

Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
3:00 p.m.

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

Committee Members

Nate Miley
David Haubert
Jerome Hoban
Tim Weaver
Chuck Moore
John Smith
Gordon Galvan
Frank Imhof

**In-person location: Alameda County Training & Education Center
Hayward/Union City Room, 4th floor
125 -12th Street
Oakland, CA 94607**

**Remote participation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85200799778>
Toll Free - (888) 475 4499
Webinar ID: 852 0079 9778**

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor David Haubert called the meeting to order.

1. Update on Horse Racing at the Alameda County Fairgrounds

Jerome Hoban, Chief Executive Officer, Alameda County Fair Association, reported that the Fair Board has decided not to continue horse racing due to financial losses of over \$3 million and regulatory compliance issues. The Fair Board is open to the idea only if an external party takes over the operations and costs. Compliance with the Water Board remains a major issue, whether horses are present or not.

- Continuing horse racing would require significant investment, including infrastructure, permits, licenses, and equipment (e.g., track prep, safety equipment, ambulances).
- The Fair Board lacks current capacity and resources due to past downsizing.
- The economic viability of racing is in question without strong branding and marketing (unlike established tracks like Santa Anita).

Speakers

Amelia Marshall, Dana Stoehr, Gloria Haley, Donna Perrone, Maricela Trujillo, George Schmitt, Becky Bartling and Bill Nader commented on the Update on Horseracing at the Fairgrounds.

The Fair Board has created a list of requirements for any potential outside operator to meet for racing to return. The situation remains open, but contingent on someone else assuming full responsibility, addressing compliance, and presenting a realistic and funded plan.

2. Update on Housing on the Fairgrounds

Jerome Hoban, Chief Executive Officer, Alameda County Fair Association reported that in 2024 between October and December, there were approximately 16 families living at the fairgrounds campground. Currently there are about 10 families still living at the campground.

A list of families has been shared with the County, City Serve, the school district, and the Alameda County Fair Board.

The focus is on ensuring children can remain in their schools and families are not displaced. Discussions and coordination with agencies are ongoing, though some data access is restricted due to privacy regulations.

3. Update on Water Quality Matters

Kimberly Gasaway, Director, Alameda County General Services Agency provided an update on the County's involvement with water quality issues at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, concerning stormwater and wastewater management.

There was a notice of violation issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to both the Fair Association and the County.

The City of Pleasanton also issued a corrective action notice regarding improper stormwater connections. A bypass valve on Bernal Avenue, not on county or fairgrounds property, was improperly installed. The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) and the City of Pleasanton are working to address its removal or extension.

The Fair Association must submit a Stormwater Management Plan and ensure best management practices are in place. There is a requirement for a licensed engineer to prepare a wastewater and stormwater discharge plan by the end of the year, especially addressing wet weather scenarios. The Fair Association is also expected to assist DSRSD in identifying any unpermitted connections on the property. The Fair Association must cover any fines or penalties due to violations.

Jerome Hoban, Chief Executive Officer, Alameda County Fair Association reported that The Fair has submitted a Stormwater Management Plan and is working on engaging engineers.

Compliance steps include:

- Submit a permit to empty the Baker tank.
- File for a temporary permit to use certain stormwater connections.
- Prepare a property-wide engineering plan.
- Make necessary physical changes like valve modifications.
- Horse Removal

The plan to come into compliance, discussed on March 10, assumed that all horses would be removed by March 25, 2025.

After Committee discussion, it was concluded that: 1) there is a clear short-term pathway to compliance during the dry season through a sanitation district permit and 2) maintaining horses past March 25th without a new plan will risk enforcement and negate prior commitments.

The Committee agreed on the need for a long-term wastewater solution. The Fairgrounds have made significant efforts to reduce pollution and comply with regulations, however they remain out of full compliance.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.