



CAPITOL RACING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

CONTINUING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING



PRESENTED BY: CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS (CARF)
1776 TRIBUTE ROAD, SUITE 150, SACRAMENTO, CA

CAPITOL RACING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

On Sunday, July 16, 2023, the Northern California horse racing industry faced sudden uncertainty when The Stronach Group announced that Golden Gate Fields would permanently close on Dec. 19. California Fairs seek to continue, unify, and strengthen Northern California Horse Racing through Capitol Racing.

PLAN OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Larry Swartzlander, California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF)

Racing Secretary:

Tom Doutrich, California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF)

CARF Board of Directors:

Jerome Hoban, Chair (CEO, Alameda County Fair, Pleasanton), Tom Martinez, Vice Chair (CEO, California State Fair, Sacramento), Christina Estrada (Interim CEO, Big Fresno Fair, Fresno), Stephen Hales (COO, Solano County Fair, Vallejo), Dan Jacobs (CEO, Antelope Valley Fair, Lancaster), Dana Stoehr (CEO, San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo) and Kelly Violini (CEO, Monterey County Fair, Monterey)

OBJECTIVE

The objective of Capitol Racing is meet the need of Labor, Horsemen, and the public by working with Owners, Trainers, Breeders, Union Representatives, Backstretch Employees, Track Employees, Racing Professionals and Vendors to create a new vision, within an existing State-owned venue, to support the present, and future, of Northern California Horse Racing.

PLANNING PHASES

With the support of year-round racing dates - including strategic breaks - and the existing revenue-generating Northern California Host Status, Fairs will form a racing association called Capitol Racing. Capitol Racing will establish the base of operations at the California State Fair in Sacramento as a racing hub complemented by boutique meets at existing Fair tracks.

PHASE I(A) – BRIDGE THE GAP

Request CHRB support to mediate an agreement with The Stronach Group/1/ST Racing to continue racing operations at Golden Gate Fields through mid-June, giving horsemen a reasonable amount of time to relocate and allowing CARF time to implement plans for year-round racing.



PHASE I(B) – RACING WITHOUT A BRIDGE

If horsemen are forced to leave Golden Gate Fields immediately after Dec. 19, CARF will:

- **RACE DATES:** Develop a draft proposal for a year-round Northern California calendar (see pg. 3).
- **LEGALITIES:** Work with legal counsel to determine the best implementation of Capitol Racing. Counsel is currently reviewing existing law to determine how the organization might be structured and any changes that CARF might propose via legislative staff to update existing statute.
- **IMPROVEMENTS:** 1) Begin extensive improvements to the Sacramento barn area to ensure 1,020 stalls are safe and ready to accommodate racehorses for year-round stabling. 2) Establish a Track Kitchen and dining area for horsemen and backstretch workers, and 3) Upgrade the Receiving Barn.
- **PURSES:** Maintain Golden Gate Fields purse levels.
- **RACING FAIRS:** The CARF Live Racing Committee will work together to establish a Fair racing calendar while also considering special boutique meets at Pleasanton and Santa Rosa.
- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:** CARF will establish a source where funds can be provided to support structural and operational improvements.
- **PENSION LIABILITY:** Ensure that the TSG/1/ST Racing/Golden Gate Fields/PRA's obligation to the NCOTWINC pension liability is addressed and that all personnel files are removed and properly stored.

PHASE II – ESTABLISH A NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RACING HUB IN SACRAMENTO

Extensive improvements to the Sacramento track, including installation of a Turf Course and installation of a state-of-the-art Tote Board.

Continuing improvements, including: 1) Paddock renovations, 2) Jockey Room renovations, 3) Renovations to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd-level Grandstand.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

CARF is fully invested in meeting the needs of Labor, Horsemen and the Public, through a publicly owned venue, created by and for the people of California.

CALL TO ACTION

We request CHRB and industry support to continue horse racing in Northern California.

