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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
22ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS  
2260 JIMMY DURANTE BOULEVARD  
DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA 92014

(TELECONFERENCE)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

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Transcribed by:  
QuickCaption, Inc.  
457 Arlington Avenue, Ste. 104  
Riverside, CA 92506

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1 IN ATTENDANCE:

2

3 22<sup>ND</sup> DAA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT:

4 SAM NEJABAT, CHAIR

5 LISA BARKETT, VICE CHAIR

6 MARK ARABO, DIRECTOR

7 DONNA DEBERRY, DIRECTOR

8 KATHLYN MEAD, DIRECTOR

9 TED MIYAHARA, DIRECTOR [VIA ZOOM]

10 ELSA MORALES-ROTH, DIRECTOR

11 FREDERICK SCHENK, DIRECTOR

12

13 22<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION STAFF:

14 BECKY BARTLING, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

15 KATIE MUELLER, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

16 TRISTAN HALLMAN, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

17 MIKE SEYLE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

18 HENRY RIVERA, PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

19 ANTIONETTE ROBERTS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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21 22<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION COUNSEL

22 JOSHUA CAPLAN, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

23 [VIA ZOOM]

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PUBLIC COMMENTERS:

KAREN GOLDSTEIN

CHERILYN BESSON

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CHAIR NEJABAT: All right, good morning.

Good morning.

Today is Friday, April 24th, 2026, and the time is 9:39 a.m.

I am now calling this meeting of the 22nd DAA Board of Directors to order.

Can we please get the roll?

MS. ROBERTS: Chair Nejabat.

CHAIR NEJABAT: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Vice Chair Barkett.

MS. BARKETT: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Director Arabo.

MR. ARABO: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Director DeBerry.

MS. DeBERRY: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Director Mead.

MS. MEAD: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Director Miyahara.

MR. MIYAHARA: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Director Morales-Roth.

MR. MORALES-ROTH: Here.

MS. ROBERTS: Director Schenk.

MR. SCHENK: Here.

1 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right.

2 We have a quorum of members present in the  
3 room.

4 We'll now move on to item number 3, which is  
5 public comment for items not on the agenda.

6 As a reminder each speaker will be given two  
7 minutes to make their remarks.

8 Please be prepared with your remarks and be  
9 ready to speak as soon as you are recognized to do  
10 so.

11 Do we have any members of the public who wish  
12 to speak on this item?

13 If so please queue up.

14 KAREN GOLDSTEIN: My name is Karen Goldstein and  
15 I have been a server with Premier since the year  
16 2000.

17 When I first started here for the summer horse  
18 races we had the fair, we had the races, we had tons  
19 of events, everything going on.

20 We had off-track betting, weddings, company  
21 parties, corporate events, luncheons, dinners, horse  
22 shows, and many holiday parties.

23 There were times during December we would have  
24 five to six parties a day, so we needed a lot of

1 employees.

2 All of those events used Premier employees.

3 They did not use outside people, they didn't do  
4 buyouts, they didn't sell it off.

5 You used the people that you had here.

6 Many of us have stuck with this.

7 We paid our dues and I went from being at the  
8 very bottom of the list never ever getting any work  
9 to being number six on the list right now.

10 And again, I have no work.

11 The reason I have no work is because according  
12 to Premier the 22nd and the Board of Directors is  
13 selling off all the events.

14 You're using outside people, outside companies.

15 They come in, they say they're going to hire  
16 us, they don't hire us.

17 And even if they did hire us it wouldn't count  
18 towards our hours with the union and with Premier.

19 So we are unable to qualify for health  
20 insurance anymore.

21 There's a lot of us.

22 There used to be many of us, probably 10 to 12  
23 just servers who had health insurance.

24 We had vacation, we had other benefits.

1           Now there are one, one or two people that may  
2 be qualified for the 900 hours that are necessary.

3           We cannot keep up having these buyouts.

4           It's not fair to the people that have served  
5 you all these years.

6           We have been loyal, we come back every year and  
7 a lot of us have, like myself, I have three jobs  
8 just to be able to come back and work for the  
9 fairgrounds.

10          What we're asking is that you stop doing this.

11          Stop doing the buyouts, stop allowing other  
12 people to come in and take away our work.

13          We've worked; I've sacrificed 27 years now.

14          CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you for your comments.

15          CHERILYN BESSON: Hi, my name is Cherilyn Besson  
16 and I am also a server here with the fairgrounds.

17          I've been here since 2002.

18          I know most of you, not all of you, it's been a  
19 long time since I've been here to speak.

20          I just wanted to come and show you a face of  
21 somebody that is affected by the buyouts.

22          I've been, since I was here, I lost my  
23 insurance during the pandemic.

24          Unavoidable, it happened.

1           But since then I still have not been able to  
2 get enough work.

3           I was a full-time employee.

4           I am one of your top servers here, but it isn't  
5 just affecting me.

6           I just wanted you to see a face.

7           So when you're having to make these tough  
8 decisions on we need to make money, we need you to  
9 have business here.

10          We want you to have business here.

11          It is good for us, but I wanted you to know of  
12 people that it affects.

13          Me, I don't have insurance through my union  
14 because I don't have enough hours.

15          And it does affect, like at least 60 hours  
16 could have gone towards me during some of the  
17 buyouts.

18          That's a lot.

19          I got to 28 hours less than what I needed to  
20 have insurance this last year.

21          28 hours.

22          What can I do about that?

23          You know, so we're trying to work on things.

24          I know Legends is now working on our contract,

1 but it isn't just affecting me.

2 It's working.

3 Our warehouse employees are being affected.

4 We've got kitchen staff that is being affected.

5 We've got assistants that are being affected.

6 We've got bartenders that are being affected.

7 It affects all of us.

8 And so we're just here to say hi, this is who  
9 we are and thank you for considering and really  
10 trying to work with us because, you know, what's  
11 best for you is having your long-time employees  
12 because we love it here.

13 We sell what, you know, this place is.

14 It is a whole experience.

15 It's not just me bringing a drink.

16 Thank you.

17 Thank you guys.

18 CHAIR NEJABAT: Thank you so much.

19 Anyone else in the room would like to speak?

20 All right, seeing no members signed up online  
21 as well, we'll now move on to close executive  
22 session to discuss matters described under item 4 of  
23 the agenda.

24 The current time is 9:45 a.m. and pursuant to

1 the authority of government code section 11126(a) (b)  
2 and (e), the Board of Directors will now meet in  
3 closed session.

4 Thank you.

5

6 [The Board recessed to closed executive session at  
7 9:45 a.m.]

8

9 [The Board returned from closed executive session at  
10 11:28 a.m.]

11

12 CHAIR NEJABAT: All right, the time is 11:28  
13 a.m.

14 The 22nd DAA Board of Directors considered the  
15 advice of council on the items listed on the closed  
16 session portion of the agenda, and we have nothing  
17 to report.

18 During closed session, the board voted  
19 unanimously to appoint Rebecca Bartling as district  
20 CEO.

21 Directors Nejabat, Barkett, Arabo, DeBerry,  
22 Mead, Miyahara, Morales-Roth, and Director Schenk  
23 voted in favor.

24 Director Blair did not vote on the appointment.

1           This reporting is required by Government Code  
2 Section 11125.2.

3           Congratulations and welcome on board.

4           Thank you.

5           MS. BARTLING: Very happy to be here.

6           CHAIR NEJABAT: Welcome back, and with that,  
7 seeing no other business before the Board of  
8 Directors today, the time is 11:30 a.m., and this  
9 meeting of the 22nd DAA Board of Directors is hereby  
10 adjourned.

11           Thank you so much.

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13           [Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.]

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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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