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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
22ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS  
2260 JIMMY DURANTE BOULEVARD  
DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA 92014  
(TELECONFERENCE)  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

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Transcribed by:

QuickCaption, Inc.

3457 Arlington Avenue, Ste. 104  
Riverside, CA 92506

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IN ATTENDANCE:

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22<sup>ND</sup> DAA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT:

- SAM NEJABAT, CHAIR
- LISA BARKETT, VICE CHAIR
- MARK ARABO, DIRECTOR
- PHIL BLAIR, DIRECTOR [VIA ZOOM]
- DONNA DEBERRY, DIRECTOR
- KATHLYN MEAD, DIRECTOR
- TED MIYAHARA, DIRECTOR
- ELSA MORALES-ROTH, DIRECTOR
- FREDERICK SCHENK, DIRECTOR [VIA ZOOM]

22<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION STAFF:

- CARLENE MOORE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
- KATIE MUELLER, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
- TRISTAN HALLMAN, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICER
- MIKE SEYLE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
- DUSTIN FULLER, SUPERVISING ENVIRONMENTAL  
PLANNER
- HENRY RIVERA, PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
- ANTIONETTE ROBERTS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1 22ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION COUNSEL

2 JOSHUA CAPLAN, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY

3 GENERAL

4

5 OTHER SPEAKERS:

6 ASHLEY MCCAUGHAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DON DIEGO

7 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

8 CHAD GREGORY, LEGENDS GLOBAL

9 CHRIS MCCONNAUGHEY, LEGENDS GLOBAL

10 PAM WALTHER, HITS, LLC

11 AMANDA LEE, PRINCIPAL PLANNER, CITY OF DEL MAR

12 BRIAN LESLIE, SENIOR COASTAL SCIENTIST, GHD

13 JAMES EVANS, COASTAL ENGINEER, GHD

14

15 PUBLIC COMMENTERS:

16 RUSS PENNIMAN

17 DONNA RUHM

18 LEE ROSCHEK

19 RAFAEL DELGADILLO

20 IRENE MARTINEZ

21 JOYCE ROWLAND

22 JAMIE RIVERA

23 JANE CARTMILL

1 ALLISON PRATER  
2 MARTHA SULLIVAN  
3 LAURA DEMARCO  
4 LYNN KAIMULOA  
5 SHAUN BEARD  
6 ARTURO  
7 VICTORIA WARD  
8 CAROL KERRIDGE  
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1 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right.

2 Good morning.

3 Today is Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

4 And the time is 9:35 a.m.

5 I now call this meeting of the 22nd DAA Board of  
6 Directors to order.

7 Before we take the roll, I'd like to welcome our  
8 two newest board members, Director Elsa Morales-Roth and  
9 Director Ted Miyahara.

10 Congratulations.

11 Welcome.

12 May we please get the roll?

13 MS. ROBERTS: Chair Nejabat.

14 CHAIR NEJABAT: Here.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Vice Chair Barkett.

16 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Here.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Director Arabo.

18 MR. ARABO: Here.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Director DeBerry.

20 MS. DeBERRY: Here.

21 MS. ROBERTS: Director Mead.

22 MS. MOORE: She'll be arriving late.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Director Miyahara.

1 MR. MIYAHARA: Here.

2 MS. ROBERTS: Director Morales-Roth.

3 MS. MORALES-ROTH: Here.

4 MS. ROBERTS: Director Blair.

5 MR. BLAIR: Here.

6 MS. ROBERTS: Director Schenk.

7 MR. SCHENK: Here.

8 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right.

9 We have a quorum of members present in the room.

10 We'll now move on to item number 3.

11 We'll start by taking public comment for items not  
12 on the agenda.

13 As a reminder the Board will not debate nor act on  
14 any comments heard today.

15 If you are here to speak on an agenda item please  
16 wait until we take up that item.

17 For all public comment opportunities today each  
18 speaker will be given two minutes to make their remarks.

19 Please be prepared with your remarks and be ready  
20 to speak as soon as you are recognized to do so.

21 We'll mute your microphones after two minutes.

22 Do we have any speakers in the room with us today  
23 for matters that are not on the agenda?

1           If so please queue up and can begin one by one.

2           RUSS PENNIMAN: President Nejabat, members of the  
3 board, good morning.

4           There are a couple new faces on the board and for  
5 those who don't know me, I served on this board for 16  
6 years and was honored to serve as two terms as its  
7 president.

8           Throughout my 35-year career in the Navy I lived by  
9 a foundational principle, mission first, people always.

10          That approach builds trust, delivers results.

11          Regrettably it appears those fundamental priorities  
12 have been lost here at the fairgrounds.

13          Over the past few years I've heard repeated  
14 concerns from former employees.

15          Rita Walsh, the former CEO and friend, passed away  
16 nearly two years ago.

17          At her celebration of life longtime staff described  
18 their mistreatment under current leadership.

19          Some employees mentioned they simply were waiting  
20 for their pensions to vest so that they could retire.

21          Public evidence of fairgrounds leadership  
22 challenges continue to mount.

23          In early September 2025 CAO Melinda Carmichael

1 filed a lawsuit alleging a hostile work environment,  
2 retaliation, and harassment under CEO Moore's leadership.

3 Later that month four highly credible former HR  
4 professionals sent this board a letter detailing the same  
5 toxic culture.

6 You have a copy of that letter in front of you.

7 Their allegations warranted further attention.

8 Nearly seven months later there has been no  
9 response, no apparent investigation.

10 The silence harms this agency's culture,  
11 reputation, and finances.

12 The financial toll is already significant and  
13 mounting.

14 5.6 million repaid on an ineligible 2020 PPE loan  
15 under Moore.

16 500 to settle the tally amusements program.

17 And now you've got the Carmichael lawsuit.

18 As the board of a state agency you have a clear  
19 oversight responsibility.

20 Inaction only increases legal and financial  
21 exposure for the 22nd DAA and for the members of this  
22 board.

23 I respectfully urge you to act to address and

1 eliminate --

2 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you, MR. Penniman.

3 Thank you, sir.

4 RUSS PENNIMAN:[off mic]

5 CHAIR NEJABAT: Please queue up if you'd like to  
6 speak so we can have folks next in line.

7 DONNA RUHM: Good morning.

8 My name is Donna Ruhm.

9 I served the 22nd DAA as commercial director for 29  
10 years managing the food, commercial vendor and Midway  
11 programs that generated over one-third of the district's  
12 annual revenue.

13 In the spring of 2020 management terminated 60% of  
14 staff with no visible regret.

15 Long-serving employees felt discarded and betrayed.

16 What should have been handled with compassion  
17 instead felt like an opportunity to reduce numbers.

18 The once collaborative respectful environment  
19 changed in a heartbeat to one where management's distrust  
20 and lack of respect for staff resulted in top-down  
21 decisions made without experience or foresight and often  
22 resulted in reversal.

23 One voice dominated experience was sidelined and

1 staff felt frustrated, devalued and even threatened.

2 It was clear to me my experience no longer held  
3 value so I reluctantly retired after the '21 fair.

4 I stand before you today with deep concern for the  
5 future success of our fair as both past and current  
6 management practices have seemingly placed the bottom line  
7 above core values such as respect and collaboration.

8 Vendors are now viewed as numbers rather than  
9 valued partners who build personal relationships and  
10 traditions with their customers.

11 Long-standing food operators such as Chuckwagon  
12 with over 40 years of participation have been replaced by  
13 a select few running multiple stands.

14 Independent owners who remain live in constant  
15 uncertainty and stress.

16 When we eliminate tradition, fracture community  
17 participation, and fail to show respect we undermine the  
18 very foundation of what made this event one of the most  
19 successful in the nation.

20 I urge the Board to examine these practices.

21 Our fair deserves better as do our vendors, our  
22 staff, and our future.

23 Thank you.

1           LEE ROSCHEK: Good morning, members of the board.  
2           My name is Lee Rocheck, 1035 America Way, Del Mar.  
3           Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your  
4 meeting today.

5           I'm just here to introduce myself.

6           I'm a retired California architect and a lifelong  
7 resident and looking forward to being a part of your  
8 process.

9           Thank you.

10          RAFAEL DELGADILLO: [Through interpreter from  
11 Spanish]

12          My name is Rafael Delgadillo.

13          I am a warehouse worker since 2004 at Premier Food  
14 Service, which is now Legends Global.

15          Premier was selected by the board directors as a  
16 contracted F&B operator at the fairgrounds because it's  
17 the most qualified and employed organized labor.

18          Working for Premier, I have been able to support  
19 and provide for my family, including the health insurance,  
20 of which I must work 900 hours annually to qualify.

21          Unfortunately, Premier workers have been losing  
22 work opportunities and hours of work because of all those  
23 so-called buyout events, including Coastal Christmas,

1 Tacos and Tequila, and Somo Sushi.

2 These events bring outside F&B staff and  
3 contractors and take away all work from union workers  
4 right here at the fairgrounds.

5 These are service workers, kitchen workers,  
6 warehouse workers, utility and not just bartenders.

7 Premier claimed that they will request those events  
8 to hire us to work the events.

9 We will need to apply for our own jobs at our own  
10 workplace.

11 Here at the fairgrounds, meanwhile, Premier won't  
12 be paying us.

13 And adding hours towards our 900 hours to qualify  
14 for our health insurance.

15 Some of us will lose our health insurance because  
16 of the hours lost to those buyout events.

17 Premier claims that the board directors arranged  
18 the buyouts.

19 Therefore, we are here asking you to not give away  
20 our jobs.

21 Finally, we are here asking you to allow us to park  
22 our cars during the county fair at the fairgrounds, such  
23 as the training track as in the past instead of all the

1 way at the horse park.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAPLAN: Just for the benefit of the board and  
4 public, under Bagley-Keene, if a member of the public  
5 utilizes a translator during public comment, they are  
6 entitled to double the amount of time to account for the  
7 translation time period.

8 IRENE MARTINEZ: [Through interpreter from Spanish]

9 Good morning.

10 My name is Irene Martinez.

11 I am a warehouse worker since 2009 at Premier Fruit  
12 Service, which is now Legends Global.

13 Working for Premier, I have been able to support  
14 and provide for my family, including health insurance,  
15 which I must work 900 hours annually to qualify.

16 Unfortunately, Premier workers have been losing  
17 work opportunities and hours because of all those so-  
18 called buyout events, including Costa Christmas, Tacos and  
19 Tequila, and Soma Sushi.

20 These events bring outside contractors and low-  
21 paying F&B staff while taking away all work from Premier  
22 union workers right here at the fairgrounds.

23 We are food and beverage services workers,

1 including supporting workers in the kitchen and the  
2 warehouse, not just bartenders.

3 Premier claimed that they will request those events  
4 to hire us to work the events.

5 We will need to apply for our own jobs at our own  
6 workplace.

7 Meanwhile, Premier won't be paying us and adding  
8 hours to our 900 hours qualifying for our health  
9 insurance.

10 Some of us will lose our health insurance because  
11 of the hours lost on those buyout events.

12 Premier claimed that the board directors arranged  
13 the buyouts, therefore we are asking you not to give away  
14 our jobs.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIR NEJABAT: Any other members who would like to  
17 speak?

18 JOYCE ROWLAND: Good morning and welcome new board  
19 members.

20 My name is Joyce Rowland and I'd like to offer some  
21 additional comments to a conversation we were having at  
22 our last meeting on a 2024 employee engagement survey and  
23 those results we talked about in March.

1           Having worked on engagement surveys for decades, I  
2 think it's really important to look at actual scores and  
3 then at comparative data.

4           On a five-point scale, this organization scored a  
5 4.58 out of 5.

6           VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Sorry Joyce, can I just ask our  
7 AG, is this closed session material?

8           No.

9           I just want to make sure.

10          MR. CAPLAN: She's speaking as a member of the  
11 public about public information.

12          VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Okay, thank you.

13          JOYCE ROWLAND: And it was publicly discussed at the  
14 last meeting.

15          VICE CHAIR BARKETT: I'm sorry, I can't remember,  
16 but I just want to make sure that I know you're very good  
17 about drawing the line.

18          JOYCE ROWLAND: Absolutely.

19          So I'll take my seconds back.

20          VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Sorry about that.

21          JOYCE ROWLAND: No worries.

22          So this organization scored 4.58 on coworkers  
23 caring about each other's well-being and that's really

1 indicative of very strong peer relationships and a  
2 supportive team environment.

3 In survey work, one of the clearest indicators of a  
4 healthy day-to-day workplace experience, in fact.

5 Similarly, the score for leaders treating employees  
6 with respect is over 4, with the majority of employees  
7 rating that positively.

8 That is indicative of a generally respectful and  
9 functional work relationship between staff and leadership.

10 The survey does highlight, this 2024 survey did  
11 highlight areas of improvement, particularly recognition  
12 and career path, which frankly are common challenges in  
13 public sector and civil service organizations.

14 I'd like to add one note on the percentile rankings  
15 because we had a bit of a conversation on that.

16 Those comparisons really depend heavily on the  
17 relevance of the underlying benchmark group and how  
18 tightly the scores are clustered.

19 On a five-point scale, very small differences in  
20 averages can move percentiles significantly, especially in  
21 a group of this size.

22 And you also have to look at the general relevance  
23 of the comparator group to begin with.

1           And I would submit that that was not a very  
2 relevant comparator group.

3           So the absolute scores themselves are often more  
4 reliable indicators of employee experience.

5           Taken together, the results point to a solid  
6 foundation and team culture with clear opportunities for  
7 organizational improvement.

8           I would also like to say that there were some  
9 remarks made about employee letters and lack of  
10 investigation.

11           I would say that those investigations were done and  
12 done professionally.

13           CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you for your comments.

14           JOYCE ROWLAND: [off mic]

15           CHAIR NEJABAT: And can you kindly mute the  
16 microphone?

17           Thank you.

18           Any other members in the public that would like to  
19 speak?

20           JAMIE RIVERA: Hi, thank you.

21           Good morning, board members.

22           My name is Jamie Rivera.

23           I'm a Premier employee.

1 I am formally requesting that boards consider  
2 limiting the use of outside vendors for buyouts when  
3 possible and prioritizing assigning available work to  
4 current employees.

5 Regular outsourcing of events directly impacts  
6 employees.

7 Retaining this in-house supports maintaining  
8 consistent hours, earnings, job stability, and operational  
9 consistency.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 CHAIR NEJABAT: Anyone else in the room?

12 We have three members on Zoom, beginning with Jane  
13 Cartmill.

14 You have two minutes.

15 JANE CARTMILL: Welcome, Directors Morales-Roth and  
16 Miyahara.

17 My name is Jane Cartmill.

18 I'm a longtime voice for animals in San Diego  
19 County.

20 I frequently comment at these board meetings about  
21 animal issues at the fairgrounds.

22 Since 2021, I've addressed the public health risks,  
23 animal mistreatment, and environmental hazards of exotic

1 reptile events.

2           These shows encourage impulse buys, provide little  
3 or no husbandry information, harm conservation efforts,  
4 fuel illegal trafficking, and have no educational or  
5 agricultural value.

6           Recently, an exotic reptile expo in Pomona made  
7 headlines when dead and dying animals were found discarded  
8 in trash bins after the show.

9           Despite assurances that the enterprise was  
10 regulated and humane, it was neither.

11           It was the same type of event as you have hosted  
12 here repeatedly, and I sent news reports to the Board for  
13 this month's packet.

14           They weren't included, but I hope the information  
15 was shared with you as it was promised.

16           Momentum is growing to end these exhibits.

17           Several states and cities have passed retail bans  
18 on sales of live animals, including reptiles, Del Mar  
19 being one of them.

20           PetSmart just announced it will no longer sell  
21 turtles and tortoises.

22           The National Organization in Defense of Animals  
23 conducted leafletting in a protest at the fairgrounds here

1 on March 29th during the Central Valley Exotic Reptile  
2 Expo, encouraging rescue over retail and widely circulated  
3 a petition through this board and the governor.

4 Legislative action is next.

5 Your policy on advocacy and community relations  
6 calls for the Board to, quote, consider community  
7 perspectives, input, and feedback in decision-making and  
8 planning, end quote.

9 Maybe you did.

10 Since the gentleman at the expo who identified  
11 himself as the operations manager told me he had just  
12 received a letter from the Fairgrounds Board saying he was  
13 not welcome to return in the future because the expo was  
14 incompatible with fairgrounds environmental policy.

15 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

16 Next up, we have Alison Prater.

17 ALISON PRATER: Good morning and welcome to the new  
18 board members.

19 From two reports in the U.S. Horse Racing Press on  
20 March 31st.

21 Seismic shutdown of fans will raise in TV and blood  
22 for us.

23 Quote, in 2025 about 2.24 billion was wagered

1 through TVG.com, FanDuel Racing.

2 That is about 19% of all the parimutuel handles in  
3 North America last year.

4 Rounding up a bit.

5 It's one out of every five parimutuel dollars  
6 wagered.

7 If those A.D.W. platforms see a decline after  
8 FanDuel TV winds down and is removed, it will impact the  
9 industry overall.

10 And the Thoroughbred Daily News, quote, to discuss  
11 the fallout from the news, as well as what a feature  
12 without FanDuel racing TV could look like, the  
13 Thoroughbred Daily News spoke with Attorney Drew Couto,  
14 among the many hats Couto has worn in his time in the  
15 sport he's a co-founder and former CEO and president of  
16 the TOC, Thoroughbred Owners of California, former  
17 president of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders  
18 Association and co-founder and former director of the  
19 California Retirement Management Account.

20 I take from the decision that FanDuel's share of  
21 traditional parimutuel wagering on hashtag horse racing  
22 was not a significant portion of its overall business.

23 Not one that warranted its continuing expenditure

1 on TVG style broadcast.

2 Quote, I'm confident FanDuel currently has more  
3 lucrative business segments with less associated costs,  
4 end quote.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

7 Next up, we have Martha Sullivan.

8 MARTHA SULLIVAN: Good morning.

9 This is Martha Sullivan from Imperial Beach.

10 And welcome to the two new directors.

11 This was reported in Pollack Report on April 6.

12 Quote, wagering on U.S. thoroughbred racing took a  
13 \$115 million nosedive in March.

14 A double digit decline of 12.35% according to  
15 statistics released by Equibase, the thoroughbred  
16 industry's official record keeper.

17 The dismal wagering numbers contributed to a first  
18 quarter fall of more than 7.11% from the first three  
19 months of 2025.

20 The number of race days in March was virtually the  
21 same as in 2025.

22 The number of races run fell by less than 1%.

23 But starts took a 7.78% tumble.

1           That is reflected in a significant spinning in  
2 average field size from 7.71 starters per race to 7.17.

3           March 2026 included nine weekend dates when  
4 wagering is highest compared to 10 weekend dates in March  
5 2025.

6           Another contributing factor to wagering declines  
7 could trace to the decision by the New York Racing  
8 Association requiring computer-assisted wagering bets be  
9 made one minute and 59 seconds prior to post time.

10           That policy went into effect in mid-February and  
11 applies to all wagers.

12           NYRA had previously restricted call on win bets  
13 only.

14           Two years ago, March wagering was \$972 million.

15           So this year's total marks a 16% decline from that  
16 figure.

17           CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

18           All right.

19           The board will now move on to item 4, which is our  
20 closed executive session.

21           The current time is 10 a.m.

22           and pursuant to the authority of Government Code  
23 Section 11126(a) (b), and (e), the Board of Directors will

1 meet in close executive session on the items described on  
2 today's agenda.

3 Thank you.

4 [The Board recessed to closed executive session at  
5 10:00 a.m.]

6 [The Board returned from closed executive session  
7 at 2:08 p.m.]

8 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right.

9 The time is 2:08 p.m. and we have returned from our  
10 closed executive session.

11 The 22nd DAA Board of Directors considered the  
12 advice of counsel on the items listed on the closed  
13 session portion of the agenda and has nothing to report.

14 The Board also met in closed session to evaluate  
15 the performance of the CEO consistent with the government  
16 code, and we have two items to report.

17 The board voted 8-1 in favor of termination of CEO  
18 Moore.

19 Directors Nejabat, Barkett, Miyahara, DeBerry,  
20 Arabo, Morales-Roth, Director Mead, and Director Schenk  
21 have voted in favor of termination, with Director Blair  
22 voting in opposition.

23 We have also unanimously voted to name me as

1 interim CEO for a 10-day period, and the board voted  
2 unanimously on that.

3 With that being said, we are going to take a 5-10  
4 minute break.

5 I apologize to everyone.

6 I know you guys have been waiting outside, and  
7 we'll reconvene to go through the rest of the agenda.

8 Thank you.

9 [The Board recessed for a break at 2:10 p.m. and  
10 resumed the meeting at 2:20 p.m.]

11 MR. RIVERA: The room is live.

12 Go ahead.

13 CHAIR NEJABAT: Okay.

14 Perfect.

15 Sorry about that, everybody.

16 So the time is 2:23 p.m.

17 We will now move on to consent calendar.

18 Do we have any members of the public in the room  
19 who wish to speak on the consent calendar presented in the  
20 agenda?

21 Seeing nobody in the room and nobody online.

22 Any requests from any board members to remove any  
23 items discussed from the consent calendar for further

1 individual discussion?

2 MR. ARABO: I don't have any items I want to remove,  
3 but I would flag something for the board and the staff  
4 about maybe through a committee, but looking into possibly  
5 not having multi-year agreements, five-year agreements,  
6 six-year agreements.

7 Because when we do that, it doesn't put the  
8 district in the best negotiating position.

9 And other items is items we see we spend millions  
10 of dollars on, when we rent it, someone should study a  
11 committee, I think, of potentially purchasing the items  
12 that the district would own.

13 That way, we'll save money.

14 I do feel in a lot of the contracts, there's some  
15 amount of waste, but I think the intent is really good.

16 Looking at different lens could maximize the  
17 dollars for the district.

18 CHAIR NEJABAT: Noted.

19 Do we have a motion?

20 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: So moved.

21 CHAIR NEJABAT: Second?

22 MR. ARABO: Second.

23 CHAIR NEJABAT: We'll take the roll.

1 MS. ROBERTS: Chair Nejabat?

2 CHAIR NEJABAT: Aye.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Vice Chair Barkett?

4 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Aye.

5 MS. ROBERTS: Director Arabo?

6 MR. ARABO: Aye.

7 MS. ROBERTS: Director DeBerry?

8 MS. DeBERRY: Aye.

9 MS. ROBERTS: Director Mead?

10 MS. MEAD: Aye.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Director Miyahara?

12 MR. MIYAHARA: Aye.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Director Morales-Roth?

14 MS. MORALES-ROTH: Aye.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Director Blair?

16 MR. BLAIR: Aye.

17 CHAIR NEJABAT: Motion passes.

18 We'll now move on to Item 7, Executive Report.

19 We have a presentation by Don Diego Scholarship

20 Foundation.

21 ASHLEY MCCAUGHAN: Good afternoon, everyone.

22 I also want to welcome the new board members.

23 My name is Ashley McCaughan and I'm the Executive

1 Director of the Don Diego Scholarship Foundation.

2 Sorry.

3 And what we do is we work and partner with the  
4 Fairgrounds.

5 We're a non-profit, and our goal is to award  
6 college scholarships and help work in the ag ed program to  
7 high school seniors.

8 And we recently just finished our scholarship  
9 application process, and we had 67 applicants.

10 And what's special about this scholarship is  
11 everyone who applies is associated with the Fairgrounds in  
12 some way.

13 So maybe they're an exhibitor in 4-H, FFA, they're  
14 an employee, or they exhibited something here at the fair.

15 We also have two voc ed scholarships that we give  
16 out as well.

17 So towards the end of May, we're going to have  
18 interviews.

19 And this year, I'm happy to say that we are  
20 awarding more than \$100,000 in college scholarships.

21 And this is the 40th year of the Don Diego  
22 Scholarship Foundation, so that's also very exciting.

23 And we then recognize these scholars at our annual

1 gala.

2 And this year, it is taking place on June 10th,  
3 opening day of the fairgrounds.

4 And we are honoring one of your own, Director  
5 Schenk.

6 So he's also one of our board members, as well as  
7 Director Arabo, Director Nejabat, and Director Barkett.

8 So there is a great collaboration between the  
9 Fairgrounds and Don Diego.

10 And I invite everyone in the room to attend and  
11 listening and watching to attend our gala.

12 Ticket sales went on sale, and so you can buy them  
13 on our website, [dondiegoscholarship.org](http://dondiegoscholarship.org).

14 We're also seeking sponsorships.

15 We'll have a live auction, and it's a fun night  
16 that will take place in the Turf Club with a dinner,  
17 followed by seeing Chicago in the new VIP Terrace on  
18 opening night of the fair.

19 So it's a great way to kick off the fair and to  
20 celebrate these wonderful scholars, and everyone gets to  
21 mingle with them, so it's really a nice night.

22 Then we also have two programs that we run as a  
23 foundation.

1           One of those is the Plant Grow Eat, and we work  
2 with the fair in supporting the buses to bring Title I  
3 school students to the fair before it starts just to learn  
4 about agriculture education.

5           And then we have a brick program, and so around the  
6 fountain over in Plaza de Mexico, there are bricks that  
7 people can buy and purchase on our website, and then they  
8 can leave their legacy here at the fair and dedicate it to  
9 someone or a special moment.

10           So again, welcome, and I hope to see everybody at  
11 our gala on June 10th.

12           Thank you.

13           CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

14           VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Can I just say Ashley was one  
15 of our scholars.

16           Yes.

17           And now she's in the executive position.

18           So thank you.

19           CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you for that.

20           We now have a presentation by the HITS group, the  
21 Del Mar National Horse Show Preview PowerPoint.

22           PAM WALTHER: Good afternoon.

23           Good afternoon.

1           Hi, I'm Pam Walther I am Senior Vice President and  
2           Legal Counsel for HITS.

3           I think you all know HITS is the operator of the  
4           Del Mar Horsepark.

5           We have an agreement with the DAA to be the  
6           operator, and we also have a separate agreement to be  
7           managed and host the Del Mar National Horse Shows for DAA,  
8           both the dressage week and the hunter jumper week.

9           This will be the third year that we are hosting and  
10          managing the Del Mar Horse Show for you.

11          And I know it's the 77th year for the Del Mar Horse  
12          Show itself.

13          So what I want to do is highlight a little bit what  
14          will be going on at the two shows and make sure that the  
15          board knows, please come over and visit.

16          I don't think I can do it justice by just telling  
17          you the highlights.

18          We hope you have time to come over.

19          This week, as you may know, is the dressage week  
20          for the Del Mar National.

21          It runs Thursday through Sunday.

22          Kim Stordahl is our manager there, she's been the  
23          manager for the last three years so I believe some of the

1 board you may know her, and Cameron Wyman from our HITS  
2 group on the East Coast will be there as well.

3 I do want to make sure that when you come, if you  
4 don't have time to RSVP, you can certainly just come to  
5 the ingate and we have a guard there, just give them your  
6 name, tell them you're a board member.

7 We'll make sure you get VIP parking and go up to  
8 the Ocean Club.

9 We'll have a table for the DAA there and you can  
10 enjoy watching the activities and the events.

11 This week at the dressage show we're doing  
12 something a little different.

13 We've moved the FEI, so the dressage show is both  
14 FEI sanctioned which is international sanction, CDI you  
15 call for dressage, and then it's a national sanctioned for  
16 show at the highest level.

17 And we've moved the FEI classes to the outside  
18 rings, which overlook the Ocean Club so we think will be  
19 really good for the spectators and the exhibitors have  
20 asked for that as well so we hope you'll come see that.

21 And then in two weeks, it is April 29 through May  
22 3, we have the hunter jumper show there, and it is your,  
23 your Delmar National is recognized as the highest level of

1 hunter and jumper in the United States, it's a level six  
2 jumper show and a premier hunter show.

3 And it's also been recognized as I believe you know  
4 as a heritage show by the US Equestrian Federation, which  
5 is kind of a long standing premier show recognized  
6 throughout the country, and you all have established that  
7 recognition before actually it's become the manager, but  
8 we're helping you keep that that position for the show.

9 So at the, at the dressage show this week on Sunday  
10 is the Grand Prix.

11 We have a brunch there in the morning I believe  
12 you've gotten an invitation but if you don't, if you don't  
13 RSVP just please come anyhow and we'll have the Grand Prix  
14 has the freestyle and the Grand Prix that day, which are  
15 the biggest events and presentation of some of the  
16 trophies as well.

17 And then for the hunter jumper show in two weeks.

18 On Saturday is the Grand Prix, and we have a  
19 luncheon for you there during the Grand Prix out on the  
20 grass field, and that will be the big premier jumper class  
21 on Friday the day before we have international derbies out  
22 in the grass field and those are the hunter classes, where  
23 the horses will jump these beautiful jumps across the

1 grass field and I think you would enjoy seeing that as  
2 well.

3 So we hope you have time to come out, and we're  
4 here we value our partnership with TAA and we're here to  
5 promote the horse shows and do the best job we can and we  
6 hope we.

7 If you have comments, please give us those comments  
8 and we'll be glad to address them as well.

9 So thank you for your time and we hope you see that  
10 we see you out there.

11 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you so much for that.

12 We have a presentation by Legends Global.

13 Apologies we skipped over.

14 CHAD GREGORY: Vertically challenged.

15 Okay, good afternoon, everyone.

16 My name is Chad Gregory, I'm a senior vice  
17 president with Legends Global.

18 First, I just want to make sure that everyone was  
19 fed well, even though it took a little bit of time to get  
20 to you but we also commend the board on the gravity of the  
21 decisions that you have to make and we understand that  
22 this is a business, and you have a lot of responsibility.

23 So with that said, the responsibility of some of

1 your contracts and around the food and beverage  
2 department, our job is hopefully to alleviate some of that  
3 pressure for you.

4 There will always be a little bit of noise and some  
5 complaints that come your way because it is a human  
6 business and the hospitality of what we do here, whether  
7 it's the fair, the race, the sound, are critical to the  
8 experience.

9 The other thing that I want to say is that we level  
10 set with the nostalgia that is this venue.

11 We're going to introduce some people that help  
12 support the hospitality business.

13 We're going to show you what it did, what the  
14 change is.

15 I'm going to try to figure this out.

16 Okay, so here we go.

17 The name Premier that has been a long time here and  
18 all of the different relationships over the years, the  
19 hospitality, the team that's intact is really, really  
20 good.

21 They've got a great partnership, have great  
22 leadership through the board, the 22nd, and as legends  
23 came in, what we learned was that the human side of the

1 business is probably and is the most important.

2 It's the most important to do the guest experience.

3 Now, what came on the back end of that is something  
4 we want to just take an opportunity to show the board  
5 today.

6 What remained consistent is what you see on the  
7 screen, whether it's local leadership, day-to-day  
8 operations, the contract, all of those.

9 What started to change is the alignment on the back  
10 end that this enables.

11 So you didn't see really a lot of physical change,  
12 and Director Arabo and I, we've had much conversation  
13 around, hey, when do you show up, right?

14 Well, we show up behind the scenes first.

15 We understand.

16 We seek to understand first.

17 Then we seek to start to make some changes that are  
18 specific to whether it's the board, how can we help in the  
19 best place possible.

20 The portfolio-wide innovation strengthening, we're  
21 going to show you a little bit about the portfolio, but  
22 you'll see that there's data-driven insights.

23 Again, this is not just numbers or words on a

1 screen.

2 There we go.

3 But it's the real human aspect of what Legends  
4 Global now brings to the table to the relationship.

5 In the center of this, this is our national  
6 hospitality leadership.

7 This is actually my role in the center here.

8 So I'm the person that's in the middle, surrounded  
9 by these resources and assets that we can pull in to  
10 support this partnership, whether it's throughout the  
11 year, whether it's in sprints, whatever that needs to be.

12 Ideally, we want to be a strategic partner over the  
13 years.

14 But then as we roll out, you are now supported by a  
15 much larger regional team.

16 Chris McConaughey is right here.

17 He's going to come up in just a minute.

18 We're going to go over.

19 But Chris is at the center of that org chart.

20 He has regional purchasing, regional culinary, all  
21 of these different players that now can come in,  
22 procurement.

23 So as we look through how do we best support the

1 relationship, these are what is now at your fingertips.

2 And by the way, this isn't unique in the business.

3 What's unique here is that the team that has  
4 remained intact is really what makes all this happen.

5 We just come and give them an added horsepower and  
6 support.

7 We have innovation and planning.

8 I'm going to click through the next slides pretty  
9 quick here.

10 It will be in your deck.

11 But you'll see Chefs Gretchen and Angie, Southern  
12 California.

13 Angie actually is San Diego.

14 Her and her husband are on the National Restaurant  
15 Association.

16 They own a really popular restaurant.

17 She's our National Beverage Innovations.

18 She's been here at some of our committee meetings.

19 Gretchen's over in Long Beach.

20 I'm sorry, Andi is in Long Beach.

21 Andi is our Insights VP.

22 Harsh is our VP of IT.

23 Chris Gallo is our VP of Design and Construction.

1           These are all humans, real resources that we pull  
2           in as we need to support the businesses and the  
3           partnerships that we have.

4           The larger legends is where we get into things we  
5           can pull in if needed.

6           If you need help with the sound and booking shows  
7           or really looking at contracts or calendars, we can help  
8           and bring all of those in.

9           What I do want to show you is that where this  
10          started was with AT&T Stadium, Yankee Stadium, 2009, both  
11          of these.

12          We do do Monmouth Park and we collaborate a lot  
13          around the racing world of what goes on in kind of East  
14          Coast and West Coast.

15          We do the Long Beach Convention Center.

16          Mind you, all of these are the same unions, the  
17          same restrictions and agreements.

18          And we honor those and we really, really work hard  
19          to work with our collective bargaining agreements and make  
20          the right business case for everyone and then the human  
21          side of the business.

22          Without people, none of this happens.

23          We do the Grand Prix, which I'll head to right

1 after this, and then Chris.

2 Chris is going to come up and just talk about his  
3 connection to here.

4 Chris is actually, Jamie's our GM.

5 Mike is our SVP of Operational Excellence that  
6 works with me.

7 Jamie reports right to Chris.

8 JAMIE: Thanks, Chad.

9 CHRIS MCCONNAUGHEY: Chris McConnaughey, SVP of the  
10 West for Legends Global.

11 Been with them for about 10 years.

12 Take a lot of tremendous pride in delivering best-  
13 in-class experiences through the venues that I've had the  
14 luxury and pleasure of being a part of number one.

15 Number two, it's also about the team, right?

16 The team that we have the luxury of leading to  
17 deliver that best-in-class.

18 SoFi is just a -- big green button.

19 There we go.

20 Angel Stadium is another one.

21 SoFi Stadium, and the reason why we kind of  
22 earmarked that one is we were part of the  
23 conceptualization of that for the Kroenke family coming to

1 L.A.

2 We were part of the construction management.

3 We were part of the implementation of rights to,  
4 you know, sponsorship, ticketing, everything else.

5 And then now we now facilitate F&B and merchandise  
6 out of that venue.

7 I'm not sure if any of you have been there.

8 I'm a born and raised San Diego native.

9 You know, my sister was at Winston's Elementary on  
10 9th Street, proposed to my wife at Seagrove Park.

11 I can see two of the houses I used to live in on  
12 that map, right?

13 So, you know, we were sharing a little story  
14 outside.

15 You know, coming here to the fair is nostalgic,  
16 right?

17 It's a part of who we are as San Diegans.

18 I'm a third-generation San Diegan, so that means a  
19 lot.

20 You know, the track, the Sound as being an additive  
21 as we go along here.

22 We're kind of earmarking each one of these venues  
23 show a unique side of what we've done and what we've

1 delivered both for our client but more importantly to the  
2 community as well as the teams that we have the luxury of  
3 leading inside each one of these.

4 BMO Stadium, Golden 1 Center, SoFi.

5 And that's the end of the slide.

6 CHAD GREGORY: Chris, in his very humble nature, he  
7 used to be dropped off as a kid and spent 12 hours just  
8 having fun at the fair.

9 The connection of the nostalgia and how to humanize  
10 the relationship of what a big company can do for our  
11 partners is really what's the critical part for us.

12 We do not make change in a vacuum.

13 We don't send down the troops and say, hey, you  
14 have to change and move all these things.

15 We work with you directly.

16 We work with Chris and team, and that's how the  
17 impactful hospitality experience comes to life.

18 So thank you.

19 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thanks.

20 MS. DeBERRY: You have a question?

21 I have a question.

22 MR. ARABO: Yeah, go ahead, yeah.

23 MS. DeBERRY: Me first?

1 MR. ARABO: Yeah, yeah.

2 MS. DeBERRY: Ladies first?

3 Okay, I'll take it.

4 MR. ARABO: Of course.

5 MS. DeBERRY: Hi.

6 First of all, food is great.

7 CHAD GREGORY: Yeah, good.

8 By the way.

9 In general, right?

10 Or today?

11 Okay, yeah.

12 Sorry it sat for a while.

13 MS. DeBERRY: So I have a question for you.

14 How do you support or what role in your procurement  
15 process, like when you're thinking about your suppliers,  
16 for like women-owned businesses, diverse businesses, small  
17 businesses that are local?

18 So can you kind of walk me through that process?

19 CHAD GREGORY: Yeah, exactly.

20 So obviously we start, we have a centralized  
21 procurement team.

22 When I say centralized, it's the resource  
23 department that's centralized, not the buying plan.

1           So there are national agreed upon contracts.

2           We typically push about 75, so those are your broad  
3 liners, right?

4           75% of our programming comes from our national  
5 partnerships.

6           They also align with, you know, your Coke, your  
7 Pepsi, your Gordon Foods, your Cisco's, all those broad  
8 liners.

9           25% is typically made up of local, regional, or  
10 minority business, women-owned business.

11          We have a certain, we have an individual who, she  
12 does nothing but work with those groups, sits on multiple  
13 boards, works to onboard them into the program.

14          Usually there's, you know, we want to make sure  
15 that if we're putting too much demand on their, that the  
16 demand forecasting is being done ahead of time so that  
17 they can meet the demand that we're asking.

18          If we can't do that, then we can segment the  
19 programming of the business to meet that.

20          Golden One is an example of, Chris, is that?

21          91.5% local and minority and women-owned business  
22 source.

23          Golden One is of the overall.

1 Right, right.

2 So, but those are, again, those are intentional  
3 goals that are in partnership with our partners.

4 That's not how it is everywhere, but it's very easy  
5 for us to turn that on.

6 And then we have people that handhold the process  
7 because that's the big part.

8 Getting set up as a vendor can be scary in a big  
9 company world.

10 So that's the piece.

11 But Golden One is a great example of literally  
12 everything we buy is within, I think it's a hundred, is it  
13 50 miles?

14 Yeah.

15 MS. DeBERRY: Thank you.

16 You're welcome.

17 MR. ARABO: I want to thank you very much for coming  
18 and for bringing the whole team and really showing up in a  
19 big way.

20 I know we've had great meetings at the committee  
21 level as far as putting a different lens and looking at  
22 DMTC, but in general, reimagined, elevating the customer  
23 experience, maximizing revenue, cutting costs, and getting

1 more seats, helping us through the food and beverage,  
2 driving more traffic to our events.

3 Maybe you can share the board real quick and then  
4 I'll be joining on Zoom because I have to go.

5 So what opportunities do you see this year to  
6 really increase revenue for the district?

7 I know you talk about the handheld speed of  
8 ordering, getting more options, more offerings to the  
9 consumers, but if you could touch on that to the board on  
10 how we can maximize more revenue for the district, that'd  
11 be great.

12 CHAD GREGORY: Yeah, absolutely.

13 Thank you.

14 The committee meetings have been not only very  
15 targeted around those goals and initiatives, but very  
16 collaborative and open.

17 And we look and say, okay, what works well in other  
18 areas?

19 But I will tell you that the one part, and so in  
20 May, next board meeting, Jamie will come and present what  
21 the specific plans are of the initiatives.

22 So we have proposed some specific initiatives that  
23 we can put in act, we can measure, and then we can respond

1 to as we need to evolve because, again, like I said, this  
2 is an imperfect business, right?

3 It's a human element.

4 Everybody has different likes and dislikes.

5 Technology is a big one.

6 What's unique here, especially in racing, is the  
7 amount of service that happens out there.

8 The servers are coming out.

9 Today, the path of travel is very long for them.

10 So that slows the transaction times that are going.

11 They have to walk out, take the orders, walk all  
12 the way back, stand in line to put a point of sale system.

13 All of that will change for this next race, and  
14 it's actually in motion.

15 Jamie and team have the pieces.

16 They'll have handhelds.

17 They'll be able to place that order.

18 That's step one.

19 That doesn't work, though, if we don't train them  
20 really well.

21 We still work with the union on proper staffing,  
22 proper scheduling, all of those things.

23 So that's step one.

1           Step two is the balance of local partners, and  
2 local meaning maybe not just in one location that kind of  
3 rotates, but what does that mean in terms of the  
4 programming around the venue?

5           How far do you have to go to get that great drink  
6 or that great food offering?

7           So we look at the entire insights.

8           This is our sales mix, and I'll nerd out a little  
9 bit on you.

10          But we look and say, you know, what are they buying  
11 the most of?

12          Where do we have pent-up demand?

13          Where can we increase points of distribution?

14          I know we're in a board meeting, but alcohol is a  
15 driver.

16          So if we can continue to have great signature  
17 drinks and make sure that our offerings are what the  
18 guests want at a price they're willing to pay, because  
19 price is not the lever that we can continue to pull over  
20 and over to drive margin.

21          We have to be able to get more.

22          If we drive it too high, consumption will go lower.

23          So I'm getting a little into the weeds on some of

1 these initiatives, but if you think about it, you look at  
2 the programming overall.

3 What's the beverage mix?

4 Alcohol, ready-to-drink cocktails, beer, non-  
5 alcoholic programming.

6 What's the food mix?

7 Local signature items, core items, novelty items.

8 And then what is our throughput piece?

9 So what's the experience for all of those?

10 So we can't control necessarily the attendance that  
11 comes in, but if we can create a story.

12 Lastly, I'll say we've got a premium programming.

13 If all of you who've been to the fair and  
14 experienced the speakeasies, you know, there is a great  
15 way to continue to double down with the current team the  
16 way that they program them today, and how do we make that  
17 a really great experience that's part of what everybody  
18 needs to come to?

19 So there's a premium element, there's a core  
20 business element, and then there's how do we just make  
21 sure that we don't miss on hospitality.

22 So in May, we have a detailed plan that will go on,  
23 but I would say those are the big buckets.

1 MR. ARABO: Thank you very much.

2 CHAD GREGORY: Everybody good?

3 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right.

4 Okay.

5 Thank you for the presentation.

6 All right.

7 That will wrap up the reports.

8 Do we have any members of the public who wish to  
9 speak on the executive report?

10 LAURA DEMARCO: Hi.

11 I'm here as the cofounder of Friends of Del Mar  
12 Horsepark.

13 And I wanted to welcome the two new directors and  
14 encourage you all to take up Pam Walther's offer on coming  
15 to the horse shows this weekend, the dressage show and  
16 then the jumper show as well.

17 They have great food, Donna.

18 And so anyway, the Ocean Club has great food for  
19 you as well.

20 It's a great atmosphere.

21 The great thing as well is when she was talking  
22 about the caliber of shows, these are International  
23 Olympic level, so all these riders are coming from all

1 over the country.

2 You're going to see a bunch of people from Canada  
3 playing the snow.

4 You're going to see riders coming up from Mexico as  
5 well.

6 They're all trying to gain points in order to make  
7 their own country's Olympic teams and qualify for the  
8 world championships that are coming up later this year in  
9 Europe.

10 So it's going to be a great show and great food  
11 and, of course, great company.

12 Look forward to seeing you there.

13 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

14 Anyone else who would like to speak?

15 Seeing nobody in the room and nobody online.

16 That includes our public comment on the executive  
17 report.

18 We will now move on to Item 8, which is general  
19 business, consists of the items listed under section 8 of  
20 our agenda.

21 The first item in our general business is Item 8A1,  
22 which is the Fair Ops Committee report and the  
23 consideration and vote to approve dates and theme concepts

1 for the 2027 and 2028 San Diego County Fairs.

2 This is an action item.

3 You can find the written committee report beginning  
4 on page 135 of your packets.

5 I'd like to recognize Director Mead for the  
6 additional Grandstand Concert Series announcements.

7 MS. MEAD: Thank you, Chair Nejabat.

8 Hello, everyone.

9 I'm going to tag team this with Katie.

10 Oh, there you go.

11 Thank you for coming up.

12 I think everybody knows Katie.

13 I'm going to tag team this with Katie.

14 Once again, Katie and the team, by our, Donna, Fred  
15 Schenk, and I sit on this committee, just commend them for  
16 the work that they do to get us ready for the fair, which  
17 is going to start in, what are we, six weeks away?

18 MS. MUELLER: Something like that.

19 MS. MEAD: Something like that.

20 About six weeks away.

21 We spent time during our committee meetings this  
22 time mostly looking at future years, and that's because  
23 we're so close to the fair that everything is really

1 pretty much done.

2 It's just got to bring it on home.

3 What we want to talk about today are the future  
4 fair dates, and those are an action item.

5 So, Katie, how about if I announce those dates for  
6 the future?

7 MS. MUELLER: Do you want to do dates and theme  
8 concepts as well?

9 MS. MEAD: Do you want to do?

10 I thought we weren't ready on theme concepts.

11 MS. MUELLER: No, we're ready.

12 MS. MEAD: Oh, we're ready?

13 Cool.

14 Good.

15 MS. MUELLER: So, they're just concepts.

16 We haven't worked out the tagline and the logos and  
17 all those kinds of things yet.

18 So, we have the dates for the 2027 and 2028 fairs  
19 to propose to you today, as well as what the theme concept  
20 will be, and then we'll come back at a future date after  
21 this fair is over with more detail.

22 MS. MEAD: So, I'll do the boring part, the more  
23 boring part, which is the dates.

1           And then we'll have Katie talk about the concepts.

2           So, we'd like you to consider for 2027, we want to  
3 ensure a four-week run for the fair.

4           And given the holiday is observed on Monday, we're  
5 looking at a 21-day run from June the 9th to July the 5th.

6           So, we'll go one day past July 4th in 2027.

7           We'll also, do we want to stop at 2027?

8           Well, let's do.

9           So, we'll just approve 2027.

10          There's the dates.

11          There's the concept.

12          MS. MUELLER: Let's do it.

13          Okay.

14          So, 21 days.

15          The fair's been 20 days for the past couple of  
16 years.

17          We've been 22, I think, in 2023 or 2022.

18          But the theme concept that we'd like to focus on,  
19 so it's really nice to rotate the themes around to hit  
20 different aspects of the fair.

21          So, this year, it's Once Upon a Fair.

22          We're talking about, you know, reading and  
23 storytelling, and really, it's education-focused, but this

1 theme, we'd like to take a totally different direction  
2 next year and talk about chocolate.

3 Who doesn't love chocolate?

4 It's got broad demographic appeal.

5 It's something that all of our food vendors can  
6 really get behind.

7 You know, we've got fun food competitions, and food  
8 is, we can be very food-forward with our marketing.

9 So, we'd like to do that as the concept in 2027,  
10 and by approving these things now, it allows us to get out  
11 ahead of things.

12 We can bring potential partners out to the current  
13 fair to kind of show them how they could be involved,  
14 those kinds of things.

15 So, I hope you like this concept as much as we do,  
16 and we'll approve it.

17 So, we'll move on to 2028.

18 MS. MEAD: There's a lot we can do with chocolate,  
19 Katie.

20 [Crosstalk]

21 MS. MEAD: Let's look at 2028.

22 The fair will be 22 days in 2028, with our standard  
23 closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

1           We'll run from June the 7th, and the fair will end  
2           on 4th of July that year.

3           And concept?

4           MS. MUELLER: And the concept is magic and  
5           illusions, and this will be a lot of fun.

6           This will be very entertainment focused.

7           And it will open up the opportunity for us to have  
8           a lot of magicians, illusionists, kind of talk about, you  
9           know, the science and the magic behind all of that in the  
10          theme exhibit.

11          So, I think that that theme will be really a lot of  
12          fun.

13          MS. MEAD: Thank you, Katie.

14          So, these dates and concepts are coming to you by  
15          motion of the committee, and this is our motion.

16          Do we hear a second?

17          VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Second.

18          MS. MEAD: Thank you, Lisa.

19          CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

20          All right.

21          With that, we will take public comment.

22          MS. MUELLER: Oh, I think we need to do the  
23          grandstand.

1 MS. MEAD: Do we just -- grandstand?

2 MS. MUELLER: If you go to the next slide, if you go  
3 to the next slide, or I can.

4 Okay.

5 Okay.

6 Here we are.

7 It's a little taste of a rollercoaster ride before  
8 the fair gets started.

9 So, our new board members, welcome to both of you.

10 So, what we've been doing this year, just to bring  
11 you up to speed, so we've released a few of our grandstand  
12 concert lineups each month starting in March, or actually  
13 February is when we started.

14 And so, we have a few more to release today, three  
15 more names, and then we have two more names that we  
16 couldn't announce quite yet because of stage coach, hint,  
17 hint, and then another late addition, but some heavy  
18 hitters.

19 So, May is going to be very exciting.

20 But today, we've got three acts, really excited  
21 about these three.

22 And they will be going on pre-sale tomorrow, which  
23 means that those that are on our e-blast list will receive

1 a special code to start buying the tickets tomorrow, and  
2 then they'll go on sale to the general public on Friday.

3 So, without further ado, Grizz with Sippy.

4 Don't everyone jump out of your chair at once  
5 because this guy is a huge hit with the EDM crowd, huge  
6 hit with the EDM crowd.

7 So, he sold out the Cow Palace in San Francisco  
8 twice this past year, and so he's very well known.

9 We're really excited.

10 We had great success last year with EDM.

11 First time ever, we had Zedd, and it was a sellout  
12 show.

13 We've got Marshmello this year, as well as Grizz.

14 So, really excited about that.

15 Bret Michaels and Night Ranger, for all you rock  
16 lovers.

17 Should be a lot of fun, kind of throwback to some  
18 of those rock ballads.

19 And then finally, on June 18th, we've got Gabriel  
20 Fluffy Iglesias.

21 He was here in '22, I believe, and he was a sellout  
22 for us, very popular in this area.

23 He's actually originally from Chula Vista, so well-

1 known comedian as well.

2 Just a reminder, week one, we are up 2.5% on our  
3 ticket sales per show.

4 Our average ticket sales is up 2.5%.

5 Really excited about that.

6 But we've got Chicago, Koe Wetzal, Griz, Los  
7 Tucanes de Tijuana will be the first week.

8 The second week will be Bret Michaels and Night  
9 Ranger, Gabriel Iglesias, Marshmello with 4B, Good  
10 Charlotte, Pancho Barraza, and Banda Machos.

11 Week three will be Nelly, Maren Morris, El Coyote,  
12 and Chuy Lizarraga, who make up the Capibaras Tour.

13 And then week four will be AJR, fireworks, and  
14 Conjunto Primavera.

15 And like I said, we have two more acts that are  
16 coming.

17 So that will finalize our lineup.

18 We'll have 17 shows with our fireworks night.

19 And then also, not to be outdone, I'm really proud  
20 of the work that our entertainment group has done on the  
21 Paddock Concert Series this year.

22 We've got some really nationally well-known acts.

23 We've tried to mirror the genres on the grandstand

1 with those on the Paddock to keep people at the fair  
2 longer to kind of experience that after-party feel.

3 So we've got Blue Oyster Cult opening up the fair,  
4 followed by Hoobastank, the Morgan Lee Band, Artifacts.

5 We will have on Sundays a Latino DJ, ZZ Tex, which  
6 is a tribute to ZZ Top, a country night, a Shrek rave.

7 It's called a Shrek-no.

8 It's a thing.

9 It'll be a lot of fun.

10 The Red Not Chili Peppers.

11 The B-Side Players, Los Lonely Boys, C&C Music  
12 Factory, Chasin' U, a Morgan Wallen experience, Top of the  
13 World, a tribute to the Carpenters.

14 I'm not even going to try to pronounce what's on  
15 June 28th, but it's a Hispanic band.

16 Matthew Phillips, Kissed Alive, which is a tribute  
17 to KISS, Jefferson Starship, and Brownies and Lemonade,  
18 which is an EDM group.

19 And then we'll round it out with a Latino DJ again  
20 on the Paddock.

21 So lots of fun, lots of fun shows, a very diverse  
22 lineup.

23 MS. MEAD: Thank you, Katie.

1 Oh, thank you.

2 We have an amazing grandstand, but our Paddock is  
3 going to be rocking this year, so please be sure to come  
4 hang out on the Paddock.

5 Okay.

6 So now that Katie's presented all of this  
7 information to us, we now, I think, can move forward with  
8 a vote, because we have first and second.

9 Okay.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR NEJABAT: Any members in the room who would  
12 wish to speak on this matter?

13 Seeing nobody.

14 We have one member online.

15 Lynn?

16 LYNN KAIMULOA: Here.

17 CHAIR NEJABAT: We can hear you.

18 Two minutes.

19 LYNN KAIMULOA: Awesome.

20 I've worked 36 seasons at the racetrack, and I work  
21 at the Paddock Tavern, so sounds good.

22 MS. MEAD: Thank you.

23 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thanks for your comments.

1 LYNN KAIMULOA: I didn't know I was going to talk.  
2 I would have thought of something better.  
3 CHAIR NEJABAT: We had you signed up.  
4 All right.  
5 That concludes public comment.  
6 With that, we'll take a motion and a second.  
7 MS. MEAD: I think we have a motion that the  
8 committee and Lisa.  
9 CHAIR NEJABAT: Roll call vote, then.  
10 Thank you.  
11 MS. ROBERTS: Chair Nejabat?  
12 CHAIR NEJABAT: Aye.  
13 MS. ROBERTS: Vice Chair Barkett?  
14 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Aye.  
15 MS. ROBERTS: Director DeBerry?  
16 MS. DeBERRY: Aye.  
17 MS. ROBERTS: Director Mead?  
18 MS. MEAD: Aye.  
19 MS. ROBERTS: Director Miyahara?  
20 MR. MIYAHARA: Aye.  
21 MS. ROBERTS: Director Morales-Roth?  
22 MS. MORALES-ROTH: Aye.  
23 CHAIR NEJABAT: Director Arabo online?

1 MR. ARABO: Yeah, I'm online.

2 Aye.

3 CHAIR NEJABAT: Perfect.

4 The motion carries.

5 The next item in our general business is item 8B,  
6 finance committee report.

7 This includes an information item and an action  
8 item.

9 We will start with the information item, which is  
10 discussion of agreement number 12-009-41, food and  
11 beverages services, and whether to exercise the final  
12 remaining option to extend the current agreement.

13 Just want to reiterate, the board will not take  
14 action today on this.

15 With that, I'll recognize Director Arabo for the  
16 discussion.

17 MR. ARABO: Thank you, Chair Nejabat.

18 Apologies, I had to run, but I'm here on Zoom.

19 The first item's informational item.

20 Basically, our food and beverage was with Premier,  
21 now Legends.

22 And we have an option, if we want to go out to bid  
23 an RFP, then we need to give a six-month notice.

1           And the six-month notice, I believe, will be June.

2           So the committee had a great meeting to talk about  
3 how do we maximize more revenue to the district, and  
4 looking at the calculations and how we determine what net  
5 profit is.

6           This item is in the packet, and we're going to  
7 bring it back next month for potential action, if we  
8 should exercise the option or not.

9           And what the option basically is, is do we go out  
10 to RFP or, and also, do we split it up?

11           Do we do an RFP for the Sound, and an RFP for the  
12 DMTC, and one for the fair, or do we do one all-inclusive?

13           Preliminary reports show that just by changing the  
14 formulas, if the district could make three or \$4 million  
15 more annually in profit, just by re-looking at how we  
16 determine what net profit is.

17           But we'll get more information to the board by  
18 before the next meeting, and it's a pretty thorough report  
19 in the packet.

20           So if there's any questions on that item, that's  
21 for food and beverage.

22           And then, I don't know, Chair Nejabat, I don't know  
23 if we should.

1 CHAIR NEJABAT: Sure, any questions from the board?

2 We have to take public comment on that item, and  
3 then we'll move on to the next.

4 Anyone wishing to speak on public comment in the  
5 room, please queue up.

6 SHAUN BEARD: Good afternoon, board.

7 My name is Shaun Beard.

8 I'm the Chief Operating Officer for RK Hospitality.

9 And as I was here last month and shared with y'all,  
10 the current food and beverage contract has not gone out to  
11 public bid for over 36 years.

12 And I know, as we look at different ways for  
13 increasing revenue, different experiences that we can  
14 bring here to the Convention Center, I stand before you  
15 not as an official representative of the entire industry,  
16 but surely from my company as a hospitality provider.

17 You really owe it to the customers of San Diego, to  
18 yourself, to the board, to the financial, to go out to  
19 RFP.

20 Going out to RFP is a way for you to gather new  
21 information, see what's really new in the industry, give  
22 other competitors an opportunity to compete and show you  
23 what they can do and how they can do it differently.

1           And the benefactor in all of that, of course, is  
2 you all.

3           So I encourage an RFP.

4           Competition's good.

5           Competition's bringing out the best of folks.

6           And without it going out for RFP for the last 36  
7 years, I think you owe it to yourself to take a hard look  
8 at that.

9           Thank you very much for your time.

10          CHAIR NEJABAT: All right, anyone else?

11          Seeing nobody else.

12          Oh, go ahead.

13          ARTURO: Hello, everyone.

14          My name's Arturo.

15          I'm with Local 30.

16          Just as you assess whether you are extending the  
17 current agreement, I think we wanted to raise a concern  
18 that the union has.

19          The District has been having buyouts more recently  
20 and they've emerged and actually kind of spiked.

21          These buyouts are planned to our union members.

22          They take shifts away from them, the hours and  
23 benefits that they have.

1           It's been a big issue.

2           We've had the sushi thing, the tequila and tacos,  
3 the coastal Christmas and our members are losing out on  
4 shifts.

5           Obviously, they've been dedicated, hardworking and  
6 invested to the fairgrounds and it's not fair for them to  
7 be losing out on these shifts when you have an army of  
8 dedicated, again, workers who are here to support.

9           So again, what we're asking is for you all to  
10 either cease doing that or when you are doing that, we  
11 ensure that our members are given employment.

12           Because again, it's bartenders, it's cooks, it's  
13 back of the house, it's front of the house and it's  
14 impacting a lot of folks.

15           And some folks were here earlier, but due to the  
16 duration of the meeting, we're unable to stay.

17           The other thing is if it does go out to RFP, we  
18 want to make sure that you all take into consideration  
19 worker retention as it's an important issue for the union.

20           Okay, thank you.

21           CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

22           VICTORIA WARD: My name is Victoria Ward.

23           I've been a bartender at Premier Food Services for

1 24 years now.

2 I've raised my children, my grandchildren.

3 It's been my main source of income.

4 For many years, Premier has provided so much  
5 constant and quality services to all of our customers.

6 They are people that we've known for years.

7 We know them by name, they know us by name.

8 We know some of their kids.

9 We know what they eat, we know what they drink and  
10 the enjoyment that they have when they're here.

11 So basically, what I'm asking is that you would  
12 please consider extending the service agreement with  
13 Premier and the new global services as they are joining  
14 us.

15 And there are many people other than myself, many  
16 families that have counted on Premier for many years to  
17 contribute to their income and their families and their  
18 needs.

19 So if you would consider that, we'd be very  
20 appreciative and all of the families from Premier Services  
21 would really appreciate it.

22 And I thank you very much for your time and  
23 allowing us to be heard.

1 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

2 Anyone else, public comment?

3 All right, that concludes public comments on this  
4 informational item.

5 Next, we have item 8-B-1, consideration and vote on  
6 whether to approve the District's 2026-2027 insurance  
7 policy renewals or delegate authority to Director Arabo to  
8 work with staff to review, select, and procure insurance  
9 policies for 2026 to 2027 and report back on those  
10 selections to the district's board of directors at the May  
11 2026 board meeting.

12 This is an action item.

13 Before we begin the discussion, I will entertain a  
14 motion.

15 MS. MEAD: I move approval of Director Arabo working  
16 with staff to look at the insurance renewal for 2026 and  
17 seven.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. DeBERRY: Second.

20 CHAIR NEJABAT: Second.

21 All right.

22 Director Arabo, any comments you'd like to add or  
23 any discussion from the board?

1 MR. ARABO: Yeah, thank you very much for the  
2 motion.

3 This item came to the committee.

4 I guess there's a lapse in [indiscernible/audio  
5 cutting in and out]

6 CHAIR NEJABAT: We're losing you.

7 MR. ARABO: Can you hear me?

8 CHAIR NEJABAT: Now we can.

9 MR. ARABO: Can you hear me now?

10 Okay, I apologize.

11 Okay, can you hear me?

12 CHAIR NEJABAT: Yes.

13 MR. ARABO: Okay, great.

14 So this action item came to the committee.

15 By the time our next board meeting meets, we're  
16 going to have a lapse of coverage.

17 That's the reason.

18 I'm happy if anyone on the board or the chair also  
19 wants to be the designee.

20 We've always said in the committee level that we  
21 want to maximize every deal for the district, save as much  
22 dollars as possible, get the best amount of coverage as  
23 possible.

1           We've had a great relationship.

2           I'm looking forward to working with staff and  
3 report back to see what insurance carrier and what  
4 premiums exist, and basically getting the mindset of shop  
5 it out, get the best deal with those lenses on.

6           But any recommendations or advice or considerations  
7 from my colleagues on the board, please let me know.

8           Love to hear them.

9           CHAIR NEJABAT: So have we received any renewal  
10 options between, I mean, we're a month away, right, from  
11 coverage?

12          MR. ARABO: Yeah, I asked that of the staff.

13          They have not.

14          I don't believe they've given it to the committee,  
15 but we're asking them to.

16          And we could also, if there's another meeting  
17 earlier, we could bring all the coverages to the next  
18 board meeting, because I believe that it expires in May,  
19 beginning of May.

20          And so if we have another meeting in April, we  
21 could also bring all the coverage options or brokers to  
22 the full board.

23          MS. MEAD: I think my motion includes selection and

1 reporting back.

2 CHAIR NEJABAT: Yeah, go ahead.

3 MR. SEYLE: Just to update you, we're required to  
4 work through the office of risk management through the  
5 state controller's office.

6 So we're required to use them for our brokerage  
7 services.

8 They have gathered up all the policies that have  
9 been offered to the different carriers, and we're prepared  
10 to present those to the committee or to Member Arabo when  
11 we meet later this week, probably.

12 And then it could come to the board at the 27th  
13 meeting if you want to schedule it for then, or he could  
14 make the selection and then you could confirm it in May.

15 CHAIR NEJABAT: Could you also include me on that?

16 MR. SEYLE: Absolutely.

17 CHAIR NEJABAT: If it's within the 10-day period?

18 MR. SEYLE: Yes.

19 CHAIR NEJABAT: Okay, thank you.

20 All right.

21 Go ahead, Director Arabo.

22 MR. ARABO: If we could present it to the full  
23 board, if we could present it to the, sorry, if we could

1 present it to the full, if we could make that work in the  
2 timelines, that actually would be my preference.

3 I don't know if we could do that in our past  
4 timeline.

5 And if not, maybe the committee could be the  
6 alternative choice.

7 My perspective is the more people see something,  
8 the better, not us.

9 So I don't know if Mike could give his opinion on,  
10 are we able to do it prior to the deadline, to the full  
11 board?

12 MR. SEYLE: The deadline is the end of this month  
13 for a selection, but that's just the binder letter.

14 So if we met, if we did, I know you have a meeting  
15 on the 27th, you could schedule it then.

16 CHAIR NEJABAT: Yeah, we won't have time for that,  
17 so.

18 MR. ARABO: I'm happy to do whatever the chair and  
19 the board wanted to.

20 CHAIR NEJABAT: It all goes through the committee.  
21 Okay, so with that --

22 MR. CAPLAN: The only thing I want to remind the  
23 chair and the board is the committee itself can't make any

1 binding decisions on this board.

2 And so if the committee is going to review  
3 information and bring it back to the full board at another  
4 publicly noticed meeting, that's permissible.

5 But the motion needs to be clear on whether the  
6 board's delegating authority to a single board member to  
7 make binding decisions.

8 The only other alternative is to delegate that  
9 authority to a staff member or to bring it back to the  
10 full board to make decisions regarding insurance coverage  
11 looking out past the deadline.

12 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Josh, I think, didn't we do  
13 this last time with Michael Gelfand, listening in charge  
14 of that?

15 MR. CAPLAN: We did because it was a single board  
16 member, but I heard discussion that it would go back to  
17 the committee, but the committee's two board members.

18 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Well, I think that was Mark's,  
19 yeah, Director Arabo's wish.

20 MR. ARABO: It'll be a single board member.

21 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: It doesn't look like timewise  
22 we're going to have that option.

23 CHAIR NEJABAT: It could also go to the committee

1 with me being on there and then Director Arabo making that  
2 decision, right?

3 Him being the designee.

4 MR. CAPLAN: I think the only challenge is in terms  
5 of, I think in terms of Bagley-Keene compliance, I think  
6 it would be maybe inappropriate for the committee to be  
7 making, even having discussion on a binding decision that  
8 one member of that committee then ultimately makes.

9 And so I think if the board's going to delegate  
10 this authority to one individual, they should focus their  
11 discussions with staff to make that decision and not meet  
12 with the committee first.

13 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Okay.

14 MR. ARABO: I'm comfortable to be the, yeah, I'm  
15 comfortable with being the designee of the board.

16 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Mike, you good with that too?

17 MR. SEYLE: Yes, the options, there won't be many,  
18 to be honest with you.

19 It won't be a difficult choice.

20 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Okay, sounds good.

21 MS. MEAD: So we need to amend the --

22 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Yes.

23 CHAIR NEJABAT: Yeah, so --

1 MS. MEAD: It actually says Director Arabo.

2 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Oh yeah, it does, to delegate,  
3 yeah.

4 So we'll do option B.

5 MS. MEAD: Yes, Director Arabo to work with staff to  
6 review and select.

7 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Yes.

8 CHAIR NEJABAT: Okay, we have a motion and a second.  
9 Any other discussion?  
10 We'll take the vote.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Chair Nejabat?

12 CHAIR NEJABAT: Aye.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Vice Chair Barkett?

14 VICE CHAIR BARKETT Aye.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Director Arabo?

16 MR. ARABO: Aye.

17 MS. ROBERTS: Director DeBerry?

18 MS. DEBERRY: Aye.

19 MS. ROBERTS: Director Mead?

20 MS. MEAD: Aye.

21 MS. ROBERTS: Director Miyahara?

22 MR. MIYAHARA: Aye.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Director Morales-Roth?

1 MS. MORALES-ROTH: Aye.

2 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right, the motion carries.

3 The next item in our general business is item 8C,  
4 People and Culture Committee.

5 This is an information only item.

6 You can find the report beginning on page 143 of  
7 your board packet.

8 Director Mead, is there anything further that you'd  
9 like to add that's not included in the report?

10 MS. MEAD: Not at this time.

11 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: The only thing I do want to  
12 ask, that single-day workshop on April 27, are we going to  
13 go ahead and postpone that?

14 CHAIR NEJABAT: We decided to do that.

15 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Okay.

16 CHAIR NEJABAT: Any questions from the board?

17 No?

18 All right, we will now take public comment on this  
19 item.

20 Any speakers in the room?

21 Seeing nobody in the room wishing to speak on this  
22 matter and nobody online, that concludes public comments  
23 on this information item.

1           We'll now move on to item 8D, Provide Feedback on  
2 Draft Amendments to Policy 3.11, Board Advocacy and  
3 Community Relations.

4           This is an information only item.

5           You can find the report beginning on page 150.

6           Consistent with our process for developing  
7 policies, this is being introduced as an information item  
8 for discussion and feedback today.

9           In the future, it'll be brought back to the board  
10 for consideration after incorporating any feedback  
11 provided.

12           Any questions or feedback from the board?

13           Seeing none, we'll now take public comment.

14           If you're in the room, please queue up.

15           Seeing nobody in the room and nobody signed up  
16 online, that concludes public comments on this  
17 informational item.

18           We will now end our general business item today  
19 with item 8E, which is the consideration of draft initial  
20 studies/mitigated negative declaration of the City of Del  
21 Mar San Dieguito Lagoon Habitat Enhancement and Trail  
22 Project.

23           This is an information item only.

1           You can find the report beginning on page 158.

2           As noted in the report, we will have a presentation  
3 on this item from our staff and the City of Del Mar.

4           DUSTIN FULLER: Good afternoon.

5           Dustin Fuller, Supervising Environmental Planner.

6           Welcome to our new directors.

7           Look forward to working with you.

8           I'll be brief.

9           This is a City of Del Mar project.

10          It would encompass a large area in the red lot,  
11 about 100 feet from the river's edge.

12          I don't know if you can see in your maps that were  
13 provided.

14          I will say that this is not an unknown project.

15          It's a project that I believe is needed.

16          I worked with the city back in 2015, 2016 to amend  
17 their local coastal plan to address sea level rise.

18          So it's not a surprise.

19          I think the surprise is the initial timeline of  
20 2027, which, if I'm understanding correctly, is going to  
21 be pushed back.

22          District staff, in conjunction with our on-call  
23 consultant, are reviewing the environmental document for

1       adequacy and will be providing a comment letter.

2               That comment letter's due May 17th, I believe.

3               We'll have that probably to the board at the next  
4 meeting.

5               I'd like to invite up Amanda and her team to  
6 present, provide more information.

7               Be available for questions if you have any, or her  
8 team as well.

9               Thank you.

10              AMANDA LEE: Honorable Chair and members of the  
11 board, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

12              I'm Amanda Lee, Principal Planner with the City of  
13 Del Mar.

14              And this is a really exciting adaptation and trail  
15 project in the San Dieguito River floodway.

16              There's many stakeholders in this regional open  
17 space and trail system.

18              Decades of work has been invested to protect  
19 resources and minimize flood risk, which will provide  
20 significant benefit to the fairgrounds property for your  
21 future redevelopment.

22              We do have city staff here, as well as JPA staff.

23              This is a project we're doing together with the

1 JPA.

2 And we also have our consultant team from GHD and  
3 DUDEK, who will provide a high-level presentation to you.

4 Our goal is to work collaboratively with the  
5 district, as you are an important stakeholder for this  
6 project.

7 We want to receive your feedback, and that will be  
8 used to shape the project and the environmental document.

9 I want to assure you that this project is in a  
10 draft state.

11 So I know there was some misunderstanding, but we  
12 have just released our draft environmental document.

13 We're focused on completing the necessary steps.

14 And I know Dustin is your expert, so some of you  
15 are used to going through that.

16 It's a very public process, a procedural process,  
17 and where you bring in stakeholders and get that feedback.

18 After environmental review will be the project  
19 design and then the permitting process.

20 As Dustin referred to earlier, the construction  
21 timing is to be determined, and that will require  
22 agreement between stakeholders, including the district.

23 As future steps, the project also needs review and

1 approval from at least five resource agencies.

2 So a lot of public processing to go, and we still  
3 need to secure project funding.

4 We appreciate your consideration in this project,  
5 and I do want to introduce our consultant team.

6 We have Brian Leslie with GHD, who's a coastal  
7 scientist, as well as James Evans, who's a coastal  
8 engineer with GHD.

9 We have Matt Valerio with DUDEK, who's in charge of  
10 the environmental document for the project.

11 And then we have Nathan Lacey here with the JPA as  
12 well.

13 And our Planning Director, Karen Brindley, is here  
14 with me.

15 So thank you.

16 We'll just roll to the presentation.

17 BRIAN LESLIE: Good afternoon.

18 Let me move this a little bit.

19 Good afternoon.

20 My name is Brian Leslie.

21 I'm with GHD.

22 My colleague and I, James, are going to run you  
23 through this presentation and provide an update on the San

1 Dieguito Lagoon Shoreline Protection Project.

2 A quick overview of what we're going to talk about  
3 today, go through the project goals and objectives, talk  
4 about the site vulnerabilities, FEMA requirements, which  
5 constrain what can be done on either side of the riverbank  
6 in this location, and our alternative development process  
7 and how we landed at our preferred alternative, and then  
8 quickly go on to next steps.

9 There's three project areas that we looked at, and  
10 they're shown here in various colors.

11 This is the North Riverbank, Southeast Riverbank,  
12 and the Southwest Riverbank.

13 The North Riverbank is the focus of this  
14 presentation.

15 It's 100 foot wide by about 1,400 linear feet long  
16 parcel or area, I should say.

17 It's the fairgrounds property, but there's also a  
18 sandbag special events platform on the western edge that  
19 we're aware of and designed within.

20 The existing conditions of the North Riverbank are  
21 something like this.

22 There's some shoreline protection.

23 It's a vegetated slope.

1           Your fence line, and yeah, that's the condition  
2 today.

3           The goals of the project were to increase flood  
4 protection to local, regional, and state facilities  
5 through a multi-benefit design and nature-based approach.

6           We had four key objectives.

7           It was to maximize flood protection, support  
8 ecological enhancements, so ecological uplift by bringing  
9 habitat in, provide trail access and improve trail access  
10 on the south bank, and minimize project encroachments,  
11 both utilities, but also into developed parcels or  
12 developed areas.

13           This site is in the FEMA flood hazard zone.

14           There's two hazard zones that we're within.

15           It's the regulatory floodway, which is the red  
16 hatched zone, and the floodway fringe, or the 1% annual  
17 chance flood hazard.

18           These two areas have different implications.

19           My colleague James is going to walk you through  
20 those and what those areas mean as far as what you can  
21 develop within them.

22           But this shows our project areas and where they  
23 sit, whether they're in the floodway or the floodway

1 fringe.

2 This slide, through a separate effort, we modeled  
3 the river and understand the vulnerabilities to a greater  
4 scale than just what's flooded in a 100-year event.

5 For example, at the 10-year fluvial event, we  
6 understand, or 9 to 10-year fluvial event is when the  
7 north bank starts to overtop and water starts to encroach  
8 on the fairgrounds property.

9 I'm going to hand it out to James to talk about the  
10 FEMA floodplain development requirements.

11 Is that the red arrow?

12 Yes, got it.

13 This is a HEC-RAS model.

14 It's a numerical model that we've run.

15 JAMES EVANS: Hello, everyone.

16 I'm James Evans.

17 I'm with GHD.

18 So I'm going to talk a little bit about the FEMA  
19 requirements for the project.

20 As Brian explained, the project is entirely within  
21 the FEMA regulatory floodway, which introduces some  
22 constraints to what exactly we can build, and it also  
23 includes flood protection features.

1           So FEMA outlines base flood elevations that we're  
2 not allowed to exceed.

3           In other words, we have to comply with no-rise  
4 requirements outlined by FEMA.

5           And what the no-rise process is, so let's say we  
6 have schematic river cross-section with a base flood  
7 elevation as highlighted, and let's say we want to  
8 introduce some kind of flood protection feature.

9           If that flood protection feature reduces the  
10 hydraulic capacity of that channel and results in a rise  
11 to that water surface elevation, it doesn't pass the no-  
12 rise certification.

13           So what we need to do is we need to compensate for  
14 that displacement of water vertically by removing some  
15 portion of that channel.

16           So we have to remove a portion to balance the  
17 earthwork that we end up adding to provide some flood  
18 protection.

19           So in designing this project, we evaluated multiple  
20 concepts and ran them through the HEC-RES model to  
21 evaluate whether they meet those no-rise requirements.

22           And so through that process and stakeholder  
23 feedback, we landed on our preferred alternative, which

1 I'll explain over the next few slides, but just wanted to  
2 highlight that this no-rise process was evaluated for  
3 multiple cross-sections along the North Riverbank, and so  
4 I'll be explaining how that process was iterated for this  
5 eastern cross-section first.

6 So we started with some cross-section that looked  
7 like this.

8 We have that flood protection feature providing  
9 protection up to 10-foot elevation.

10 That did not pass no-rise requirements.

11 It resulted in a rise to that base flood elevation.

12 So we moved on to alternative two, which pushed out  
13 that flood protection feature even closer to the river.

14 That also didn't pass no-rise requirements.

15 Alternative three occupied roughly a quarter of  
16 that 100-foot-wide width that Brian spoke to earlier.

17 That also didn't pass.

18 Alternative four, we moved it back a little bit,  
19 occupying about half of that 100-foot footprint.

20 That also didn't pass.

21 Alternative five was similar.

22 Ultimately, what we landed on was something that  
23 laid back that slope and pushed back that flood protection

1 feature closer to the fairgrounds.

2 This did meet the no-rise requirements.

3 And so I won't walk through that animation again,  
4 but we also looked at other cross-sections.

5 So the western cross-section is a similar geometry.

6 Again, we iterated on multiple concepts and landed  
7 on a preferred alternative with an ecotone or transitional  
8 habitat slope that lays back and then that flood  
9 protection feature closer to the fairgrounds.

10 So this slide is just a summary for our multi-  
11 criteria analysis.

12 We vetted all of our concepts, not only for no-rise  
13 certification with FEMA, but also providing transitional  
14 habitat, public access amenities with a trail, habitat  
15 transgression with sea-level rise, and also how much width  
16 onto the fairgrounds property that each concept would  
17 occupy.

18 So just recently, we completed 30% designs for the  
19 project.

20 This provides an overview of what the project looks  
21 from a bird's-eye view for both the North Riverbank and  
22 the Southeast Riverbanks in the city of Del Mar's  
23 property.

1           So you can see we have a couple different colors  
2 that speak to the different types of habitat that we're  
3 going to be creating with this project in addition to the  
4 trail for public access.

5           And with that, I'll hand it back to Brian.

6           MR. RIVERA: Microphones, please.

7           VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Was it 10 or 50?

8           Yeah.

9           MS. DeBERRY: Was it 10 or 50?

10          JAMES EVANS: 50-year flood event?

11          Yeah.

12          This slide speaks to that well.

13          So this project, Preferred Project would provide a  
14 13-year protection for the fairgrounds from a 13-year  
15 event, up from a nine.

16          MS. DeBERRY: So why that's so important is we  
17 consider our strategic plan.

18          This has to be considered.

19          VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Yep, definitely.

20          MS. DeBERRY: Sorry, I keep interrupting.

21          JAMES EVANS: Yeah, no, keep interrupting.

22          MS. DeBERRY: I'm not done.

23          And another thing.

1           BRIAN LESLIE: Okay, so I'm going to round this out  
2 on how our project meets our four goals that I started  
3 with.

4           So the first one was to maximize flood protection.

5           This project achieves that by raising the level of  
6 protection in the North River Bank fairgrounds to a 13-  
7 year event from a nine-year event.

8           The South River Bank goes from an 11-year event to  
9 a 36-year event.

10          The reason why those are different is because the  
11 North River Bank is in the floodway versus the South Bank  
12 is out of the floodway.

13          It's on the floodway fringe.

14          We had to shuffle the infrastructure a little bit.

15          The public works yard is accommodating that space.

16          The second goal was to support ecological  
17 enhancements, have these ecological uplifts.

18          We're doing that, as James mentioned, by this  
19 transitional habitat, layback slope, give some space back  
20 for habitat that will become marsh.

21          And then we'll have our new vegetated berm, which  
22 will be our flood control feature, but also double as a  
23 public access trail.

1           So both those features will be planted with native  
2           vegetation and provide habitat.

3           A perfect example of what this is going to look  
4           like is the W-19 restoration project just upstream of  
5           here.

6           So this is just up, yeah, up river.

7           And this project was constructed about two years  
8           ago.

9           They constructed transitional habitat against all  
10          their slopes.

11          This trail, which I can't remember the name of, but  
12          this is about a five to one slope.

13          So you can kind of visualize what this project will  
14          look like in the built condition.

15          Third goal is to provide public trail access.

16          We're going to have those South Bank trail  
17          improvements.

18          On the North Bank, we're going to provide an  
19          extension of the public access trail where public access  
20          isn't today.

21          So we'll be meeting that goal.

22          And this is, and orange is the Coast to Crest Trail  
23          to kind of orient you.

1           Finally, our fourth goal was to minimize project  
2 encroachments.

3           We did a check on existing and planned utilities on  
4 the fairgrounds property.

5           We don't see any conflict.

6           On the South Bank, we're, like I mentioned, we're  
7 shuffling the public works yard a little bit to give some  
8 space for this project.

9           The city's public works yard.

10          And there's also a waterline utility we need to  
11 accommodate there.

12          So we're looking at encroachments on both sides and  
13 we were able to minimize those impacts.

14          Okay, to summarize what we talked about, the North  
15 River Bank, both river banks in this segment are  
16 vulnerable to flooding from fluvial hazards.

17          Sea level rise doesn't really play a factor for the  
18 next, like through 2100.

19          Fluvial rain events are going to drive flooding in  
20 this region for quite some time.

21          These sites are heavily constrained by FEMA  
22 requirements.

23          We modeled a lot of different concepts and

1 different scenarios and we landed at a preferred project  
2 that meets FEMA requirements and also achieves our four  
3 project goals.

4 I'll hand back to Amanda to talk about next steps.

5 AMANDA LEE: Thank you, Brian, appreciate it.

6 This is our last slide.

7 And just, again, want to reiterate how many steps  
8 we have left.

9 A lot of public processing, of course, the  
10 stakeholder collaboration and outreach.

11 We'll be working together.

12 Right now, we're taking in feedback, taking in  
13 comments.

14 And the next step is to take those comments and  
15 you're trying to work out and negotiate what is that final  
16 project going to look like.

17 So that's what we want your feedback to shape that  
18 project.

19 You formally respond to those comments in a final  
20 document.

21 So then the next step is preparing that final  
22 document.

23 That goes through a public process.

1           So that would be through our city planning  
2 commission and city council.

3           And then as part of what that project is, it's  
4 working with the stakeholders again.

5           So it's the district, it's also the JPA, who is  
6 multi-jurisdictional, and SANDAG, who's multi-  
7 jurisdictional.

8           And you have a lot of non-profits that are  
9 interested in this area.

10          So you have Sierra Club, Surfrider, Wild Coast.

11          Also working with the Kumeyaay Native American  
12 tribe, who has been part of our project already through  
13 tribal consultation.

14          So just wanted to share that.

15          Once you have that project designed, then going  
16 through the resource agencies through state and federal to  
17 get those permits.

18          Again, those are all public process.

19          And then trying to secure that additional project  
20 funding.

21          You can't really lay out a construction plan until  
22 you get to that point in time.

23          And we're happy to answer any questions that you

1 may have.

2 But that wraps up our presentation.

3 And I think, Nathan, did you want to speak?

4 Okay.

5 Otherwise, I know there's a member of the public  
6 who also wants to speak.

7 Thank you so much.

8 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Thank you very much.

9 MR. MIYAHARA: Question for 22nd DAA staff.

10 Are you, is staff and or our consultants prepared  
11 to make public comment by the April 17th?

12 MR. FULLER: May 17th is the date.

13 And yes, we will have a public comment letter.

14 We requested an extension.

15 MR. MIYAHARA: Oh, May 17th, okay, thank you.

16 MR. FULLER: The original end date was April 17th.

17 We requested a 30-day extension, and the city was  
18 kind enough to grant it.

19 So it's now May 17th when the comments are due.

20 MR. MIYAHARA: Great, got it, okay.

21 And then in terms of timing, obviously,  
22 implementation.

23 This can't happen without formal approval by the

1 board, right?

2 MR. FULLER: That's correct.

3 MR. MIYAHARA: Okay.

4 And so Coastal Commission and their requirements in  
5 terms of compliance and or implementation, is this really  
6 best efforts?

7 I mean, we're trying to address sea level rise.

8 I think it's a good thing.

9 But are there any mandates or anything imposed on  
10 city of Del Mar in terms of implementation deadlines?

11 AMANDA LEE: So we do, first of all, JPA has an  
12 agreement with State Parks that was issued in July of  
13 2023.

14 And then the city also has a State Parks grant  
15 agreement that was issued in 2024, October of 2024.

16 The two projects overlap because you have the North  
17 Bank, and then our engineers explained, you can't do  
18 improvements on one bank without the other because of the  
19 hydrology.

20 So it's a very complicated puzzle, which our  
21 engineers have helped to solve.

22 But the way that this goes into the commitment is  
23 when you get funding from state or federal agencies,

1 you're projecting out a construction timeline.

2 And JPA's was June of 2027.

3 So they got their funding 2023.

4 They were part of that settlement agreement back in  
5 2012.

6 They had that June 2027 timeline for the North  
7 Bank.

8 So that's what got rolled in by State Parks into  
9 our agreement.

10 What's typical of the process is you don't know  
11 your construction timing at the beginning because you go  
12 through a public process and you shape it and you continue  
13 to then work with your grant administrator and explain.

14 And so State Parks will understand, working with  
15 Coastal Commission, you mentioned, also State Lands  
16 Commission.

17 They have a lot of research and history of these  
18 different agreements that have happened.

19 And so they need that extra time as well.

20 So Dustin said, yes, particularly for this  
21 organization, need a little more time for those comments.

22 Some of the agencies need a little more time.

23 And we don't envision, I mean, that process will

1 likely take at least a year to get through the public  
2 permitting process of all the different resource agencies.

3 So that's where when you ask about commitment, if  
4 you're talking about construction, there isn't a firm  
5 commitment on that.

6 That's something that you just typically work  
7 through in the grant process.

8 The city's commitment with our grant agreement at  
9 this time is to prepare the environmental.

10 So that's what we're doing.

11 That's what the agreement I have with my consultant  
12 team here is to finalize the environmental, 30%  
13 engineering design, which has already been completed to do  
14 this environmental, and then getting applications into the  
15 permit agencies and processing those permits.

16 With JPA, so they had a significantly higher  
17 funding award.

18 That was 1.3 million.

19 So theirs was initially a commitment to construct.

20 And my understanding is Shawna Anderson, the CEO,  
21 Executive Director for the JPA has worked that out to be  
22 non-capital.

23 So the money can be invested into finishing that

1 100% engineering design so that we all have a project  
2 that's ready to go.

3 And then when you have that, and we have that  
4 stakeholder agreement, this is a great project that people  
5 want to invest in because it relates to that climate  
6 resilience and minimizes the flood risk.

7 And you're protecting state property.

8 And on the other side of the bank, the city  
9 property.

10 And Brian mentioned our public works yard is in the  
11 floodway.

12 So these are encroachments that conflict with  
13 existing law.

14 And so we're all trying to do our part and pull  
15 back.

16 So hopefully that answers.

17 Thanks.

18 MR. MIYAHARA: It does.

19 Thanks for that explanation.

20 So capital dollars have yet to be secured.

21 AMANDA LEE: Correct.

22 MR. MIYAHARA: Great, thank you.

23 MS. MEAD: Thank you.

1           You talk with us a little bit about risks between  
2 now and then.

3           So when you talk about 10 year, 50 year, 100 year,  
4 and we're even in the popular press hearing things like,  
5 this could be a big El Nino year in the fall of this year  
6 for Southern California.

7           What happens between now and then?

8           Because some pretty big damage could be done.

9           And I think we're hearing, we're talking about  
10 years, not months to get this done.

11          So just talk to us a little bit about risk and  
12 impacts.

13          JAMES EVANS: Yeah, so the current protection  
14 provided by what's here currently is for the North River  
15 Bank is approximately a nine year event.

16          So what that means is it's an event that might  
17 occur every nine years and produces a flow rate through  
18 the river that corresponds to that rainfall event.

19          When the clock starts, it's in a given year.

20          Like what's the chance of a nine year event  
21 occurring in a single year is kind of how we measure  
22 things.

23          And so Brian spoke to, we had a slide up for 10

1 year, 50 year, 100 year.

2 So the 100 year is a really extreme event, right?

3 That's an event in a given year that has only a 1%  
4 chance of occurring.

5 So does that answer your question?

6 Okay.

7 MS. MEAD: Yeah.

8 Thank you.

9 JAMES EVANS: You're welcome.

10 MS. DeBERRY: This is, I swear it's the last  
11 question.

12 So a little bit, I want to talk a little bit about  
13 your stakeholders, specifically around your collaboration  
14 and your outreach.

15 Who are those?

16 AMANDA LEE: There's a long list of stakeholders  
17 that are just for all environmental documents.

18 I don't know if Matt wants to take that question,  
19 but yeah, so Caltrans, for example, is also included in  
20 that.

21 So a range of those stakeholders, you have  
22 nonprofits, you have all the tribes, you have different  
23 state agencies, federal agencies.

1           So it's pretty widespread.

2           And then as you go to the public process, you  
3 continue to add to that list of interest of persons and  
4 spread that net.

5           MS. DeBERRY: And do you have a timeline as it  
6 relates to by November the 1st, we would have completed  
7 the stakeholder collaboration outreach process?

8           AMANDA LEE: So the stakeholder collaboration I see  
9 is usually the spectrum of the project, right?

10          There's constant, especially in this area, there  
11 are so many projects that we've talked about.

12          So even if you think about transportation, look at,  
13 you have trails going on, we have the bicycle and vehicle  
14 improvements, you have rail, you know, there's a whole  
15 spectrum.

16          And then you go into the adaptation world and you  
17 have sand projects in Solana and Del Mar, you have the  
18 Southern California Edison, you know, restoration work.

19          So it's constant working with the stakeholders to  
20 go through.

21          The target with the environmental document is  
22 having some type of final document this summer and working  
23 towards, you know, that final design so that you have a

1 project that's, you know, ready to permit, ready to go for  
2 construction once you have that funding in place.

3 And the one thing I would also mention, so when  
4 you're asking about risk and understanding how you may be  
5 vulnerable and what are the fairgrounds options, you're  
6 very lucky to also have the same DHD team working with you  
7 through Dustin and they just haven't had a chance to  
8 present you those findings.

9 So this should be seen as that kind of first step  
10 in the adaptation.

11 And then there are additional things that you would  
12 do, you know, to protect your own assets in your  
13 operations area.

14 MS. DeBERRY: Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR BARKETT: Thank you all.

16 That's a good presentation.

17 Thank you very much.

18 Thank you, Dustin.

19 MR. RIVERA: Microphones, please.

20 CHAIR NEJABAT: You have two minutes.

21 CAROL KERRIDGE: Oh, two minutes?

22 CHAIR NEJABAT: Yes.

23 CAROL KERRIDGE: Oh, no one told me, I'm sorry.

1 I'm Carol Kerridge.

2 I live in Del Mar.

3 Having been a Del Mar resident for over 40 years, I  
4 remember well when we were warned of the strong  
5 possibility that within 100 years we would experience  
6 life-changing climate alterations.

7 Many of us were concerned, but all of us thought  
8 those changes would not occur in our lifetime.

9 Now only 40 years later, these changes are creeping  
10 up on us at a precipitative rate and it seems as though  
11 they're causing concerns we never imagined, causing us to  
12 monitor, make changes, and adapt quickly.

13 Our world-renowned scientists at SIO, Scripps  
14 Institute of Oceanography, have recently warned that in  
15 our region we can expect extremes in weather patterns  
16 creating higher temperatures, more frequent Santa Ana  
17 winds, and increasing volatile atmospheric river storms.

18 That is more intense weather variability along with  
19 the extremes.

20 In our area, that will likely not only mean gradual  
21 sea level rise along with the usual high-low tides, but  
22 unpredictable ocean storms with periods of strong wind and  
23 torrential rain.

1           Currently through our state, many coastal towns and  
2 cities are adopting plans to protect and adapt strategies  
3 to keep their wetlands, lagoons, and surrounding areas  
4 safe from these unsuspecting storms, giving rise to  
5 potentially massive flooding.

6           As a previous member of the Del Mar Lagoon  
7 Committee, we were thrilled a couple of years ago to learn  
8 that our city and its critical sea level rise adaptation  
9 plan has created a living levy project that will keep the  
10 San Dieguito River stay within a safe boundary which can  
11 protect private homes, fairgrounds, property, and  
12 extensive flooding to surrounding areas.

13           CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you.

14           CAROL KERRIDGE: I can't say any more.

15           CHAIR NEJABAT: I'm sorry, we have two minutes.

16           Thank you for the time.

17           Please.

18           LAURA DEMARCO: Hi, Laura DeMarco again.

19           I'm a Del Mar resident, and I remember back in the  
20 1980, if you looked at that map when there was a huge  
21 flood and the river overflowed, it covered everything.

22           It even went up to the, covered the racetrack,  
23 covered the entire midway.

1           It was incredible.

2           So what Del Mar is proposing in the spirit of  
3 partnership is protection of your land and your facility  
4 and a key part of your master plan.

5           And I hope you appreciate it and work on getting  
6 affordable housing.

7           Thank you.

8           CHAIR NEJABAT: Any other members of the public?

9           Seeing no one else and nobody signed up, that  
10 concludes public comment on this information item.

11           Before we adjourn, I'd like you to note that you  
12 can find matters of information beginning on page 165 of  
13 your packet.

14           Seeing no other business before the Board of  
15 Directors today, the time is 3:46 p.m. on Tuesday, April  
16 14th, 2026.

17           And this meeting of the 22nd DAA Board of Directors  
18 is hereby adjourned.

19           Thank you.

20           [Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.]

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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I, Antha A. Ward, do hereby certify that the 22nd District Agricultural Association Board of Directors Meeting was transcribed from audio by me; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither a member for, related to, nor employed by the District in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any member or staff employed by the District hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

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Antha A. Ward  
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