

DMTC Video Board Modernization

Board-Approved Direction vs. Post-Approval Staff Reframing

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Information Item

This handout is provided to clearly and respectfully restate the Board's approved direction, identify where subsequent staff materials diverge from that direction, and re-anchor the discussion on execution, timing, and accountability.

1. What the Board Explicitly Approved (December 2025)

The Board approved a motion that authorized the modernization and replacement of three existing video boards to enhance the customer experience, support horse racing, increase revenue opportunities, and position Del Mar for future premier events.

- Replacement and modernization of three video boards
- Installation in existing locations with larger-format displays
- DMTC designated as lead for project delivery
- District financial participation capped at \$3 million over five years
- Staff directed to support implementation consistent with procurement, CEQA, and permitting

Importantly, the Board did not authorize reconsideration of scope, delay pending alternatives, or re-evaluation of whether the project should proceed. The authorization was to implement.

2. What Staff Presented After Approval

The post-approval staff report reframes the approved project as an information-only item and introduces a broad range of contingencies, alternatives, and hypothetical obstacles that materially change the posture from execution to reconsideration.

- Characterizing the project as ongoing research rather than implementation
- Presenting multiple alternative scopes that reduce or defer the approved modernization
- Aggregating risks without sequencing, timelines, or recommended paths forward
- Emphasizing uncertainty without acknowledging the approved funding framework

3. Point-by-Point Review of Each Video Board Location

A. Paddock Video Boards

- Like-for-like replacement of electronic equipment
- No construction, demolition, or structural modification
- No permitting or CEQA issues identified
- Not considered a public works project

Despite being the simplest and fastest component of the project, the Paddock boards were not presented as an immediate execution item. These boards can and should proceed without delay.

B. Five Points Video Board

- Expansion within an existing monument sign
- Engineering, permitting, and construction anticipated
- Complexity was known prior to Board approval

The staff report emphasizes difficulty but does not present a sequenced execution plan. Complexity requires management, not deferral.

C. Grandstand Video Board

- Larger replacement requiring new structure and foundations
- Engineering, soils analysis, and permits required
- Interaction with existing Verizon lease is a known variable

The report aggregates all potential risks without prioritization or parallel processing. Capital projects of this scale routinely address these issues concurrently.

4. Procurement, Legal, and Compliance Context

Procurement, CEQA, and public works requirements are process obligations. They are not barriers to initiating work, nor do they require pausing execution absent a recommended path forward.

- CMAS may be used for equipment procurement under approved conditions
- CCA or DGS may be used for construction and inspection where required
- Board approval of procurement method can be scheduled, not deferred indefinitely

5. The Core Misalignment

The Board approved the what, the who, the funding framework, and the urgency. The post-approval materials reintroduce the question of whether the project should proceed.

6. What the Board Should Reaffirm

- The December 2025 motion remains in effect
- DMTC is the designated delivery lead
- Staff's role is facilitation and execution support
- Immediate components should proceed now
- Remaining components require timelines, not alternatives

7. Requested Direction

Convene the DMTC Liaison Committee immediately, direct preparation of a single implementation roadmap with milestones, and separate near-term execution from longer-term construction steps.

