yes; Vice Chair Craig, aye; Chair Pelote, aye. Motion passes.

i. Future of Multi-Use Sports Field

Chief Deputy General Manager Cranford reviewed the staff report with the Board. He mentioned that this item is to provide information on the recent announcement regarding the team's purchase and the potential development of the rail yards sports complex. With the impending departure of Sac Republic FC, our current tenant, staff will be looking at how to utilize that property on a larger scale for more festivals and more events.

j. Financial Institution Signatory Update Resolution

Finance Manager Barrios reviewed the staff report with the board. She stated that in the process of checking addresses on our accounts, as we are closing our P.O. Box it was discovered that the LAIF account needed updated signatures in addition to the address change. Finance Manager Barrios asked that the Board approve staff's recommendation.

MOTION:

Director May moved to approve staff's recommendation and Vice Chair Craig seconded the motion. Discussion – None Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, yes; Vice Chair Craig, aye; Chair Pelote, aye. Motion passes.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

None

15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

k. Nominations received at last public meeting on October 25, 2024

- 1) Chair – Kim Craig
- 2) Vice Chair – Nick Hardeman
- 3) Nominations from the floor
- 4) Close Nominations
- 5) Hold Election for the 2025 Officer of the Board of Directors

Chair Pelote gave an overview of the process of electing a Board Chair and Vice Chair. Chair Pelote ask for nominations from the floor, seeing none Chair closed nominations.

MOTION:

Chair Pelote asked for a motion to elect Director Craig as Chair. Director Bernikoff made a motion to move the entire slate and Director May seconded the motion. Discussion – None Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, yes; Vice Chair Craig, aye; Chair Pelote, aye. Motion passes.

l. Officer of Secretary-Treasurer/General Manager – Tom Martinez

Chair Pelote asked for a motion to elect Tom Martinez for Secretary/Treasurer.

MOTION:

Director Bernikoff moved the motion to elect Tom Martinez for Secretary/Treasurer. Vice Chair Craig seconded the motion. Discussion – None Chair Pelote asked for a roll call vote: Director Bernikoff, yes; Director Chong, yes; Director DiMare, yes; Director Hardeman, yes; Director May, yes; Director Salinas, aye; Vice Chair Craig, aye; Chair Pelote, aye. Motion passes.

16. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

m. CEO Comments

CEO Martinez updated the Board on Horse Racing issues across the State. He continued to thank Director May for his years of service as an employee and a director. This will be Director May's last meeting as his term has expired.

n. Directors Comments/Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Director DiMare-Thank you Brian. It's been an honor to serve with you. Happy Holidays.

Director Chong- Thank you everybody. Brian, I appreciate you and your service.

Director Bernikoff – Thank you Brian and Happy Holidays to staff.

Director May – To the Board, there have always been great board since I started in 1989 and this board is no exception. Thank you.

Director Hardeman – Echo others comments. Happy Holidays to staff.
Director May want to thank you for your historical knowledge and fiscal
proudness. Your legacy will be felt for many years.

Director Salinas – Happy Holidays. We’ve had a heck of a year and a very
successful year. Thank you to Director May for your thoroughness and your
willingness to allow us to call you very once in a while for more wisdom.

Vice Chair Craig – Happy Holidays to staff and thank you for all of your hard
work. I will miss you Director May and thank you for agreeing to take our
calls. Chair Pelote thank you for all of your hard work and I appreciate your
service. You’re leaving big shoes to fill.

Chair Pelote-Happy Holidays to everyone and your families. Director May I
appreciate you. Sue, thank you. Vice Chair Craig and Director Hardeman,
congratulations. There is another level of leadership coming in and look
forward to working with you.

- o. Next Board Meeting **Friday, January 24, 2025**
- p. Other, if any

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Pelote asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION:

Director May moved the motion to adjourn and Vice Chair Craig seconded the
motion. **All in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

d. Service Contracts/Purchase Contracts

California Exposition & State Fair

PURCHASE ORDERS

December 7, 2024 to January 16, 2025
From \$15,000 to \$99,999 (rounded) [Requiring Notification](#)

Vendor/Merchant	Amount
Capital Commercial Flooring, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Phase 1 Carpet Install	\$20,975
Classic Awards and Promotions <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 and 2026 State Fair Golden Bear Awards	\$30,723

SERVICE CONTRACTS

December 7, 2024 to January 16, 2025
From \$15,000 to \$99,999 (rounded) [Requiring Notification](#)

Contractor	Amount
Oppenheimer Investigations Group LLP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Legal consultation for EEO claimsTerm: November 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025	\$49,950
July 23 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$50,000
July 15 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$60,000
Sharon Amundson <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Accounting Consulting ServicesTerm: January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025	\$75,000
July 18 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$80,000

SERVICE CONTRACTS

December 7, 2024 to January 16, 2025
\$100,000 and Over (rounded) [Requiring Approval](#)

Contractor	Amount
July 13 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$100,000
July 12 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$115,000
July 25 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$125,000
Firecode Safety Equipment, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fire Alarm Monitoring and MaintenanceTerm: November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2027 (3 years)	\$158,436 (\$52,812 per year)
July 26 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$200,000
July 17 - Big Name Concert Artist – TBA <ul style="list-style-type: none">2025 Toyota Concert Series	\$200,000
Pickering Events LLC – Amendment No. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Special events for programsAmendment adds \$125,000 for 2025 State FairTerm: March 1, 2024 to September 15, 2025	\$250,000 (\$125,000 per year)
Event Partnership, LLC <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sponsorship sales, year-round for Cal ExpoTerm: January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 (5 years)	\$2,000,000 (\$400,000/year including commission)

d.2

10. NEW NEW BUSINESS

e. H5N1-Livestock Update Regarding Avian Flu

State of California

California Exposition & State Fair
1600 Exposition Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95815

H5N1 – Livestock Update Regarding Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

Date: January 17, 2025

To: Board of Directors
California Exposition & State Fair

Via: Tom Martinez, Chief Executive Officer

From: Jaime Ramirez, Programs Director

Subject: H5N1 Avian Influenza

A summary of the current status of H5N1 Avian Influenza in California, and its effect on the California State Fair and the CDFA ban on poultry and dairy cattle shows in California.

History of the current H5N1 Outbreak

The recent spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 has raised significant concerns across California, impacting wildlife and agricultural sectors. Known for its rapid transmission among birds and occasional spillover into mammals, the virus presents unique challenges for public health and animal welfare.

The first confirmed case of H5N1 in animals in California was reported on August 30, 2024, when it was detected in dairy cows. This followed a multi-state outbreak identified on March 25, 2024, that affected dairy herds. California, the hardest-hit state, has reported 34 human cases linked primarily to exposure to infected dairy herds, with symptoms ranging from mild conjunctivitis to flu-like illnesses. In California, over 14 million poultry birds have been lost due to this outbreak. While human-to-human transmission has not been observed, the virus's potential to mutate raises concerns, particularly in settings where humans and animals interact closely, such as fairs.

Implications for the California State Fair

The current ban, enacted by State Veterinarian Dr. Annette Jones, was announced in a letter dated January 7, 2025. This ban currently prohibits all poultry and dairy cattle shows in California. Due to the developing nature of the situation, this ban is in effect until further notice.

County fairs, including the California State Fair, are particularly vulnerable to zoonotic transmission due to their livestock exhibits and close public-animal interactions. The mingling of animals from different herds and species increases the risk of viral spread and potential mutations. Historical precedents, such as swine flu outbreaks at agricultural fairs, underscore the heightened risks these events face.

The California State Fair, scheduled for July, may need operational adjustments to prioritize public health. Measures such as limiting livestock exhibits, separating animals from different herds, and enhancing sanitation protocols are likely necessary. Public health messaging will play a critical role in managing perceptions of risk while promoting safety. Maintaining confidence in the fair's safety measures will be vital to balancing public health concerns with the fair's cultural and economic significance.

Moving Forward

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has implemented a range of protocols to reduce the risk of H5N1 transmission while preserving the cultural and economic importance of fairs. These include mandatory testing of livestock before interstate travel, enhanced sanitation measures, and the separation of animals from different herds. Additionally, the CDC has issued guidelines such as prohibiting the dumping of raw milk that could carry live virus and encouraging handwashing among fair attendees.

Efforts to educate fair organizers and the public about these preventive measures are essential for ensuring a safe and successful event. By maintaining close collaboration with the CDFA and implementing biosecurity protocols, the California State Fair can mitigate risks. Optimism from CDFA veterinarians suggests that by July, cases may drop to a level that will allow the event to proceed safely, demonstrating a balance between tradition and public health.

RECOMMENDATION

This is for informational purposes only.

11. OLD BUSINESS

f. Horse Racing

State of California

California Exposition & State Fair
1600 Exposition Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95815

Horse Racing Update

Date: January 17, 2025
To: Board of Directors
California Exposition & State Fair
Via: Tom Martinez, Chief Executive Officer
From: Matt Cranford, Deputy General Manager
Subject: Horse Racing

A summary of the current status of the horse racing industry in California.

Industry Challenges

California's horse racing industry is facing significant challenges, especially in the north, following the closure of Golden Gate fields in June 2024. This has led to financial strains, including purse overpayments, and uncertainty about future racing schedules.

The \$3 million purse overpayment at Golden Gate Fields triggered a 25% purse reduction, and similar overpayments at Southern California tracks like Santa Anita Park have added to the strain. To address these issues, Golden State Racing (GSR) and California Association of Racing Fairs (CARF) attempted to sustain Northern California racing by planning a winter meet at Pleasanton, but economic challenges led GSR to withdraw their application for the horse racing permit for the winter 2025 race meet from the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB).

CHRB has since explored solutions, including consolidating racing at Santa Anita and using Pleasanton as a stabling hub. While aimed at stabilizing operations, these proposals have raised concerns among Northern California horsemen about the future of racing in the region.

Proposed Solutions and Future Outlook

The withdrawal of GSR's application and proposed consolidation underscore the fragile state of California's horse racing industry. The CHRB and stakeholders are working on solutions, including purse adjustments and operational changes, to stabilize the sport.

In summary, California horse racing faces financial challenges and uncertain schedules, especially in the north. Efforts are ongoing to address these issues and ensure the sport's future statewide.

RECOMMENDATION

This is for informational purposes only. The situation is still developing, with ongoing discussions and potential changes that could significantly impact the future of horse racing in the state. We will continue to monitor these developments closely and provide timely updates to the board as new information becomes available.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

None