

1 ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,)

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10
11 OC Fair & Event Center
12 Administration Building
13 88 Fair Drive
14 Costa Mesa, California

15
16 Thursday, October 24, 2019
17 9:00 a.m.

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21
22 Job No: 3175089

23 Reported by:

24 LUIS R. HERNANDEZ

25 Pages: 1 - 151

1 APPEARANCES OF ATTENDEES:
2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
3 BOARD CHAIR ROBERT RUIZ
4 VICE CHAIR SANDRA CERVANTES
5 DIRECTOR ASHLEIGH AITKEN
6 DIRECTOR DOUG LA BELLE
7 DIRECTOR NATALIE RUBALCAVA-GARCIA
8 DIRECTOR ANDREAS MEYER

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ALSO PRESENT:
JOSH CAPLAN, ESQ.
MICHELE RICHARDS
KEN KARNs

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I N D E X

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Proceedings

4

E X H I B I T S

None

1 Costa Mesa, California, Thursday, October 24, 2019

2 9:00 a.m.

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6 CHAIR RUIZ: Good morning.

7 (All answered in the affirmative)

8 I will now call this meeting to order. Just a few
9 housecleaning items before we get going:

10 For those of you who have never been here before, if
11 you want to use the restroom, they're right behind you on those
12 glass doors. And if I could ask all you guys to please put your
13 phone on vibrate or silent so you do not disrupt the meeting.

14 Having said that, this meeting is now called to order.
15 All matters noticed on this agenda in any category may be
16 considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may
17 not be considered. Items listed on this Agenda may be
18 considered in any order at the discretion of the Chairperson.

19 The mission of the OCFEC is celebration of
20 Orange County's communities, interests, agriculture, and
21 heritage with results justifying resources expended.

22 And now, I will ask all of you to rise for the
23 Pledge of Allegiance and I will call on former Director
24 Nick Berardino to lead us.

25 MR. BERARDINO: Thank you. Privilege. Hands on

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1 hearts. And in memory of all the brave men and women that are
2 serving today keeping this nation and all of us safe, please
3 begin.

4 (Pledge of Allegiance recited)

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Now we go for roll call.

6 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

7 CHAIR RUIZ: Present.

8 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

9 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Here.

10 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Bagneris?

11 (No response)

12 Director Aitken?

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Here.

14 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

15 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Here.

16 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Pham?

17 (No response)

18 Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

19 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Here.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

21 DIRECTOR MEYER: Here.

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

23 Now we move onto the next item which is the CEO's
24 Operational Announcements and Updates. I'll turn it over to
25 Ken Karns, VP of Operations.

1 MR. KARNS: Thank you. Good morning. Just a couple
2 of updates for me this morning. And the slide? There it is.

3 After the last Board meeting on the night of Thursday,
4 September 26th, early Friday morning, September 27th, was an
5 exciting 48 hours as we picked up, loaded, moved, and reset into
6 its new pedestal -- and its now new home at Heroes Hall -- the
7 A-4M Skyhawk.

8 Lots of pictures and videos that we will be putting
9 together in a compilation to share once complete after the
10 ribbon cutting on November 9th. So mark your calendars again;
11 November 9th.

12 I would like to thank Director Rubalcava-Garcia. On
13 Thursday, September 19th, I attended the OCBC Community
14 Indicators Summit. It was one of the best informative meetings
15 I've ever had the pleasure attending. There was lots of
16 valuable information gathered and shared. It was a great
17 meeting. And that's it for this month.

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I do have --

19 MS. RICHARDS: Oh, Robert. I got a few more updates
20 if that's okay.

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Go ahead. My apologies.

22 MS. RICHARDS: All right.

23 Several hundred members of the community, along with
24 staff and docents, joined us on Saturday, October 1st -- 5th, as
25 we celebrated Centennial Farms 30th Anniversary. There was lots

1 of dancing and eating and farm tours and crafts and birthday
2 cake and plenty of fun.

3 And if you're interested, ask me about the
4 Centennial Farm Foundation's Cow-chip Bingo that they did
5 during -- during the celebration.

6 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Tell us about the Cow-chip Bingo.

7 (Public laughs)

8 MS. RICHARDS: So Cow-chip Bingo is, basically, a
9 bingo card that is chopped onto the lawn and people make
10 predictions about where the cow chip might land and then the cow
11 is let in and, you know, you can go from there.

12 (Public laughs)

13 All right.

14 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Glad I asked.

15 (Public laughs)

16 MS. RICHARDS: It's an agricultural tradition.

17 The couple in the middle photograph, Michael and
18 Leslie, also attended. They were the couple that got married in
19 front of the Millennium Barn during the fair this summer. So
20 they're huge Centennial Farm fans and we were happy to see them.

21 Do I see Bobby McDonald in the audience? I do. Okay.
22 I'm not going to steal your thunder.

23 MR. MCDONALD: Okay.

24 MS. RICHARDS: But I'll leave this up while I talk.

25 It was a big month at Heroes Hall. About a hundred were in

1 attendance on October 5th that evening for our Voices:
2 Storytelling Project performance.

3 That week as well, Congressman Harley Rouda was here
4 to host a military academy information night for high school
5 students and their parents. And then the U.S. Navy celebrated
6 it's 244th birthday at Heroes Hall.

7 Some additional information about Heroes Hall:
8 AMVETS -- and I should mention -- AMVETS is the organization
9 that created all of the bronze plaques that are currently at the
10 Walk of Honor at Heroes Hall. Very, very generous donation.
11 They are, again, generously donating to Heroes Hall Foundation
12 an electronic digital carillon which the Foundation will then
13 give to Heroes Hall. Paperwork is in the process for that.

14 For those of you that are not familiar, an electronic
15 carillon is an automated system which imitates the sound of
16 bronze bells. And the beautiful sound of the bells will be
17 amplified through the Heroes Hall ground speakers and we can
18 program it to go off at regular intervals. For example, during
19 the fair or to play during special events.

20 So, Summer has a little --

21 (Audio playing)

22 Beautiful sound, isn't it? Yes. Thank you. So
23 that's on its way. It's part of AMVETS carillon program that is
24 a truly unique and ongoing living memorial to our nation's
25 deceased veterans. Most AMVETS carillons ring their bells in

1 veteran's cemeteries throughout the world but soon Heroes Hall
2 will have its own carillon as a constant reminder of the
3 sacrifices made by those who gave their lives to preserve our
4 freedoms. So we're very much looking forward to having that.

5 Once again, our friends and fans throughout
6 Orange County have named the 2019 OC Fair the best. We were
7 very honored to be recently named the best fair or festival in
8 Orange County by Orange County Register readers. And the
9 L.A. Times readers just named the 2019 OC Fair, "The best event
10 in Orange County." So yay us; right?

11 Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Orange County. On
12 Tuesday of next week, 11 of our employees will begin serving a
13 three-year workplace mentoring program with Big Brothers Big
14 Sisters of Orange County.

15 As the bigs, our employees, will meet their littles
16 who are students from Tustin High School that have been assigned
17 to us, and accompany them through a program to develop workplace
18 skills.

19 So our employees from administration, purchasing,
20 events, sales, communications, exhibits, and guest services are
21 looking forward to sharing their experiences to help their
22 littles gain valuable workplace skills.

23 OC Fair & Event Center has been invited to join the
24 inaugural group of venues in Orange County to be part of the
25 newly-formed Orange County's Sport Commission.

1 The commission will work on our behalf -- and in
2 partnership with our sales team -- to bring sporting events to
3 OC Fair & Event Center. And that's like volleyball, gymnastics,
4 and martial arts tournaments are just a few examples of the
5 kinds of events that the Orange County Sports Commission will be
6 working on to bring to OC Fair & Event Center.

7 The cost for our membership in the commission will be
8 presented for the board's approval as part of the 2020 budget.
9 So we'll be talking about that more next month during the
10 budget.

11 Ken Karns and I attended a welcome reception honoring
12 Doctor Angelica Suarez. She's the new president of Orange Coast
13 College right across the street from us. Doctor Suarez spoke to
14 the crowd about here support of OCC staff and students and also
15 thanked those in the community for their support.

16 We were able to talk privately with Doctor Suarez
17 about OCC's skill trades programs, their culinary program, their
18 student veteran's resources and more, and how their students can
19 enhance our education programs and how our programs can help the
20 students at OCC. So we're looking forward to exploring many
21 more opportunities ahead with Doctor Suarez and her staff.

22 And it's budget time. Staff is hard at work on the
23 2020 budget. We're going to present the budget a little bit
24 differently this year to give the Board and the public a more
25 detailed view.

1 We'll start off with presentations by key budget
2 holders within the organization, followed by a detailed overview
3 of major revenue and expense areas. We'll look at opportunities
4 and challenges and we'll look to the Board to provide more input
5 and guidance for us during that process.

6 And speaking of finances, let me give the monthly
7 update. Our year-to-date revenue, as you can see, is lower than
8 budget by 1.1 million, and that's mainly due to two additional
9 Pac Amp shows that were budgeted for this time last year but
10 were not booked. This is offset by year-to-date expenses which
11 are lower than budgeted by \$837,000. And staff is continuing to
12 do a good job of holding those expenses through the end of the
13 year.

14 Net proceeds are currently \$300,000 below budget but
15 that's expected to normalize in the fourth quarter as revenue is
16 realized from our strong year-end events program.

17 Cash-on-hand is very healthy, as you can see, with
18 total cash and cash equivalence of \$62 million. And that's a 12
19 percent year-over-year increase.

20 Okay. I'm going to go through our Upcoming Events
21 very quickly because I know we got a packed schedule. Jurassic
22 Quest is up first. The first weekend of November; Friday
23 through Sunday, November 1st through the 3rd. We're holding a
24 Centennial Farm class of Holiday Craft Making on Saturday,
25 November 2nd.

1 Sugar Plum is back, Thursday through Saturday,
2 November 7th through 9th. Flying Miz Daisy is back again,
3 Friday through Saturday, November 8th and 9th. We're welcoming
4 back Repticon, Saturday and Sunday November 10th.

5 Another great Centennial Farm class, Pruning Fruit
6 Trees, on Saturday, November 9th. That same day, our Salute to
7 Veterans Free Community Celebration, Saturday, November 9th.
8 Back at Centennial Farm again on Saturday the 23rd is Kombucha
9 101. If you want to know about Kombucha.

10 The last Crossroads of the West Gun Show of the year
11 will be Saturday, November 30th and Sunday, December 1st.
12 Centennial Farm again is hosting a Floral Design class on
13 Saturday, November 30th.

14 And if you haven't been to Centennial -- or to Heroes
15 Hall yet -- our new exhibit is open, Fighting On the Home Front.
16 This is a fantastic collection of the great propaganda posters
17 of World War II that helped rally everyone toward the war
18 effort. So if you haven't seen it, please go by. It's here
19 through May 3rd.

20 And don't forget to visit Centennial Farm. Absolutely
21 free to the public as well as Heroes Hall.

22 And as mentioned last month, Orange County Market
23 Place will be celebrating it's 50th Anniversary this coming
24 weekend with plenty of community entertainment, a classic car
25 display, raffles, food, fun and more. They're also featuring --

1 as part of Thrill the World -- a world guide dance event -- with
2 zombies dancing to Michael Jackson just in time for Halloween.

3 And then our Farmers Market every Thursday from 9:00
4 to 1:00. So that concludes our report.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you so much for that.

6 Now we are going to move onto the next item which
7 is -- I do have one speaker. I do have one speaker and I will
8 call on Reggie Mundekis.

9 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Good morning. I'm
10 Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking to Item 5, the CEO's Operational
11 Update.

12 In the financial packet is a list of checks. On that
13 list of checks are multiple payments to Fuscoe Engineering.
14 Fuscoe Engineering is in charge of the storm water management
15 program which we are legally required to have with the State of
16 California.

17 Staff have submitted plans for changes to the storm
18 water management system, including a construction project
19 involving the desilting basin and a construction project to
20 change the drainage at the campground. They have submitted
21 these to the State and the Board has not seen these projects for
22 what is proposed.

23 This Board needs -- this Board is here to exercise
24 oversight of what staff does. And when staff goes ahead and
25 leaves the Board out of seeing what's being submitted to the

1 State -- and just submits it to the State -- the Board can't do
2 their job.

3 So I'm requesting the Board agendaize for the next
4 meeting or December, for a vote -- a review and possible
5 approval of the revised plans for the desilting basin and the
6 campground drainage project and any other projects regarding
7 storm water and drainage that staff were working on.

8 It's important that the Board and the public and users
9 of the property see what staff is planning on doing because
10 there may be impacts on users that need changes to the projects.
11 And we're not also, you know, there may be impacts that the city
12 needs to be looped in on on some of these changes.

13 So, please, bring those items forward at a future
14 Board meeting so we could see what staff is doing and discuss
15 and decide if we want to do that or if there's something else we
16 want to do. Thank you.

17 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. Since there are no
18 more speakers under that --

19 SPEAKER: Excuse me. I put in a card for after No. 5.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: We're going to get to that. Matters of
21 Public Comment is next.

22 SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

23 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Next item is Matters of Public
24 Comment.

25 Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current

1 Agenda; however, no debate by the Board shall be permitted on
2 such public comments and no action will be taken on such public
3 item -- comment items at this time as law requires formal public
4 notice prior to any action on a docket item. Speakers are
5 requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting and are
6 limited to three minutes.

7 Comments will be accepted on Agenda items during the
8 meeting. Speakers wishing to address the Board on items on the
9 Agenda are requested to sign in prior to the start of the
10 meeting and identify the Agenda item or items on which you
11 desire to address the Board. Speakers are limited to three
12 minutes.

13 Okay. I got quite a bit of speakers here so the first
14 one is going to be Mr. Nick Berardino.

15 MR. BERARDINO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and
16 honorable members of the Board.

17 I wanted to thank all of you, of course, for all your
18 help and commitment in getting the jet here. I mean, that was
19 quite a -- quite a project that the Foundation undertook along
20 with staff.

21 Congratulations to the staff who did an absolutely
22 marvelous job; Ken and his team. Michele, her team, Carol
23 Singleton -- the whole -- the whole bunch. It was -- it was
24 quite a moving event and, you know, we're very fortunate to get
25 this jet.

1 We had two corporations that were going to try to
2 snatch it from the Hall of Administration. When I found that
3 out, I called Frank Kim, the CEO, and told him and in certain
4 terms that we wanted that jet. He later played my message on
5 the Thursday night we moved it. And it is just so heart -- just
6 beautiful to see it and great work for everybody involved.

7 I want to call out Doug La Belle --
8 Director La Belle -- who, you know, he was just, you know,
9 tremendous on this. He made such a yeoman's effort in
10 coordinating and running some interference and doing the kinds
11 of things -- meeting with me during my negotiations with the
12 county for the \$206,000. And, you know, when we hit a couple of
13 rocky places, it was that Doug was able to calm me down and, you
14 know, "keep in mind the 206,000."

15 But we were very lucky, so many, many thanks to you,
16 Doug, and that stands as a great legacy project.

17 The Foundation, as you can see, has been extremely
18 busy. This is a very active Foundation. It is not one that
19 sits around. I mean, in some cases, I think probably Michele
20 and her team, I think, may get too active. So -- but we have so
21 many enthusiastic people.

22 I also want to congratulate Director Aitken who's
23 being honored by veterans on Saturday night. Congratulations to
24 you and your dad. I will be there and, you know, throw stuff.

25 (Public laughs)

1 And, so -- but thank you to this entire Board. I've
2 asked Bobby McDonald who will speak later about our upcoming
3 veterans event that will be on November 9th. I won't be there.
4 I'll miss the first one because it's my 30th wedding anniversary
5 and my wife decided that she would book a cruise.

6 But maybe on a Saturday night, Ashleigh, you could
7 talk her into canceling the cruise.

8 (Public laughs)

9 I tried to get Michele to do it. She hasn't. Thank
10 you all very and congratulations to all of you for all the great
11 things you're doing. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

13 Okay. I will now call on the next speaker,
14 Reggie Mundekis, followed by Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

15 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking
16 regarding Item 6, Public Comment.

17 Please move the meetings to the evenings when people
18 can attend. Most people are at work or at school have other
19 obligations during the day and can't attend this meeting.

20 The -- this facility impacts the lives of many people,
21 including those who live immediately next to it, those who use
22 it, and is designed for use by all residents of Orange County.

23 So please help us out and please move your meetings to
24 the evenings so that the public who own the property can attend
25 your meetings. Thank you.

1 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

2 Vincent Pollmeier followed by Mr. Doug Ames.

3 MR. POLLMEIER: Good morning. I want to address two
4 things: First off, the CEO -- or former CEO because I'm not
5 sure which she is -- has been much in the news of late.

6 And I note that there was an emergency Board meeting
7 on Monday and then there's this Board meeting here today and she
8 hasn't -- the CEO has not been in attendance at either Board
9 meeting. And the CEO's report today was given by -- very
10 ably -- by Vice President's Karns and Richards.

11 So I think that the Board owes an explanation. What
12 the status is of the CEO. Is she operational? Has she stepped
13 aside? What's the situation? I think the public, the State,
14 the Board -- the Board owes an explanation to public as to
15 what's going on with that situation.

16 I also encourage the Board to step in and exercise its
17 oversight authority on another matter. Ten months ago, CEO
18 Kramer took a job action against the CFO; this agency. And in
19 10 months has been trying to put together a case against him.
20 And in 10 months has apparently failed to do so because there's
21 been no action. So I encourage this Board, if they can't make a
22 case in 10 months, they can't make a case.

23 And I know Mr. Ames, the CFO's counsel, is going to
24 speak in a little bit. But I just want to -- apologies for
25 stealing any thunder he may have. It's time to put this behind

1 us. This is drug on way too long. We've spent hundreds of
2 thousands of dollars in this investigation, including \$40,000 in
3 illegal -- illegal contract with the law firm, Burke, Williams &
4 Sorensen, LLP which was put on the Consent calendar in April for
5 \$40,000. It was buried under the title of investigative
6 services and reports have been going to you, Chair Ruiz. This
7 is a law firm.

8 California law is very clear: "An agricultural
9 association cannot engage counsel for any reason," by the way,
10 that's not my words, those are the language of the law, "without
11 prior written approval of the Attorney General's Office."
12 That's Food and Agricultural Code, 11042.

13 Public records requests have been made on both the
14 32nd DAA and the Attorney General's Office and they've gained
15 the same result: No such authority was granted.

16 This contract, SA161-19YR is illegal. You guys
17 approved it in April. It's on you. So I encourage you;
18 exercise your authority, end this witch hunt, and let's put this
19 behind us and move on. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on Doug Ames,
22 followed by Reggie Goodjoin.

23 MR. AMES: What a great introduction to my -- to my
24 appearance here.

25 My name is Doug Ames. I represent Adam Carleton. As

1 Mr. Pollmeier just summarized, my client, who's, I think, the
2 fourth CFO under -- under Ms. Kramer's -- under Ms. Kramer
3 during her time here -- he was placed on paid administrative
4 time off on December 11th after he opposed Ms. Kramer's various
5 improper activities.

6 Not only has he been paid for 10 months for sitting at
7 home, the Fair has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to
8 investigate him, including new contracts up for renewal or
9 extension today under Item 8, to the Morely company and to
10 Haynie & Company.

11 We've been through hours of -- days of investigation
12 where we submitted to interviews. They have absolutely nothing
13 on Mr. Carleton. They want more money to surveil him, to sit
14 outside of his house and watch him. It's ridiculous.

15 Let me just -- let me just summarize briefly a few of
16 the items that Mr. Carleton was opposing Ms. Kramer on and why
17 she needed so desperately to get him out of here:

18 First and foremost, in 2016, Ms. Kramer evidently
19 engineered a payment to an ex-employee of \$75,000. This was
20 listed on the 2016 Audit as a quote, "illegal contract and a
21 gift of public funds."

22 Mr. Carleton repeatedly opposed Ms. Kramer trying to
23 sweep this under the Board and forget about it. She kicked him
24 out to keep him from doing that. There's major problems with
25 the RCS Contract. There's no provision in that contract for how

1 progress payments are supposed to be made.

2 There's a major problem with that kind of --
3 Mr. Carleton was opposing RCS's \$300,000 in merchant credit card
4 fees. And what did they do? What did the investigators of
5 Mr. Carleton do? They called in RCS to find out how
6 Mr. Carleton was wrong in protecting the public interest here.

7 There's a Heroes Hall Foundation box. Mr. Carleton --

8 CHAIR RUIZ: That's -- your three minutes are up, sir.
9 Thank you.

10 Okay. I will now call on Reggie Goodjoin. Did I say
11 that; right?

12 MR. GOODJOIN: Yes.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Followed by Kelly Rueda, I believe. Go
14 ahead.

15 MR. GOODJOIN: Okay. Good morning. I'm
16 Reggie Goodjoin, Director of Music of New Hope Presbyterian
17 Church in Orange. I come this morning representing New Hope
18 Presbyterian Church and Christ Our Redeemer AME Church.

19 First and foremost to say thank you. Thank you for
20 your support. This Board, you've -- you were just awesome. We
21 have a program called "Music Makes Us One." This is a program
22 that provides underprivileged kids of all ethnicities and the
23 opportunities to come together to develop friendship and to
24 perform musical, arts, dance, throughout the community.

25 But with your support and belief of this program, you

1 allowed us the opportunity to come and perform a concert here in
2 the large hangar during the Fair.

3 I must say this was an opportunity for kids who
4 probably would not have ever have the opportunity to do this, as
5 well as kids who have not had the opportunity to even come to
6 the fair. It was a huge success. We had a lot of comments that
7 went out through the neighborhood and throughout the papers that
8 supported it. I would say that with this -- with your
9 support -- this would not have happened.

10 We were able to have kids come in from as far as L.A.,
11 throughout the southern lower part of the county as well. Just
12 to have -- to see these kids come together with resources that
13 we were not able to provide that you all stepped in to help us
14 do made a world of a difference.

15 Again, I want to say thank you for your support and I
16 pray that this is a continuum that we do, especially bridging
17 the gap and establishing relationships throughout the
18 communities. I do say thank you.

19 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I will now call on
20 Kelly, followed by Anna V.

21 MS. RUEDA: Good morning. My name is Kelly Rueda and
22 I just wanted to talk about a issue that was brought up last
23 meeting regarding space for the trucks for RCS and so forth.

24 On May 22nd, I emailed Mr. Karns, I emailed Jerry, and
25 I also emailed other people regarding -- I had space from a

1 friend that could hold up to 250 trucks and never got an answer.
2 And it was very disheartening after I had made all that time.
3 My husband worked here at the time and he had gone to people
4 saying, "Hey, we have space for you guys." And it never, you
5 know, it was pretty much, "Go away. Don't talk to us."

6 After that, it seemed like there was a couple people
7 that decided to start being rude and just -- I don't know, like,
8 what the exact word. But it was just, you know, I didn't
9 appreciate that. You could have at least texted me or emailed
10 me back saying, "Hey, we don't need your help today," or
11 something, you know, to say that you got my email. But never
12 received anything.

13 So I just wanted to let you know I did have space for
14 you guys that was at a very good price that can be used. So I
15 just wanted to -- thank you.

16 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Anna V, followed by
17 Mary Spadoni.

18 MS. VRSKA: Hi. Good morning.

19 First, I'd like to second the comments of the previous
20 speaker about moving these meetings to a time that is more
21 conducive to the greatest public attendance. Maybe there needs
22 to be a study done -- what day and what time that would be. But
23 I think the public has been up here probably for the last year
24 or two saying this. And considering some of the things that are
25 going on, I think greater public engagement is very much called

1 for.

2 I was mostly going to talk about traffic impacts and
3 how, basically, the Fair Board and staff need to work to make
4 sure that residents are not as impacted as they are by the
5 ramping up of the things that are going on at the fair; there
6 are a lot of problems. And going forward, we really need to
7 work on that more.

8 But mainly what I'm going to use my time talking about
9 is really CEO Kramer and the poor job that's been done by this
10 Board the last several years of reining her in. We've been up
11 here for a good part of several years talking about the issues
12 that have been going on -- asking for public records, warning
13 about some of the red flags that have been coming up, and this
14 has been allowed to happen.

15 I know several times I've asked what will it take for
16 you all to see what's going on and for something to finally
17 happen. And I guess it didn't happen until there was,
18 basically, a torrent of articles and public pressure to see --
19 to finally shed some light on.

20 I think criminality that has been going on, you know,
21 gifts of public funds, impropriety in terms of State law of
22 getting public funds to an institution that discriminates
23 improper and questionable contracts against the public good over
24 and over and over again and the witch hunt against Adam Carleton
25 who has tried to shed light on some of the stuff that's been

1 going on.

2 So shame on the AG here or who has continually just
3 turned a blind eye and shame on you for not doing a better job
4 of reining this crap in that's going to end up costing not only
5 the hundreds of thousands of dollars that it has already cost,
6 but probably a lot more money in litigation and other fallout
7 that's going to follow. Thank you.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mary Spadoni followed by
9 Bobby McDonald.

10 MS. SPADONI: Good morning. I was going to speak on
11 another topic; however, after hearing some of the comments
12 regarding the employee that is on administrative leave, I am
13 outraged. And I'm outraged that the Board isn't outraged that
14 this has gone on for almost a year come December that the
15 allegations can't be proven.

16 I'm going to tell you, I was a police officer and a DA
17 investigator for 25 years. I could have done 10 homicides in
18 the time that you're doing this administrative witch hunt. And
19 not only is it costing us money, but I'm assuming that his job
20 is being taken over by some other employee that's also getting
21 an undue work-bump -- load.

22 So if there is something -- and it appears there is
23 not -- why are you torturing this man and his family? This is
24 stressful. You know what's going on. To hire investigators to
25 do these things on our money -- on the taxpayer's money. I

1 don't want my money spent like that. I don't want your \$55
2 million reserves to be used for some slush fund for a vendetta
3 against your employees. And don't put my name on any of this or
4 any of the residents on this because it is outrageous.

5 I'm sure you all read the Kern County Fair article
6 about what they were doing with some of their monies and how it
7 wasn't being spent wisely and how their counsel was trying to
8 rein in public comments, and how the meeting became so angst
9 that the Board member had to call the -- that particular meeting
10 off.

11 Those things shouldn't happen if you've got your eyes
12 open and you're watching out for the community and the money.
13 This is a jewel of Orange County. This is a jewel of the State
14 of California. And you do have a responsibility and you have a
15 responsibility to the employees.

16 And as someone said before me, you know the amount of
17 money this has cost, not only in the investigative fees, but
18 what is going to wind up costing in litigation. And I wouldn't
19 blame the employee for going on to keeping his family and that
20 type of turmoil for almost a year. I find that egregious and I
21 have to put the blame on -- well, Kathy Kramer's not here -- so
22 I have to put the blame on the Board who's supposed to be the
23 overseer.

24 You're not there just to, you know, meet once a month
25 and just "okay" whatever this CEO does. And if the CFO -- in

1 this case that's on leave -- was trying to protect the Fair,
2 then you should try to protect him. Thank you.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 I will now call on Bobby -- Mr. Bobby Macdonald
6 followed by Mr. Jay Humphrey.

7 MR. MCDONALD: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair and
8 honorable Board. I appreciate your time.

9 As Ms. Michele Richards put up on the screen earlier,
10 we shared the 244th birthday of the United States Navy a couple
11 of weeks ago. By my cold heart, Steve Briggs in on the Board
12 with us. We got together this year and tried to make sure that
13 Michele got some extra gray hair. And we worked on trying to do
14 all of the birthdays from each one of the different branches of
15 the service. We thought that this would be -- bring more people
16 in and at least start the process of doing this over and over.

17 I can't thank you enough for what you've done for
18 Heroes Hall. And part of our Board is to make sure that we keep
19 improving on it, keep -- and make it go on.

20 As you can see now, this is one of the United States
21 birthday welcomes that we did. We managed to have -- very
22 fortunate to have a naval academy graduate that happens to be
23 the City Council, Andrea Marr. We had her as our Mistress of
24 Ceremonies.

25 We managed to also bring in Mr. -- the CEO and the

1 Chairman of the Board, Brett Lane, of Southern California Gas
2 Company -- a separate entity -- to be our keynote speaker.

3 And to keep the education component alive and well, we
4 brought in the Troy ROTC -- ROTC group to bring in their color
5 guards.

6 We're going to continue with this. And,
7 unfortunately, we can't be bigger than the Marine Corps'
8 birthday this year because they get to dedicate the big new
9 Marine Corps' A-4 that's going up on Heroes Hall for the
10 dedication.

11 But, again, I wanted to call -- come to the meeting
12 today to say thank you and invite you to the Veterans Day
13 program that we're going to have. The dedication that we're
14 going to have. And, also, he's not here so I can't beat up on
15 the Marines, but the Marine Corps' birthday this year. But we
16 did that and we're looking from an educational component to do
17 it.

18 And, again, one more time: Thank you, thank you, and
19 thank you.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. Mr. Jay Humphrey,
21 followed by Doug Ames.

22 MR. HUMPHREY: Good morning, Board. Jay Humphrey,
23 Costa Mesa resident. Couple things.

24 First off, he so eloquently allowed that Andrea Marr
25 from the city had been at his event. And one thing that I would

1 suggest for this Board to do is remember that the City of Costa
2 Mesa has now gone to Districts. And this facility sits directly
3 in the middle of Andrea Marr's District.

4 So it would be wise of this Board to develop some
5 relationship with the District City Council member to deal with
6 those issues. So you may want to think about that. No longer
7 does the city have at-large members.

8 The City Council is now made up of District members.
9 And this next election will be all District as we're making that
10 transition. So it's a new and different thing for you guys, so
11 I make that suggestion.

12 Secondly, I echo everybody's comments that you've
13 heard so far about having public meetings at night. The reality
14 is -- and Kern County is a perfect example -- if, in fact, the
15 public had been listened to in a number of places, what would
16 have happened -- well, it's kind of a pesky thing to have to put
17 up with some of us because some of us tend to, you know, get
18 very demonstrative and what have you.

19 But if you listen to the jewels, what you find out is
20 what's really going on because those people are all taking an
21 interest in watching and seeing and watching how things are
22 going. So it's in your best interest to get the absolutely best
23 public input you can.

24 And let's face it, we know that at 9:00 o'clock in the
25 morning, the vast majority of people who might participate at

1 night cannot participate because they have day jobs and they
2 take care of their families and what have you.

3 And I would ask that you guys -- once again, I would
4 ask that you guys would find a way to have Board meetings at
5 night and highly publicize that issue. I'll bet you'll have a
6 bigger population show up; maybe initially, maybe not. But you
7 definitely have better input and more consistent input.

8 Lastly, I want to thank staff; absolutely. As you
9 know, I'm one of the members of the hearing impaired folks out
10 there. And you guys, as a Board and what have you, have stepped
11 up to the plate and provided assistance for those of us who have
12 problems in hearing.

13 And I truly appreciate that and I know that my fellows
14 also appreciate it. But I also want to let you know how
15 professionally your staff has been.

16 Normally, when I go some place, I have to go fare out
17 the person, find out what's going on and where I can get
18 something to help me out if they have it at all.

19 Here, I walk in the door and they walk up to me and
20 say, "Jay, here is your equipment." That's a very professional
21 step. It is a function showing that you guys, especially your
22 department, heads up this process of helping the hearing
23 impaired, thinks about the job, and thinks about caring for the
24 public. I appreciate that very much, and thank you very much.

25 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. That's going to wrap up

1 public comments.

2 I'm going to move some of the items on the Agenda
3 around and we're going to go into Closed Session for now. Thank
4 you.

5 (Closed Session)

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1 CHAIR RUIZ: Good morning, again. I will now call
2 this meeting back in session.

3 And we move onto the next item on the Agenda which is
4 the minutes.

5 MS. RICHARDS: Nothing on Closed Session?

6 CHAIR RUIZ: No. There's nothing -- my apologies.
7 There is nothing to report under Closed Session. Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I so move the minutes.

9 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

10 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second for the
11 approval of the minutes. Roll call vote.

12 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

14 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

15 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

16 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

17 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

18 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

19 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

23 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. We now move onto the
25 next item on the Agenda which is the Consent Calendar.

1 All matters listed under Consent Calendar are
2 operational matters about which the Board has governing
3 policies, implementation of which is delegated to the CEO. They
4 will be enacted in one motion. There will be no discussion of
5 these items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on
6 the motion, unless members of the Board, staff, or public
7 request specific items to be discussed separately and/or moved
8 from this section.

9 Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent
10 Calendar items should notify the Chair of the Board at the time
11 requested and be recognized by invitation of the Chair to
12 address the Board.

13 Okay. At this time does anybody want to pull any
14 items?

15 (No response)

16 Okay. Move on. Do we have any speaker cards? Okay.
17 I have some speaker cards on Item 9A, and I will call on
18 Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

19 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking
20 to several items on the Consent Calendar contracts.

21 There are two contracts; one with Morley and one with
22 Haynie where the Board is being requested to add more money to
23 these contracts.

24 I request that the Board turn down these contracts and
25 tell the CEO to stop investigating people. These contracts are

1 a waste of the public money. We have spent over \$175,000 of
2 public money on personally motivated investigations which serve
3 no public interest. It's time to end the contracts with Morley,
4 Haynie, and Burke, and to release any and all documents
5 regarding those investigations. These were paid for in public
6 money. We have a right to know how our money was spent.

7 I also request that the Board put on hold the contract
8 extension with the executive event services for security
9 services. The Board wanted to take a break and evaluate, hiring
10 people to actually perform security services as they were done
11 in the past.

12 It's only in recent years under VP Karns that there's
13 been a push to outsource security. We're not sure why. In the
14 past, security was always provided by staff members. So the
15 Board is requested to put the Executive Event Services Contract
16 on hold pending discussion of in-sourcing security services.

17 The Board is also questioned about why we're approving
18 an increase in change and scope of work with the IMW Agency. No
19 direction was, you know, it's not clear whether direction was
20 given regarding increasing that contract by 20 percent. So the
21 Board is requested to put that contract on hold until the Board
22 formally approves and discusses having an increase in the
23 contract and a change in the scope of work. Thank you.

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Vincent Pollmeier, followed
25 by Doug Ames.

1 MR. POLLMEIER: I, too, want to -- I, too, want to ask
2 that the contacts to the Morley Group, SA255 -- SA-255-19YR --
3 to the tune of \$25,000 and to the Haynie Group, also to the tune
4 of \$25,000; SA-261-19YR be pulled.

5 This is throwing good money after bad. Investigating
6 somebody that in 10 months, we haven't been able -- they haven't
7 been able to put -- build a case against. And so this should
8 be -- this should be stopped.

9 I also think, again, like the prior speaker, Contract
10 SA-163-18YR, a \$19,000 increment to the IMW Contract for the
11 branding exercise supposedly for a change in scope. No change
12 of scope that I'm aware of has been approved by the Board.

13 This is just a -- you know, throwing -- again, this
14 may be -- branding exercises are great things. This may be well
15 worth \$19,000. But it should be brought to the Board when
16 you're talking about something as important as an effort of
17 branding, and it's a change in -- it's a 20 percent increase in
18 the cost.

19 And then, finally, you should pull for discussion at a
20 future meeting Contract SA-230-19FT. This is the Executive
21 Event Services Calendar. It's half a million dollars.
22 Actually, \$505,323 for security services.

23 When this came up just prior to the last Board
24 meeting -- or the last fair -- that it was too late to do
25 anything about it. And I recall several Board members saying

1 that "before we go through with outsourcing all security at the
2 next fair, we really should discuss this."

3 Well, here it is in the Consent Calendar with no
4 opportunity to discuss; par for the course. Exercise your
5 oversight authority. That's why you're appointed by the
6 Governor.

7 Pull this contract and discuss whether or not we
8 should be outsourcing security services or doing it in-house as
9 we formerly did. Thank you.

10 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mr. Doug Ames, is he still
11 here? No, he's gone. Thank you. Okay. I will now bring it
12 back to the Board.

13 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Chair Ruiz, I -- I would like to
14 ask a question: We did have a fairly lengthy discussion about
15 doing in-house -- the security services. Is there any reason
16 why we need to move forward now with the extension of the Events
17 Services Contract or Emergency Services Contract? Or can we put
18 that off and have that action take place -- whatever that action
19 might be -- as a part of our budget review over the next couple
20 of months?

21 MR. KARNS: Yes, you can.

22 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I would recommend then, on that
23 item, if we defer that item for a discussion as a part of the
24 budget review process in the next six to eight weeks.

25 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

1 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I second that.

2 DIRECTOR MEYER: I agree with that as well.

3 Before we move to the vote, Michele, can you just
4 describe the scope change on IMW.

5 MS. RICHARDS: Sure.

6 In communicating with the committee, the Branding
7 Committee -- Directors Meyer and Aitken -- we determined that
8 what was critical for this process is public review of the
9 creative that is been developed by IMW.

10 So rather than just a review by staff and the Board,
11 that we would conduct focus groups -- random public groups -- to
12 test some of the creative that's being developed. So the scope
13 was expanded to include that cost.

14 DIRECTOR MEYER: Thank you.

15 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. There's a motion on the floor.

16 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: It's been seconded.

17 DIRECTOR MEYER: This is the motion to table the --

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes, correct.

19 DIRECTOR MEYER: Second.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
21 vote.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

23 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

24 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

25 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

1 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

2 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

3 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

4 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

5 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

6 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

7 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

8 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

9 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

10 Now, do I entertain a motion to approve the rest of
11 the Consent Calendar?

12 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: So moved.

13 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

14 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
15 vote.

16 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

17 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

18 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

19 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

23 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

24 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

25 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

1 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

2 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. That wraps up the Consent
4 Calendar. We now move onto the Governor's Process Item 9A.

5 To ensure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Act,
6 Committee reports are only for the purpose of the Committee
7 Chair. Ad Hoc Committee members or Liaisons to provide verbal
8 update. Should the Board want to discuss any Committee work
9 item not already on the Agenda, those would need to be agendized
10 at future Board meetings.

11 Okay. I do have quite a few speakers on this, so I'm
12 going to call them up now. And the first speaker is
13 Reggie Mundekis.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair?

15 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Would it maybe make more sense --
17 because I know a lot of the issues that have been brought up in
18 Public Comment are going to be addressed by our committee
19 reports -- would it maybe make more sense for us to give our
20 individual committee reports first and then have public comment?

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Absolutely. Okay. No problem.
22 We could do that. Okay. Perfect.

23 We will go with the first one which is the Heroes Hall
24 Veterans Foundation. Director La Belle or Vice Chair Cervantes,
25 is there a report?

1 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I think Bobby McDonald and Nick
2 Berardino pretty well covered it earlier in the meeting.

3 The Board has not met recently. We will be meeting
4 again later this month -- or later next month, I should say --
5 after President Berardino gets back from his cruise.

6 And the general fundraising efforts are continuing
7 with regard to what the Foundation is doing. And Michele, I
8 think, covered very well the item about the bell system. We, as
9 the Foundation in support, we certainly want to thank AMVETS for
10 their donation. It's about a \$13,000 donation and want to make
11 sure when we do the final paperwork on this, we can make sure
12 they get notified and honored as it may be.

13 And that would conclude my comments, unless Sandra has
14 something else.

15 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: No. That's good.

16 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

17 We now move onto the next one. It's the Centennial
18 Farm Foundation. Vice Chair Cervantes, do you have --

19 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I think that also Michele
20 covered that very well. And Michele is there anything to
21 report?

22 MS. RICHARDS: Just Cow-Chip Bingo.

23 (Public laughs)

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

25 Okay. The next one would be the Financial Monitoring

1 Committee. Director Pham isn't here, so unless Michele --

2 MS. RICHARDS: We can give just a very brief overview.

3 Ken and I met with Director Pham and members of the
4 finance and accounting staff. And this is not a meeting that
5 Ken and I have attended in the past, so it was very
6 informative -- very productive meeting.

7 We reviewed our performance against budget and were
8 able to identify some key areas for improvement that will, you
9 know, build into the 2020 budget. And then we also previewed
10 Director Pham on how we'd like to move forward with presenting
11 the budget to the Board next month during the study session and
12 then the November Board meeting as well.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

14 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Question to Michele: Michele, has
15 a date been set for the evening meeting on the budget?

16 MS. RICHARDS: It has. On the 14th of November.

17 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Okay. So 14th of November would
18 be a meeting in this room. We're going to even go through all
19 aspects of budget?

20 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: 6:00 o'clock?

22 MADAM SECRETARY: 6:30.

23 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: 6:30.

24 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: 6:30? Great. Thank you, Michele.

25 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

1 Okay. We now move onto the next one. The Legislative
2 Monitoring Committee. Director Aitken, do you have anything to
3 report on that?

4 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Just briefly.

5 As the Board may be aware, the legislature has
6 adjourned for 2019, so it's going to be a slow committee reports
7 from now going forward until they go back into session in 2020.

8 We decided, as a Board, just as a reminder because of
9 the myriad of complications with the 50/50 raffle and trying to
10 partner with WFA to try to get that moving forward. There were
11 more obstacles that it seemed like we were going to be able
12 to -- more obstacles in our way and success was not ensured.

13 So we have stepped back on that. We did not submit
14 that language. Going forward, I'm going to reserve until Item
15 C, some upcoming notifications that have to do with gun shows on
16 State property. So I'm just going to wrap that small report up
17 with Item C and would just like to ask the Board, as well as
18 members of the public, if there are ideas for legislation and
19 things that we would like to have our lobbyist work with, please
20 let me know, and we are going to be moving forward with that or
21 when the legislature starts up again in 2020.

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. I don't have anything
23 to report. You pretty much covered it and thank you for that.

24 Okay. Next one is the Tenant Liaison Committee. Vice
25 Chair Cervantes, do you have anything to report on that?

1 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Ken, do you have a report for
2 that? No? I don't have anything to report.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. We move onto the next one. The
4 Board of Directors Governing Policy Manual Review Ad Hoc
5 Committee. Director Meyers or -- Director Bagneris isn't here.
6 Do you have anything to report?

7 DIRECTOR MEYER: Just that we're -- our work is
8 underway. It's a very heavy lift this project. We appreciated
9 the feedback from the Board and the members of the public on the
10 sketch of our work plan that we discussed last month. We've
11 been going through that with the consultants from Moss Adams.

12 We've been working on a table of contents for the
13 policy that covers the topics that are going to be addressed and we
14 discussed with them prioritizing as our top priority -- compound
15 policy to get to our code of ethics and core institutional
16 values.

17 And I think that's where we're going to begin our work
18 and we'll be moving our way down the long list of policies that
19 we need to all get to. That's my report

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Thank you for that
21 report.

22 Okay. The next one is the Safety and Security
23 Committee. Vice Chair Cervantes? Ken, do you have anything to
24 report on that? Please, if you have something that you could
25 share, that would be great.

1 MR. KARNs: Sure.

2 For communication sent to the Committee, we sent our
3 Security Supervisor to attend the OC Corporate Security
4 Symposium put on by Homeland Security. And also staff is
5 starting process of updating our current Property Emergency Use
6 Agreements for 2020 and sent to the Committee was a two-page
7 summary of the current contracts and LOUs.

8 But we'll work towards continuing that update and then
9 there's been some preliminary discussions that have been had
10 with the City of Costa Mesa and also Newport.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

12 Okay. We now move onto the Building and Maintenance
13 Committee. Director Aitken or Vice Chair Cervantes?

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Thank you.

15 We have been extremely busy as a committee and have
16 had several meetings starting with the sending out the RFP and
17 receiving back qualified bidders.

18 At the last meeting -- just to remind the Board -- we
19 did select someone to help us with an Infrastructure Committee
20 Report, and so this month we've been working with CCA which is
21 our governing authority, and it's going to be the project
22 manager for this -- for this project.

23 We had a really nice meeting with Vice President Karns
24 and Jerry about what the project -- what we think the timeline
25 is going to hopefully be in order to get this project-wide --

1 property-wide infrastructure report done. And we're going to,
2 obviously, try to do that in a timely manner as we can.

3 But that's only one of the things that we have been
4 working on. We also have ongoing responsibilities with our
5 storm water management and Fuscoe Engineering is going to have
6 their report. They've concluded their report for our storm
7 water management which we do on an annual basis.

8 We had our desilting basin been cleaned out which we
9 do do on an annual basis. And we did that this week. We do
10 have a potential for the installing of a new desilting system
11 which is likely going to be on our 2020 list of infrastructure
12 projects.

13 But it is something that we need to work with the
14 city. We need to coordinate with this city to help us draw
15 plans into really tie in their groundwater system to make sure
16 that everything we're doing is in partnership with the City of
17 Costa Mesa. So we will have an update on that at a future
18 meeting.

19 We also discussed our future capital projects. Every
20 year, as we enter our budget system, there are things that we
21 think we're going to get done and we do get them done and
22 there's also things that come up.

23 So we just discussed about what contingency funds we
24 had to use, what capital projects that we're going to be moving
25 to the 2020 list because we didn't have a chance to get them

1 done this year, and what our approach is going to be for the
2 2020 budget.

3 We obviously have a signage project that we're going
4 to be working to beautify and to really help way-finding around
5 our project and I'm going to be turning to VP Karns just for a
6 short summary of the Planning Commission meeting. It was a very
7 positive meeting. We got good with feedback. So if you could
8 just, kind of, give us a small summation of, kind of, the
9 Planning Commission and where we are with our signage.

10 MR. KARNS: Happy to.

11 So before that, a couple things hot off the press:
12 Just got this LOU back from CAA signed. So we just go that
13 while we were on break.

14 And there's going to be -- it's an agendized item for
15 signage, so I can happily wrap that up into the agendized item
16 that's coming up. But to that, we had full discussion with not
17 only the Building and Grounds Committee because it affected our
18 parking, storage, and traffic. We also updated that committee
19 on those initiatives.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

21 Okay. We now move onto the Audit Ad Hoc Committee.
22 Director Rubalcava-Garcia or Committee Chair, Director Meyer, do
23 you have anything?

24 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So on the audit, we will
25 be approving the letter in a later item on the Agenda, but I

1 just wanted to report on the progress that we've been making on
2 the audits moving forward.

3 So the 2017 Audit is very close to being complete. As
4 soon as we get this letter out which we did share with the
5 public, as well as the Board members at the last meeting, we
6 added to this Agenda so it would be an action item and the Board
7 can vote and approve and we can hear public comment on it.

8 But we have spoken with our auditor and the 2018
9 Audit, we'll be able to come to the Board for review as soon as
10 we close this out. We'll get a management report. Director
11 Meyer and myself, we'll turn that around as quickly as we
12 possibly can to make sure that we can present it to the Board
13 and the public at large.

14 As soon as that is complete, the 2019 process will
15 soon be underway. So we are preparing for that. We'll make
16 sure that we have all of our meetings set up and internal
17 meetings set up and report what we can as soon as we know it.
18 Do you have anything to add, Director Meyer?

19 DIRECTOR MEYER: Just that I've been frustrated and I
20 think you have, too, Natalie with the delay that occurs with
21 these audits getting completed.

22 And we are very committed to driving this process
23 forward so that we get to the completion of an audit, not a
24 year-and-a-half after when we should have been done with it.
25 And so we're really trying to focus on that and to create a real

1 work plan and deliverables and deadlines so that we are finally
2 out of this back-log that we've had with old audits that should
3 have been dealt with long ago.

4 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I have to commend Chair
5 Ruiz for appointing us to -- or creating this committee to make
6 sure that we're tracking the progress on the audit.

7 There was quite a bit of delay on a lot of different
8 parts, whether it was the lack of staffing at the State level
9 Auditor's Office or just not being able to get the information
10 that they need.

11 But in our capacity, we have truly been working on
12 behalf of everybody here to make sure that we're making
13 progress. And I am happy to report that we have -- this 2016 is
14 closed, 2017 is nearly closed, and the 2018, we'll be able to
15 address.

16 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

17 And now, I'll move onto the next one which is the
18 Branding Project Ad Hoc Committee. Director Meyers or Director
19 Aitken, do you have anything to report on that?

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: We have a lot to report.

21 DIRECTOR MEYER: I'll let you go first, Ashleigh.

22 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. No. I think that -- so --
23 another -- one of the -- another committee that has been
24 extremely robust in meeting -- really looking at where we --
25 what we have done up to this point and what is the vision that

1 we have going forward.

2 I know that VP Richards has put together a really nice
3 timeline of what our creative concepts were and what are the
4 recommendations going forward. And would you like to address
5 that briefly and we can jump in?

6 MS. RICHARDS: Sure. So we can talk about next steps.

7 On Tuesday, our in-house creative team met with IMW at
8 their offices to preview the initial creative concepts. We were
9 looking at logo options for Centennial Farm, Imaginology, and
10 the Equestrian Center.

11 It was determined from the feedback -- public and
12 stakeholder feedback -- that the Heroes Hall logo and
13 Pacific Amphitheater have great brand equity, so there are no
14 changes that are recommended at this time. Those both tested
15 very high.

16 But we were able to preview their recommendations for
17 property naming options -- tag line options to position the
18 facilities. And then, for some sort of graphic integrator that
19 would tie all of our separate brands together so that when
20 people see it, they know that it belongs here.

21 We are comparing calendars with the committee to set
22 up a time so that I can review all of those recommendations with
23 you. Following that meeting, we will begin testing with random
24 public groups to see what our public feels about the creative
25 recommendations. And, of course, the Committee is invited to

1 observe along with our creative staff on those tests.

2 The agency is recruiting people for those focus groups
3 right now with the criteria that they must live in
4 Orange County. They must have attended at least one OC Fair &
5 Event Center event in the last year, and they must plan to
6 attend future events as well.

7 So we will bring all of that back in a summary report
8 to the Committee. And then depending on, you know, what our
9 results are from that summary, we'll either be ready to bring it
10 to the full Board for consideration in November, or if the
11 timing is not right and maybe we need to do some adjustments,
12 then we'll look to December.

13 And then following that begins the launch plan. If
14 there are changes, how do we launch that? And then how do we
15 communicate internally and externally on any changes.

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you.

17 I've been really happy and pleased with this process
18 so far. I might have been a little skeptical at the beginning
19 because I think everything about the fair is perfect as is, but
20 I think going to this exercise, every decade is really important
21 and I really like that we have added the ability to have random
22 public feedback that's not necessarily just Board driven or
23 staff driven, but we're reaching out to our community about some
24 of the things that we might be enrolling.

25 And I'm very, very excited to work and develop a

1 launch strategy and to have this be public.

2 DIRECTOR MEYER: I agree.

3 And I will say I appreciate how responsive you've
4 been, Michele, to taking our feedback and direction. Something
5 that I think was so important was that we shift the direction of
6 the project and really focus on the public mission of the
7 property and the mission that we have up on the wall and that we
8 are a community resource.

9 And so that really seems like it's been heard loud and
10 clear. I appreciate the redirection on that. And I just want
11 to say that I think this is such a healthy way of interaction
12 between management and the Board as representatives of the
13 public that we have this kind of engagement. We thank you for
14 engaging with us.

15 Ken, I understand that that's happening in your areas
16 of responsibilities with other committees as well. I just want
17 to let you know that I think this is a wonderful change in
18 practice.

19 MS. RICHARDS: Very good.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

21 And the last one is the Storage, Parking, and Traffic
22 Ad Hoc Committee. Director La Belle?

23 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes, Chair Ruiz. Thank you.

24 Ken and Barbara and I met last week with Ken and staff
25 to talk about the parking issues, principally, the storage

1 issues which as they say, "Houston we have a problem." We've
2 got to really focus on coming up with some solutions.

3 Ken reached out to Jason Gonsalves, our lobbyist, and
4 had a very good conversation with him and introduced himself to
5 Jason. Jason suggests that there's some things in the works at
6 the State level relative to some of their surplus property and
7 suggested that we forward a letter to general services to, kind
8 of, indicate we have an interest and we'd like to meet with
9 them.

10 A couple of properties, particularly are the National
11 Guard Armory and the Fairview Center over there. There may be
12 some others. So we have prepared this draft letter -- Ken
13 has -- and Barbara and I have -- I'll give some copies for the
14 audience.

15 (Draft letter copies distributed)

16 Barbara and I have reviewed it and provided our input.
17 It commits the Board to nothing. It's just to, kind of, get the
18 process going. There is some time sensitivity in letting the
19 State know that we want to engage in some dialogue with them.

20 We cite Barbara and I, as the Committee, and we copied
21 the Board on this. Ken, you want to add some more detail to
22 that?

23 MR. KARNS: Thanks, Doug.

24 No. I think it was an excellent kick-off meeting.
25 And as Doug was -- as the Chair of that Committee, so that

1 happens. We have that -- identified it as the number one issue
2 for us to address and that came out a lot during our
3 discussions. And we'll try to leave no stone unturned and this
4 is just one piece of the puzzle; there's no singular solution
5 out there.

6 Timing was good when we talked to Gonsalves as it
7 relates to what's happening in Sacramento. So we'll -- at the
8 -- as to the Committee, we will get this letter. They'll be our
9 liaison through to DGS and we'll see where that takes us with a
10 future meeting and continue to report back if anything or any
11 opportunities present themselves.

12 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I think what's important there
13 is -- as I've indicated previously to the Board -- and I know
14 Ashleigh has had some interaction with Gonsalves -- they're a
15 highly professional firm. They're very responsive. They'll
16 save us a lot of time by knowing who to go to and who to talk to
17 on this issue.

18 And that's been my past experience, whether it's been
19 acquiring property from State, Fish, and Game or dealing with
20 corrections issues with Chino Prison -- all kinds of things.

21 They have the ability to identify who you need to talk
22 to and make it very productive when you meet with them. They
23 get you through these meetings. No guarantees you'll get
24 anything at the end of the day, but it's a very effective way to
25 try to address this.

1 And I think there are some real opportunities -- some
2 of these properties try to enter into a partnership with the
3 other state agencies to make this happen.

4 So, anyway, that concludes my comments.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. You know what, Ken,
6 can you remind us how many parking spaces (unintelligible)?

7 MR. KARNS: Actually, so right now, we're in a crunch
8 because of the amount of what's happening at OCC. But when
9 they're all said and done, they'll actually have more spots;
10 when they are done.

11 What we don't think we'll ever get back -- we know we
12 won't get back -- is the open storage for that -- for some of
13 our carnival operations. But for staff and/our customer
14 parking, when they're done with their Master Site Plan, they're
15 going to have more spots.

16 CHAIR RUIZ: Nice. That's good to hear. Okay.
17 That's going to be it for the reports.

18 I'm now going to call on the public speakers on these
19 reports and the first one is Reggie Mundekis.

20 MS. MUNDEKIS: Okay. Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm
21 speaking regarding Item 9A, the Committee Reports.

22 A very fundamental part of California government is
23 that the people's business is conducted in public. And what's
24 happening with these two-person -- in some cases, a one-person
25 committee -- is that business is not being conducted in public.

1 And as a result, discussions are being made which impact the
2 public and of which the public doesn't see it until a decision
3 is very far down the road.

4 For instance, the storm water issues. We found out
5 that staff had submitted plans to the State for changes to the
6 storm water management system. When I pulled down the report,
7 staff had submitted from the State website. That's how we found
8 out about it.

9 We need that committee to be meeting in public with
10 agendas and minutes. Same thing for the Storage, Parking, and
11 Traffic Committee. Now, why you're trying to address some of
12 the storage issues, there was at least one member of the public
13 who said that she had ideas and she had leads on storage areas
14 that needed to be followed up on.

15 There's a number of neighbors in the City of
16 Costa Mesa who need relief from the five weeks of gridlock
17 that's so bad that some of them just leave town. And there's no
18 way to access that committee because it's held some time in, you
19 know, some two-person committee held some time.

20 We need to have the people's business done in public.
21 And that means that these two-person -- or in some cases,
22 one-person committees -- have to be done in public. You have an
23 Agenda, you have public input, you keep records, and that's the
24 way this needs to be done going forward. It's not that hard.

25 And, you know, maybe some of these committees can be

1 combined or reduced if you don't want to do that, but we need to
2 do the people's business in public. Thank you.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on
4 Mr. Vincent Pollmeier. You have five cards for five different
5 reports. I'm assuming you're going to use all 3 minutes for all
6 five committee reports?

7 MR. POLLMEIER: No, I'm not. But because -- I
8 really -- a lot of it is duplicative, but I do want to talk
9 about a couple of things.

10 One, I can't repeat any strongly -- more strongly than
11 was previously said. We're hearing about the Branding
12 Committee. We're hearing about the Audit Committee. We're
13 hearing about storage and parking. These are all fait accompli.
14 They've been done. Back room deals between one, maybe two Board
15 members and staff. There's been no public input. There's been
16 no public knowledge.

17 I asked -- I asked to pull the IMW Contract because no
18 one knew that there'd been a change in scope because apparently,
19 they'd been negotiated in secret. Now, you say, "Maybe it
20 wasn't intentionally in secret," but it was a secret. Nobody in
21 the public knew that you'd gone back to this.

22 And speaking of that contract, is it really wise to
23 only run your branding past people who've been your past
24 customers and who are committed to being your future customers?

25 You know, this is the kind of thing that the public

1 could give input -- valuable input. Part of branding is
2 attracting new customers. They should be running this branding
3 past people who haven't -- in addition to people who have been
4 here -- people who haven't been here.

5 But nobody from the public could give that input or
6 that "sage advice" to use a phrase that Ken Karns likes.
7 Because no one from the public was ever told about it.

8 Same thing with the signage plan. And by the way, the
9 signage plan meeting was not a success, but I'll talk more about
10 that later.

11 The -- and obviously audits. I want to make the point
12 about one -- a specific point about the audit. You need to be
13 getting some people publicly involved in the audit. I
14 appreciate that you published the response letter. But the
15 response letter is a response to an audit that the public has
16 never seen and cleverly, can't ever see until you respond and
17 close it.

18 So the public has no idea what's in that audit. Okay.
19 But you're responding to it, and we're supposed to make public
20 comments about your response letter but we've never seen the
21 thing you're responding to. Okay. So that's a real problem and
22 I'll talk more about the audit response letter and,
23 specifically, when that Agenda item comes up.

24 But all of this comes down to the fact that I follow
25 the goings on of this fairgrounds very closely. I've seen no

1 public announcements of a single committee meeting for the past
2 six months; none. You're doing the public's business in secret.

3 So either make these committees three-person
4 committees so they have to be agendized in public meetings or
5 just agree to do it because it's the right thing to do.

6 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. That wraps up the
7 comments.

8 We will now move onto Item 9B which is the
9 Consideration of Vote of the Scheduling the January 2020 Board
10 of Directors Meeting to January 16, 2020 and the 2020
11 Out-of-State Travel Budget to Allow Staff to Participate in the
12 Annual Western Fairs Association Convention in Reno, Nevada on
13 January 19 through the 22nd -- excuse me -- to the 22nd, 2020.
14 For that, I'll turn it over to Michele.

15 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Thank you.

16 So Western Fairs Association is our main trade
17 association here in the western U.S. The convention this year
18 is being held in Reno, Sunday, January 19th, through Wednesday,
19 January 22nd.

20 The typical Board meeting in January would put it at
21 Thursday, January 23rd as we're just getting back from travel
22 back to Orange County.

23 So staff is requesting that we -- the Board reconsider
24 that date for the January meeting and plan it for the week prior
25 January 16th. So that gives staff time to prepare for the Board

1 meeting before we leave for convention.

2 In addition, because the convention is in Reno, Nevada
3 this year, that's out-of-state travel for staff and that
4 requires prior Board approval. And because of dates and it
5 falling so early in January, we would like to request approval
6 for that out-of-state travel.

7 Historically, the OC Fair & Event Center has been one
8 of the major sponsors of the convention and there has been a
9 \$30,000 sponsorship fee that has been included in past budgets.
10 And we're looking toward doing that again for the 2020 budget.

11 That sponsorship is, in part, including registrations
12 and hotel accommodations for the employees that attend in
13 addition to promotional and marketing exposure for the OC Fair.

14 So the proposed \$30,000 in the 2020 budget would
15 include on-site and media promotion of the OC Fair & Event
16 Center, logo inclusion in the WFA Association Magazine and on
17 their website, an opportunity for a representative from our
18 organization to give the opening remarks at the general session
19 of the convention, seating at the closing awards dinner, and
20 then a small suite for us to conduct industry meetings. We are
21 not proposing doing a suite night this year.

22 So convention, registration, and lodging for up to 24
23 of our staff and Board members to attend is approximately
24 \$20,000 in value, leaving the other 10,000 for the pure
25 sponsorship of the convention.

1 The changes that you see in bold and then crossed off
2 at the bottom are some last minute changes that came in
3 yesterday. We were able to negotiate more from WFA in terms of
4 the sponsorship.

5 So it is up to the Board's discretion, but we're
6 looking to approve rescheduling the January Board meeting to
7 Thursday, January 16th. We're looking for the Board to approve
8 that out-of-state travel to Reno for employees to attend the
9 convention. And then we're looking for budget approval to allow
10 OCFEC to sponsor the convention.

11 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I have a question.

12 CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead.

13 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: What are some of the
14 benefits to us sponsoring an event like this?

15 MS. RICHARDS: Well, it provides support to our trade
16 association. It gives us, you know, much exposure within our
17 industry as a leading fair. And as you know, we're the second
18 largest in California, so that puts us in that top grade.

19 It allows us, you know, the suite in order to conduct
20 meetings and the, you know, the hotel accommodations as well.
21 And then there's exposure in the industry magazine throughout
22 the year as well.

23 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And who are the meetings
24 with? Are they with vendors?

25 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. They are. So it's a great

1 opportunity while the fair is not going on for our concessions
2 and our commercial merchants department to conduct meetings for
3 us to see what new entertainment is out there to possibly book
4 for the following fair.

5 It's also an opportunity for us to meet with key
6 partners like the carnival, for example. Our big kick-off
7 meetings with RCS typically happen at the WFA convention when
8 everybody is together.

9 CHAIR RUIZ: Yeah. I just have a question: Do you
10 know at the top of your head how many people attended last year?

11 MS. RICHARDS: I think there were 30 that went last
12 year. So we paired it back. And, you know, next -- sorry, in
13 2020, the convention will be back in Anaheim and that allows --
14 sorry, 2021 -- will be back in Anaheim and, you know, that
15 allows us more staff.

16 I think one of the key benefits to staff for attending
17 WFA are the educational sessions, many of which are our staff
18 teaches as well. So it gives a great exposure for leadership
19 within our organization to teach what we know and our
20 experiences to some of the smaller fairs that don't have that --
21 those kinds of resources.

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Director Meyers and then
23 Director Aitken.

24 DIRECTOR MEYER: So Sandra and I attended the WFA in
25 Reno last year. I thought it was a very good conference. I

1 mean, there's a lot of technical information that's shared. It
2 seems like a great opportunity for folks to figure out what's
3 state of the art. What's leading best practices in different
4 areas.

5 One thing I would ask is that if we're going to
6 approve the sponsorship that whichever Board members may choose
7 to attend this year, be involved a little bit more in the
8 ongoing activities for a couple of reasons.

9 First, I think it's great education for us. Even if
10 it's areas beyond our responsibility, just for us to understand
11 the business better. It is also a great opportunity for us to
12 spend time, you know, that's a chunk of time that we get with
13 you and you get with us -- whomever is there -- to build
14 relationships and get to know each other better.

15 And so to the extent the sponsorship is enabling the
16 fair to sponsor specific activities, I'd love that Board members
17 could be included.

18 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Agree.

19 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Director Aitken?

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I was just going to -- kind
21 of similar to what Director Meyer said.

22 I've been to the international convention when it was
23 in Las Vegas, and I was really blown away by the amount of
24 educational opportunities that are available both to staff and
25 to me as a director. Learning what works and what doesn't work

1 for different fairgrounds.

2 Just the security planning alone -- how to make fairs
3 safer, you know, crowd and way-finding inside fairgrounds. It's
4 a really, really important time for all of the industries to get
5 together.

6 And I think as one of the larger fairs -- members of
7 Western Fairs Association -- I think it is wonderful that we are
8 good stewards as part of the fair family for our staff that has
9 extreme success, that has one of the larger fairs that just has
10 industry knowledge that a lot of our smaller fairs do not have.

11 I think it's really a responsibility and a duty for us
12 to share what we've learned, whether it's things we've done
13 absolutely wonderfully and then things that we wish we could
14 have done better and to make sure that we share with other fairs
15 what we've done well and maybe what we could have done better so
16 that they don't make the same mistakes or they can have the same
17 success that we've had.

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Any more questions or
19 comments from the Board before I go to the public?

20 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just one, Chair Ruiz.

21 Speaking from past experiences and things I used to
22 do, it's a great opportunity when you go to the League of
23 California Cities or the National League of Cities or whatever,
24 whatever -- to network, to talk to your colleague from another
25 area.

1 And I found that the exchange of information among
2 just informal conversations with other fair people or other city
3 people as the case would be is as valuable as the seminars
4 themselves because, you know, you can engage in a dialogue and
5 exchange a lot of information. I think it's very beneficial.
6 And I would fully support this.

7 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

8 I'm now going to go to the public speakers. I have
9 two speakers who want to speak on this item. I will call on the
10 first one: Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

11 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking
12 regarding 9B, the WFA Convention.

13 You know, first and foremost, Kathy Kramer -- who the
14 Board has not told us if she's still working here or not, even
15 though there was an announcement given last week that she was
16 leaving and taking another job in Yakima, Washington.

17 Kathy Kramer should not attend WFA and she should not
18 attend any other conference or meeting on behalf of the OC Fair
19 & Event Center and her travel privileges should be suspended as
20 should her credit and any signing authority.

21 Regarding this item, I have just so many questions
22 regarding the money for this. Each year, we write a \$30,000
23 check to an entity called the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

24 I've been told in the past that \$30,000 check to the
25 Blue Ribbon Foundation is our sponsorship fee. The Blue Ribbon

1 Foundation is not part of WFA. It's a separate non-profit
2 that's run by Becky Bailey-Findley, the former CEO of the Orange
3 County Fairgrounds, and now the person who runs California Fair
4 Services Authority. So I'm really not sure how a \$30,000 check
5 to the Blue Ribbon Foundation translates into comp hotel rooms.

6 Also, I'm not clear how last year when we bought a
7 sponsorship, why we still have a hotel room bill and a whole
8 bunch of bills from meals. There is just a lot of financial
9 questions regarding the transactions, regarding the WFA
10 Convention.

11 And why I do appreciate that there's been effort by
12 staff to reduce the number of people going to Reno from
13 one-third of the staff to one-fifth of the staff -- or in other
14 words, from 30 percent to 20 percent of the staff -- that's
15 still a lot of money and still expensive.

16 So we need to have more transparency regarding these
17 financial transactions with WFA because I'm not sure where the
18 money is going and what the \$30,000 sponsorship is for and who
19 the Blue Ribbon Foundation is and who benefits from it.

20 So we need to have clarity on the finances regarding
21 this convention. Thank you.

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

23 MR. POLLMEIER: Many years ago I used to work for a
24 Federal Government Agency. Whenever we had to go on travel
25 conventions -- and we did go to conventions -- there was a

1 careful and detailed justification process that every person had
2 to do individually: Why am I going to this conference? What am
3 I doing at this conference? Why is this benefitting my
4 organization?

5 I hear a mission -- I hear nothing individually here
6 worth taking 24 people -- a quarter of the permanent staff. I
7 hear, "Well, we're going to learn a lot. There's a lot of
8 educational programs, and we teach most of them." Well, do you
9 see the contradiction there? If you're teaching them, you're
10 not learning from them.

11 Now -- "and we need to go because we need to use this
12 to meet with our vendors." Well, "and possible entertainers.
13 Well, one of the criticisms of this fairgrounds is that you have
14 the same food vendors and the same entertainers year after year
15 after year.

16 I mean, literally, you guys -- the motto for this
17 fairground should be "Orange County Fairgrounds: Ditto." Okay.
18 So why -- apparently, they haven't been doing a very good job
19 meeting them in the past.

20 And then, we're the second largest fairground fair in
21 the past, but we have to go to this out-of-state convention to
22 meet with vendors. If we're the second largest fair in the
23 state, they'll come here to meet with us. Got a clue. I
24 guarantee it.

25 Now, I'm not saying we shouldn't go. I'm not saying

1 that wouldn't be a good investment. But there needs to be a
2 whole lot more documentation of who should go. Why they should
3 go. What they're doing. And it needs to be made as a
4 business -- it needs to be made as a decision: Is there a
5 return on investment for this person to attend? And the bottom
6 line is that's not happening here.

7 We're just saying, "Let's all go to Reno in January
8 and have fun." Okay. And let's not kid ourselves,
9 Western Fairs Association is a lobbying group. It's a trade
10 association lobbying groups that somehow has figured out that
11 it's going to represent both fairs and fair vendors.

12 Now, how you manage to represent both sides in a trade
13 organizations? I don't know. But that's what they do. So,
14 basically, we need hardcore detailed specific procedures for
15 approving who goes, what they're doing, and how they're
16 representing this fairgrounds. Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

19 Okay. I will now turn it back to the Board for the
20 approval of Item 9B.

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Motion to approve 9B.

22 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I second.

23 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
24 vote.

25 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

1 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

2 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

3 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

4 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

6 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

7 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

8 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

9 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

10 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

11 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

12 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

13 Okay. We will now move onto Item 9C and I will turn
14 that over to Michele Richards.

15 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

16 Yes. So crossroads of the West Gun Show has been a
17 client in good standing with OC Fair & Event Center for 34
18 years. They we are planning five gun shows at OCFEC in 2020,
19 specifically, in January, March, June, August and November.

20 The five shows represent projected combined revenue of
21 approximately \$715,000. That includes property rental,
22 equipment, labor, and then ancillary food and beverage and
23 parking.

24 Last year, at the October Board meeting, the Board of
25 Directors approved six gun show rental agreements for 2019. One

1 of those shows was subsequently eliminated by the promoter in
2 order to give the promoter time to plan and promote those
3 events. So staff is presenting today the five 2020 gun show
4 rental agreements for the Board's consideration.

5 Again, the timing on that is to give the promoter time
6 to plan for those events and then also to give staff direction
7 regarding the 2020 budget.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

9 Any questions or comments from the Board before I go
10 to the public?

11 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

12 CHAIR RUIZ: Director Aitken.

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Since I mentioned it earlier in my
14 committee report, we saw the Legislative Monitoring Committee, I
15 just wanted to provide a couple of brief updates and comments on
16 this issue because I know I've been very vocal on it in the
17 past.

18 So in speaking with our lobbyist in Sacramento, the
19 update on gun shows and whether there's going to be statewide
20 legislation has been very unclear. But one of the things that
21 has recently been in the news pertains to the Del Mar Fair.

22 So I just want to give the Board, you know, and all
23 transparency -- an update on what's going on with that and how
24 that affects our hosting gun shows going forward.

25 So the City of Del Mar -- and, please, our attorney,

1 if I misstate anything, please let me know -- but Del Mar Fair
2 Board had made an action to not have gun shows on their
3 fairgrounds. It resulted in litigation on behalf of some of the
4 -- of the gun show promoter and some non-profit groups.

5 And there was a finding in Federal Court that they
6 hadn't taken the proper steps in order to make that decision to
7 not have gun shows on the property.

8 What is different in the Del Mar, and that is a
9 preliminary injunction that is on that property going forward.
10 The Del Mar property then worked with local legislators in
11 Assemblyman Gloria to pass a bill through the assembly that just
12 for that fairgrounds is going -- I believe it starts in 2021 --

13 MR. CAPLAN: I'm actually going to interrupt you,
14 Director Aitken.

15 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Oh, please.

16 MR. CAPLAN: The 22nd DAA had no involvement with and
17 did not cooperate at all with Assemblyman Gloria on that
18 legislation. They remained entirely independent and neutral on
19 that bill.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. So Assemblyman Gloria then
21 passed -- went -- decided to introduce and pass the bill that
22 then the -- is going to -- and, I believe, is it 2021 or 2022?

23 MR. CAPLAN: Again, because our office is not -- was
24 not involved with that process, I'm not familiar with the
25 details of the bill as I sit here today, so I can't answer that

1 question.

2 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. I believe it's 2021. So
3 Assemblyman Gloria signed a bill that is going to make it so
4 that they cannot host gun shows on that property. So they ended
5 up going on a road of a legislative fix versus independent
6 actions of the Fair Board.

7 So I just wanted to update the Committee that I'm
8 talking to our lobbyist. I was interested in if that there was
9 going to be any statewide movement by the Governor's Office in
10 order to do a statewide legislative fix. They have not --

11 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: You're saying "legislative
12 fix" as if we all agreed that that's what we want?

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Well, no. That the assembly -- that
14 they were going to pass through the legislature whether they're
15 going to have an -- so they have a -- right now, based just for
16 the 22nd DAA -- a legislative fix and that they're not going to
17 be having gun shows on that property for -- and it's a different
18 issue than ours. There's a lot of factors that went into that.

19 My question for our lobbyist just so that we are as
20 informed going forward is is there going to be -- or has anyone
21 heard -- is there going to be movement from the Governor's
22 Office -- who's been very vocal on this issue -- to do a
23 statewide ban?

24 I think that would be helpful for information for us.
25 And there's been no movement so far from the Governor's Office

1 to do a statewide ban. I think that's instructed to us. And --
2 but I have reached out to our local assembly members and local
3 elected officials and I believe there's going to be movement
4 going forward from our local assemblywoman to address that issue
5 on this property; however, that has not -- that has not --
6 there's been no final decision and no legislation introduced at
7 this time.

8 I just thought that background would be helpful moving
9 forward given that we do address this issue. I will try to keep
10 us informed if any legislation is introduced that is going to
11 affect our property. And -- but that is the information that we
12 have going forward at this point.

13 I always find this to be an extremely troubling issue
14 because when we look at whether we want to approve this, I have
15 definitely my own opinions and insights about whether this fits
16 into our mission of having family friendly -- family friendly
17 entertainment, and whether this is given the surrounding areas
18 and the urbanization of our fair, whether this is something that
19 fits in to the family friendly brand that we want to put out in
20 the community.

21 However, I do have to take my role as a Board member
22 seriously and not getting us into unnecessary litigation given
23 that it's uncertain. So it weighs on me heavily. And I just
24 wanted to put that forward as we go into public comment and
25 discuss whether we want to continue having gun shows on this

1 property.

2 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: If I may comment, when
3 you're working in the capacity as the Legislative Committee, I
4 would just caution you to be careful not to speak on behalf of
5 the Board on personal positions when it comes to this topic
6 because some people may not feel that it is -- people may feel
7 that it is a family friendly event that you could attend on
8 the fairgrounds since there are no guns that are actually sold
9 at any of these events. And a lot of the things that those
10 promoters are doing are promoting safety.

11 So those are some of the things I just think we need
12 to be cautious about when we're -- maybe talking about this
13 issue externally, and not engaging the public just -- since you
14 brought it up.

15 DIRECTOR AITKEN: When Chair and I -- Chair Ruiz and
16 I, I copy him in all of my emails. I am asking for what is the
17 current status of legislation and if they are aware because they
18 speak to all assembly people and all senators. Is anyone going
19 to introduce any type of legislation that affects this property?
20 Or is there going to be a push from the Governor's Office?

21 That is the only information that I am interested in
22 so that I can report back. It has nothing to do with my
23 personal feelings.

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

25 DIRECTOR MEYER: Robert, let me just make one other

1 quick question or comment on that.

2 CHAIR RUIZ: Go ahead.

3 DIRECTOR MEYER: Something that I think is very
4 different down in Del Mar is that the Board had taken a position
5 on it before the legislator decided to get involved and pursue
6 legislation in response to the litigation.

7 And I take issue -- I'm happy to say publicly -- with
8 any of our local elected officials -- deciding they know better
9 than the Fair Board about what should occur on this property.

10 And so I really have an -- as a matter of principal, a
11 real problem with the fact that there have been candidates for
12 office suggesting they're going to introduce legislation to
13 direct us as to what it is we're supposed to do. But I think we
14 can reach that view ourselves first.

15 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

16 You know, and I just have a comment: If any of the
17 directors have not attended, I urge you to attend this --
18 this -- this gun show. I attended, I think, two of them. And,
19 you know, from what I saw, it was regulated. A lot of safety
20 was being taught like Director Rubalcava had said.

21 So if you haven't attended, I don't know if any --
22 Director Rubalcava or Meyers have attended -- you should do so.
23 It's a -- it's a -- I think you get a lot of information from
24 those gun shows.

25 So if none of the directors have any questions or

1 comments, I'm going to turn it over.

2 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I do have one question,
3 Chair Ruiz.

4 CHAIR RUIZ: Director La Belle?

5 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Michele, can you, kind of,
6 summarize with the Board and the audience the type of activities
7 that occur at the gun show, what type of concessioners are
8 there, what sort of information is distributed.

9 MS. RICHARDS: It's a very mixed show. A lot of
10 components to it. There are merchants who display products that
11 they sell.

12 And I should add that the controls that are in place
13 regarding gun shows and gun sales in California are amongst the
14 strictest in the nation and those are all observed during the
15 show.

16 So no one can walk into the show and outright purchase
17 a firearm and take it home with them. There's a, you know,
18 there's a whole process for turning over ownership and
19 background checks and what not. And certainly Nick Buffa, our
20 Director of Safety and Security can elaborate on that if you
21 have questions.

22 There are concessions. There are Americana clothing
23 and decorative items that are for sale. Lots of safety classes
24 that are -- you know, and other educational workshops that are
25 held during the event as well. I know both of you -- several of

1 you have seen.

2 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes. Thank you.

3 Any questions or comments from the directors before I
4 go to the public?

5 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I think -- and if I could get some
6 assurance that -- I think the event itself is fine. And I
7 noticed in the exhibits that there are fun set aside for
8 Orange County sheriff, et cetera, et cetera.

9 I'm a little concerned about what may be occurring
10 outside the event itself. Does ATF, the Federal agency, do they
11 have any representation there? Is there sheriff's booth that,
12 kind of, goes through and tries to deal with concealed weapons
13 permits and other things of that nature?

14 I just think the more we could do in terms from a --
15 and I know Dick does a very good job -- I think the more we can
16 do to make sure that we enhance the safety aspects of it so that
17 things aren't occurring external to the event that should be
18 occurring.

19 I'm not saying they are. I don't know. But, you
20 know, I just think that we need to make absolutely certain that
21 there's adequate security there during the course of the --

22 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I definitely
23 recommend -- have you ever attended, Doug?

24 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: No, I have not.

25 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I highly recommend. It is

1 a misconception, I think, on -- I would say a misconception of
2 what it actually is. But I would highly recommend attending and
3 you'll see it's like a normal parking lot; people driving up,
4 walking in. There's not a lot of external activity taking place
5 in terms of, like, comparing guns or I don't think anybody would
6 bring their gun into the gun show.

7 And for the concealed weapons permit, there are --
8 it's highly regulated. There are rules that people to need
9 abide by. And so I think -- just experience it. I recommend
10 it.

11 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: No. I'll make sure I do that.

12 And, again, I'm not saying that I have any evidence of
13 anything is occurring. I'm just saying that gun safety and gun
14 issues are extremely important and we should be focused and
15 aware of what's going on there.

16 And the more we can do to generate good practices
17 relative to gun safety and that sort of thing is -- it should be
18 encouraged.

19 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Absolutely. Agree.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

21 I will now be calling the public speakers. And the
22 first one is Michelle Watson. Are you still here?

23 MS. WATSON: Yes.

24 Hi. Thank you for hearing me today, Board. My name
25 is Michelle Watson. My family owns Carol Watson's Orange Coast

1 Auctions in Anaheim. We are a fine firearm antique and weapons
2 auction house. We are a Federal firearm's license dealer. We
3 come to this gun show, every show, and we go to gun shows all
4 over the country.

5 I want to ask: When are you going to start standing
6 up for the majority? And I'll tell you who the majority is.
7 I'm the majority. This room is the majority. Law-abiding
8 citizens.

9 Next, I'd like to address the inappropriately coined
10 phrase, "gun show loophole." Some of you here seem to
11 understand what I mean by that and some of you perhaps don't
12 quite get what that means.

13 If someone were to purchase a gun from my table at the
14 show, all it merely is is a conversation that they're going to
15 purchase the gun, and I mark it sold, and then everything else
16 goes back to my shop.

17 They must provide me a proper driver's license, a
18 firearm safety certificate. They must fill out a lengthy
19 background check. They have to wait 10 days of cool down
20 period, if you will. And then they can come back and get the
21 gun. Nothing, like you said, Director or Michelle, maybe, no
22 one is leaving with guns from the show.

23 Also, you all are big fans of trade shows. This is a
24 trade show. This is where businesses of -- of -- of likely --
25 or businesses that are in the same industry, are there to

1 promote and educate and show new state of the art things in the
2 industry.

3 There's background checks now in California. Those
4 are all being followed. LAX, one of your big vendors at that
5 show at the Crossroads, they have computers. They set it up.
6 They follow all the rules.

7 We have the Department of Justice of California
8 regulating us. They're our big brother. They're always
9 watching us. And we -- we have happily expose ourselves to
10 them. We are hiding nothing and we follow everything that we're
11 supposed to do.

12 Penal Code 26500 states that "any person selling a gun
13 must be licensed and all gun sales, transfers, or releases must
14 be done through a Federal firearms license dealer and a
15 background check must be enacted at that moment."

16 If you don't follow the rules, you can go to jail
17 and/or pay a penalty. We ask that you sign the contract. Let
18 us conduct our business here. I go to gun shows all over the
19 country and this is my best show. In my backyard -- in Orange
20 County -- where all the sales tax collected from sales at this
21 show go to a special fair fund. It's all in your best interest.

22 So I please ask that you renew their contract and let
23 us continue with our lawful sales and promotion at the show.
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on

1 Heather Allen, followed by Amanda Garner. Are you still -- are
2 both of you -- okay. Heather Allen left. Amanda Garner?

3 MS. GARNER: Hello. And thank you for hearing us
4 today. My name is Amanda Garner. My husband and own Real World
5 Shooting in Huntington Beach here in Orange County.

6 This gun show is one of our best events that we have
7 done. We are -- like the previous speaker just said -- it's the
8 highest regulated industry in the United States when it comes to
9 background checks.

10 We have so many different laws that we have to follow
11 here in California, far more than most of the other states.
12 There is nothing that is done without being over -- you know,
13 the oversight of the California DOJ and also the ATF. We have
14 both of those entities watching over every transaction that is
15 done.

16 Shooting is something I was raised with. It's
17 something that I've done with my family, with my kids. It's a
18 family event that everyone has always gone to. This has been a
19 wonderful event that's been happening here over 30 years.
20 There's not been any issues with it. And if you actually go and
21 walk around, you'll see there's lots of different groups; the
22 Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts are there. There's so many
23 family-oriented activities that can be done.

24 So I just urge the group to please renew the -- the
25 rental. Thank you.

1 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I will now call on
2 Mike Garner. Are you here?

3 MR. GARNER: Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for
4 allowing us to come here and speak.

5 Like my wife, I'm the owner of Real World Shooting in
6 Huntington Beach and we've been doing the gun shows for a number
7 of years, as well as operating a full retail gun store.

8 I'd like to address the family aspect of the shooting
9 hobby. The fact that we -- many times, the first time kids will
10 see guns is at a gun show. But it's also with their parents
11 presence, with me -- a licensed gun dealer -- and/or a safety
12 instructor, and/or a shooting instructor and former police
13 officer providing them a safe handling demonstration.

14 Part of the safety aspect that's required in
15 California is that every person who purchases a gun must receive
16 a firearm safety certificate. We do 30 to 50 of these at each
17 of those shows.

18 In addition, we do well over another 50 safe handling
19 demonstrations where we will teach people how to safely handle a
20 firearm.

21 So the safety aspect and the family aspect are there.
22 As a firearm dealer, I'd like to assure everybody in this room,
23 there's no such thing as a gun show loophole in California. You
24 go through every step at the gun show that you would if you
25 walked in my shop.

1 Literally, there is no way that a person can legally
2 walk out of the gun show with a firearm. We -- every show,
3 leave with more firearms than we started because private parties
4 who would like to legally transfer a gun from one person to
5 another have to do it through us. So we take it for the cool
6 down and waiting period.

7 And as my wife said, this is the most regulated
8 industry or business in America. You hear the ATF. You hear
9 the DOJ. What you don't hear about is how the Second Amendment
10 community -- polices itself. Nobody would allow anything to go
11 on whether it was another vendor in the parking lot or any place
12 else without immediately knowing and letting the police or
13 sheriff's know because this is an important safety issue and the
14 Second Amendment community takes that very seriously.

15 Thank you all for hearing us.

16 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

17 Okay. I will now call on Kevin Small if you are still
18 here, followed by Mike Leland.

19 MR. SMALL: Good afternoon, Board. I appreciate you
20 letting us talk to you today. I am here to urge you to renew
21 the contracts for the Crossroads of the West Gun Show.

22 When I kind of think about this aspect, I kind of go
23 back to the bigger picture and that is what is the Board's
24 responsibility and their oversight. It always takes me back to
25 the mission statement: "It's a celebration of Orange County's

1 communities, interests, agriculture, heritage."

2 I think it's pretty obvious that it speaks to
3 diversity in Orange County which I think there is a lot in it.
4 That's why you use plural words like "communities" and
5 "interests." And the firearms community is part of that. And I
6 believe that we should be able to be celebrated.

7 You're going to be hearing from a lot of people, I'm
8 sure, about how safe and family friendly the gun shows are. I
9 just think it's important to understand that this is part of
10 your community.

11 There are even a couple of statistics that would show
12 that Orange County shows more interest than all other counties
13 in California in firearms.

14 So like I said, I'm just hoping that you vote to
15 continue this celebration instead of beginning a new trend of
16 suppressing a part of the community. Thank you.

17 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mike Leland, are you still
18 here? Followed by Linda.

19 MR. LELAND: Thank you. I would just like to offer my
20 support for the gun show.

21 I know it's -- it's not really considered all the
22 other things that are involved in the gun show. I have two
23 boys. I've taken the boys to the gun show since they were
24 really little. We practice safe procedures and it's -- it is a
25 family event.

1 Retired -- fire 33 years on the job, and I definitely
2 understand safety and the ramifications of things. But I really
3 would hope that you would support something that many of us
4 practice as families. Thank you.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Linda, are you still here?
6 Linda?

7 (No response)

8 Okay. I will move onto the next one. Mike Brumbelow,
9 followed by Tiffany.

10 MR. BRUMBELLOW: Good afternoon, my name is is
11 Mike Brumbelow. I'm an attendee of the car show. I don't own a
12 business. I have no business connected interest in the show
13 whatsoever. But I just want to talk about the educational
14 opportunities the show has afforded me and my family.

15 I've been attending this this show for a number of
16 years; myself, my sons, my grandchildren. We have a long
17 history of military service in our family. Going back,
18 personally, people in my family to serve World War I, World War
19 II, Korea War, and Vietnam.

20 And as we walk through the gun show, there are a lot
21 of curio and relic dealers there. I could take my sons and my
22 grandchildren up and talk to them about the arms that were used
23 and maybe one of your relatives carried one of these arms at
24 that time. They can touch them with the permission of the
25 vendor. They can pick them up and hold them.

1 But what that does, that opens up the conversation
2 about why were the arms used at that time. That'll open up a
3 conversation about world history. Why were they used? What was
4 going on in the world politics at that time?

5 So anyway, I just wanted to share with you my
6 opportunity for educating my sons and my grandchildren through
7 Crossroads of the West Gun Show. Thank you.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Tiffany? Can you pronounce
9 your last name for me, please.

10 MS. CHEUVRONT: I can. It's Cheuvront.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. CHEUVRONT: Good afternoon. I represent
13 B&L Productions at Crossroads of the West Gun Show. I'm with
14 Michel & Associates and I've been here several times addressing
15 this Board regarding this issue.

16 Just want to, again, because I know we do have new
17 Board members say the gun shows have been shown to be doing
18 everything lawfully. They're following all state and Federal
19 regulations and Penal Code issues that they have to -- they have
20 to follow. All of the shows have the law enforcement that was
21 already spoken about. And that's both inside the gun show and
22 outside. There's law enforcement outside patrolling the parking
23 lots as well. So hopefully that will take care of some of your
24 concerns.

25 I did to want address the Del Mar issue because not

1 only did the -- has the Court found that maybe the Board did not
2 have the proper facts when they passed a moratorium there which
3 would ban the gun shows, but it's also a violation right now of
4 the First Amendment and the Court did find that the plaintiffs
5 had the ability to win that court case. And so because of that,
6 they invoked a preliminary injunction to allow the shows to
7 continue.

8 I would encourage you to get from Mr. Caplan that
9 order. I know it's available. I would encourage you all to
10 read it specifically because it's very, very detailed. There
11 was one that came out that was just an order and then there was
12 one that was more detailed with the judge's analysis of the
13 case. And it's very informative for you as Board members as you
14 make these decisions.

15 But for now, I would just encourage you to pass the
16 contracts for 2020, continue with the show that's been here for
17 more than 30 years with no issues, and don't ban the gun shows
18 here in Orange County. It's an institution here at
19 Orange County Fair. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I believe that wraps up
21 public comments on this item. I will now turn it back to the
22 Board for any questions or comments or do I entertain a vote?

23 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I so move that we renew and
24 approve.

25 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

1 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
2 vote.

3 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I want to make comments before I
4 vote.

5 So I just want to -- following up on public comment --
6 you know, share that I have attended the gun show several times.
7 When I was a brand-new first year Board member and brought my
8 family when I was Chair because I thought it was important to
9 support a lot of the events that we had going on throughout the
10 year on this fairgrounds.

11 And I have never disparaged -- small business owner on
12 this property that shows up at the gun show nor have I ever made
13 any comments about the gun show operator or alleged that any of
14 the attendees or the operators are engaging in any type of
15 illegal activity. I do not believe that to be true.

16 And I do acknowledge that California has some of the
17 strictest gun laws in the nation. We are leading, I believe,
18 the nation on this issue.

19 But I am trying to find intellectual consistency as a
20 Board member, and so just want to remind that -- the Board and
21 also the public -- that several years ago, we had this issue
22 with tobacco products. And whether we thought it was in the
23 best interest of the community and the best interest of our
24 fairgoers and our fair members and users of this property to
25 sell tobacco products and to have smoking on this property.

1 And we found that it was not in the best interest of
2 our community and it was not in the best interest of people to
3 visit this property to have smoking during our fair.

4 Shortly after that, we had this issue with cannabis
5 products. It was new law coming down the pipeline for
6 California. We had the potential to have cannabis shows. I
7 believe it's CBD or -- I think CBD oils and oils and products --
8 hemp made products -- on this property.

9 And there was a lot of public comment and a lot of
10 feeling that the cannabis and the CBD and all those types of
11 products was not in the interest of this community and it was
12 not something that we wanted to -- we thought it was in the best
13 interest of fairgoers and our surrounding community with schools
14 and our neighbors. So we decided to ban cannabis shows and
15 related CBD products.

16 Shortly after that around the same time period, we had
17 to deal with an issue of high-risk events. That, at that time,
18 centered around political speech and political rallies, but we
19 had to develop a policy about high-risk events.

20 And we felt we had the right, as a Board, to determine
21 and to take into account whether certain events -- this one
22 centering around political engagement -- were in the best
23 interest of our community and it really had the neighborhood and
24 the fairgoers, the people that come to this -- the users of this
25 property -- whether they had their best interest of the fair

1 room.

2 So I have a very -- a hard time saying that there is
3 no reason for us to have cannabis shows, there is no reason for
4 us to sell or allow people to use tobacco on this property, but
5 we have no problem with the sale and -- later distribution --
6 but sale and distribution of firearms and ammunition on this
7 property.

8 I might be alone in my feelings on this issue, but I
9 think it is just illogical and inconsistent, in my view, for us
10 to to make determinations but decide that we would like to sell
11 firearms on State-owned property when there are plenty of shops
12 throughout Orange County and there are plenty of other
13 opportunities for people to purchase, get educated, and
14 distribute or sell back their firearms.

15 So I am going to be voting no on this, and I just
16 wanted -- I thought the public had a right to know why. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for your comments.
19 Any other comments?

20 DIRECTOR MEYER: I'd like to make a comment --

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Director Meyers.

22 DIRECTOR MEYER: -- just so the record reflects why
23 I'm voting the way I am.

24 So after I joined the Board, I did take the
25 opportunity to go and visit one of the gun shows and it was very

1 edifying for me. The reason being that I come from a background
2 that has no contact with guns whatsoever. I never touched one.
3 Honestly, I'm not sure I've even laid eyes on one.

4 And I got a terrific tour of the show from one of the
5 organizers and had the chance to speak with various people
6 throughout the show.

7 And what I was so impressed by was the willingness to
8 have dialogue among the community that was in attendance of the
9 show about the challenging issues around gun violence. And
10 multiple people that I spoke to indicated a willingness to
11 engage a conversation about how we protect our communities from
12 gun violence and they were supportive of certain measures that
13 then Vice Governor Newsom was proposing. And I really thought
14 it was terrific.

15 And so as I think about the problem of gun violence
16 which I think is an epidemic, what I think -- this presents an
17 opportunity to do is work with the members of the community who
18 support guns and own guns and have an interest in guns -- to
19 think about how we can collaborate and have solutions to gun
20 violence.

21 And so in that regard, I don't want to alienate that
22 community. I want to embrace that community. And I really love
23 the comments that one of the speakers shared about the diversity
24 of our county and about the importance of celebrating all of our
25 communities. And I'm not going to dictate to anyone else what

1 things they want to be interested in.

2 And -- so just wanted to -- the record to reflect the
3 reason why I'm supporting it.

4 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I would like to expand on
5 that.

6 So I'm voting yes today as well to maintain the gun
7 shows here on the fairgrounds for a couple of reasons:
8 Diversity of interest. People have different interests and we
9 are not to tell them what they should like to do.

10 I feel safer taking my child to a gun show than I do
11 to allow them to eat a deep fried item at the fair. So I think
12 that when we try to, you know, say that something isn't okay
13 because it's not something that we believe, we're not doing our
14 due diligence in representing the community at large.

15 So for those reasons -- and the other things is,
16 banning a gun show at a fairgrounds is not going to solve the
17 safety and security issues that we have. So I think it's
18 irrelevant to sort of make those one and the same.

19 We're talking about hosting a show here that doesn't
20 allow for taking a gun away from the show that they have
21 purchased. And it also provides safety opportunities. And
22 you're getting this from people who are experts in this area.
23 We've had people from the law enforcement community come in here
24 and testify on behalf of their -- their well-being.

25 These are people who are providing economic

1 development to our community. They're feeding their families by
2 selling guns legally here. Whether or not people approve as to
3 what their product is, the fact of the matter is it's okay for
4 them to do that.

5 And for us to say that we're not going to allow them
6 to continue to generate revenue for this State for their family
7 is -- today, I will be voting yes on allowing them to stay.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. There's a motion on
9 the floor.

10 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Call for the question.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: Call for the question. Roll call vote.

12 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

14 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

15 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

16 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

17 DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.

18 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

19 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

23 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay.

25 (Applause)

1 Okay. Now moving onto Item 9D, the Wayfinding Signage
2 Project Status Update. I'll turn it over to Ken Karns, VP of
3 Operations.

4 MR. KARNS: Thank you. Wayfinding.

5 The purpose of this Agenda item is to update the Board
6 on Wayfinding Signage Project and clarify any confusion
7 regarding the public meeting process with the City of Costa
8 Mesa.

9 Although this project has been mentioned previously in
10 other Board of Directors meetings -- particularly the perimeter
11 signage -- staff does take full accountability and apologizes
12 for not being clear that part of the process will entail a
13 public meeting with the City of Costa Mesa Planning Commission.

14 Staff is committed to ensuring that future
15 communication with the committee -- that's the Building and
16 Maintenance Committee and the full Board of this project is
17 robust.

18 Subsequent to that, we have previously discussed that
19 -- a great conversation was had with Building and Maintenance
20 Committee during our committee meeting. And also because this
21 does tie into our Parking and Storage Committee, it was also --
22 full engagement of this conversation was had during that
23 committee meeting.

24 Subsequently, we did get some feedback from the city
25 staff which was forwarded to the Building and Maintenance

1 Committee. Also, the link to the video from the meeting was
2 provided and happy to provide that to anybody that wants to
3 review it. Again, I think it was a good meeting and a lot of
4 great intelligence was shared.

5 So staff began discussions on this project in early
6 2019 by engaging the City of Costa Mesa as a result of us losing
7 our wayfinding signage along Arlington Ave during that upgrade
8 project.

9 Although there was not collaboration with the City of
10 Costa Mesa in past digital signs, the OC Fair & Event Center
11 staff felt it was important to do so moving forward and an
12 application for this project was filed with the City.

13 We were informed of the meeting -- tentatively
14 informed -- a tentative meeting. And that it was scheduled for
15 October 14th and we would be included on that Agenda item.
16 Staff did attend the hearing. City staff made a full
17 presentation and we were able to engage, answer questions, and
18 contribute information.

19 We came away thinking the meeting was very positive,
20 very productive, received valuable feedback from the commission,
21 and members of the public who attended. Information is gathered
22 during the meeting and is being summarized -- which we now
23 have -- and next steps will be developed and we're thrilled to
24 have the Building and Maintenance Committee want to be going on
25 this journey with us. And I'm sure they'll be a valuable help.

1 So we attached a concept drawing and it's labeled
2 "concept." You know, one of the things that -- because of our
3 engagement and that the State had not done this, the City -- we
4 knew that this was an information, fact-finding mission. We
5 never anticipated getting any approval. We wanted to know what
6 we were dealing with so that we could communicate back to the
7 Board.

8 There's been a lot of discussion about cart before the
9 horse. And we had a lot of debate about that knowing that if we
10 had brought something to the Board, we would have been showing
11 something to you that we couldn't accomplish because we didn't
12 have enough background information. And that was discussions
13 happening in this Board room in the past that we haven't brought
14 enough information.

15 So we can debate the process and that was discussed at
16 the committee meeting -- the criticism of the process. But at
17 the end of the day, I think we've gathered more valuable
18 information. We'll be able to address issues. We'll be able to
19 modify. We'll be able to continue conversation and go back to
20 the City. So lots yet to be done. Once we get to where we need
21 to go -- and, again, there is budget money and this can improve
22 our wayfinding.

23 One of the things that we see is the ability to speak
24 to our customers in realtime. Our ground signage that we
25 currently put out in fair time or during the rest of the year is

1 at ground-level and you don't know what -- until you get to it.

2 Being able to see in advance where you need to go or
3 what's opening or what's closed or what lot is full, I think it
4 will not address issues on the highway, but it will definitely
5 address our ability to communicate to people in realtime so that
6 they know where they're going to go and what they need to do.

7 We have engaged with the City of Costa Mesa PD,
8 especially during fair time. And one of the criticisms of them
9 is that they will not speak to the public because they're trying
10 to move cars. They're opinion is that if they have to stop and
11 talk to someone, of course, it slows everything down and
12 everybody wants to ask them where to go. The signage can do
13 that to keep things moving.

14 So it's an important piece of the puzzle and we're
15 thrilled to keep everybody involved going forward. Happy to
16 answer any questions.

17 DIRECTOR MEYER: Just one quick question.

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead, Director Meyer.

19 DIRECTOR MEYER: If we end up changing the name or
20 logo, would this be able to adapt to that?

21 MR. KARNS: Absolutely. Yeah.

22 And -- and let's look at, you know, the -- both of
23 these projects traveling down the road. It could very well
24 happen that by the time we got to building a sign, if there is a
25 change, we may get the change before we ever build a sign.

1 And I know I speak out of turn, but I don't know on
2 that list that he gave of logos, was this one -- this one was
3 not on that list? We had the Equestrian Center -- anyway.
4 Regardless, we can change it if we need to.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Good. Any other questions or
6 comments from the Board before I call on the speakers?

7 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I have a couple.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead.

9 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Chair Ruiz. Cart before the horse
10 a little bit. And I do think this is something that ought to go
11 to the Master Site Plan Committee or the Building and Safety
12 Committee.

13 With all due respect to our neighbors -- the City of
14 Costa Mesa -- that's their logo on there. I would be much
15 more -- when you go to a shopping center, the major tenants
16 there are identified.

17 I'd much rather see it incorporated into the sign
18 Heroes Hall Veterans Museum, Centennial Farms, Equestrian
19 Center -- whatever the case may be -- incorporate it into the
20 signage program.

21 I want to make sure we get adequate input from all of
22 our neighbors. Obviously, the electronic message boards, the
23 height of the signs and all of that are going to have an impact
24 on the surrounding neighborhoods. And I want to make sure that
25 we -- from this point on -- we get adequate input before any

1 final decision is made.

2 One of the criticisms that this Board has received --
3 and I've received personally from -- from attendees at the
4 fair -- is they're not happy with being in a cue for an hour to
5 get into the site. But they're really not happy when they get
6 to the end of that hour and there's no place to go.

7 So whatever we end up doing out there needs to be done
8 in realtime. So there needs to be a way that we could
9 communicate with our customers. Not only at fair time, but, you
10 know, we have other activities that occur on the site and we
11 need to use these message boards to be identifying those.

12 Signs are pretty high. And somehow, we've got to get
13 into the system a way of making sure we're not getting out in
14 front of what Natalie and Ashleigh are doing in terms of the
15 Master Site Plan.

16 To the extent we can defer this until we get further
17 down the road in that process. That would be my recommendation.
18 But that's obviously the decision the Board is going to have to
19 make. Those are my comments.

20 MR. KARNS: Robert, if I could just -- for
21 clarification.

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead.

23 MR. KARNS: So with regards to the city logo that was
24 made -- suggestion made from the City as it related to
25 encroachment and the partnership, so we showed it.

1 Neighbor input. Again, I'll reiterate the comments
2 from the commission -- are taking to heart. We'll absolutely
3 do. And that's part of it, along with photometrics with regards
4 to impact on any illumination on the neighborhood commented
5 to -- and actually the City staff has also provided us with
6 somebody that has the ability to do that which is, again, an
7 excellent idea.

8 Realtime communication. Absolutely. When you're out
9 there and you don't know what's going on, so they'll be a mount
10 between the height to be able to see what's going on. So, yeah,
11 that's part of that strategy.

12 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah, Doug. Just to
13 expand on that.

14 Ashleigh and I did have a chance to connect with Ken
15 through the Buildings and Maintenance Committee. So we did take
16 a look at this and saw some of the renderings as well. You
17 bring up a great point about Costa Mesa. Not that we don't want
18 to be good neighbors, but it does make sense to promote some of
19 the brands that we have here on State grounds.

20 One of the things we did talk about is also bringing
21 it to the Board first. So in wanting to definitely get out
22 there and share some of these plans with our City partners, we
23 also want to make sure that the Board members and the public are
24 aware of what the fairgrounds would like to do with some of this
25 before presenting to planning commissioner or any other city

1 entity. And Ken completely agrees, so I think that would be --

2 MR. KARNs: Yeah. Lots of work to do before we ever
3 get back to that next step.

4 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

5 Okay. I will now call on the speakers that want to
6 speak on this item. The first one is Reggie Mundekis, followed
7 by Vincent Pollmeier.

8 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis speaking to
9 the Signage Program Issues.

10 There are many issues with this program which have
11 been addressed in several letters received by the Board. First,
12 today, there's a big problem with this being an information only
13 item. This is a failure of the Board to take on their --
14 their legal oversight responsibility by having this as an
15 information item.

16 The first time the public saw these plans is when the
17 Costa Mesa Planning Commission published them in their Agenda
18 packet. Staff had had these plans for many months and hid them
19 from the public. I thank the Planning Commission for letting us
20 see the plans.

21 Mr. Karns really works hard to spin the meeting which
22 was perhaps very -- it was a waste of the Planning Commission
23 and planning staff's time. Mr. Karns apparently also has not
24 told Mr. Caplan that the City would like an MOU regarding the
25 encroachment on the property -- on the City property of the base

1 of the signs on several of the gates and possible use of the
2 City logo on the sign.

3 The City stated that they want to see public input and
4 public workshops on this. Mr. Karns thinks that having
5 three-minute comments at a Council -- at a meeting is public
6 input. No. You need to have an actual workshop and get public
7 input from the neighbors. The neighbors found out about this
8 when they received notices.

9 These signs are too big. They are 25-foot in a
10 residential neighborhood. And quite frankly, they're hideous.
11 They need to be redesigned to more -- to better harmonize with
12 the size, scale, and appearance of the general neighborhood.

13 The bases on signs along Arlington Drive will obstruct
14 views along the bike path in place by path users in jeopardy for
15 their safety, so there needs to be a redesign for that.

16 The -- this plan relies on a 2013 parking study which
17 staff concealed from the Planning Commission. I got a copy of
18 it from the City. This study is out of date and does not
19 address the massive traffic backups and parking and parking
20 issues.

21 We need to find a way to address the traffic backups
22 which are actually miles long going back to Paularino Avenue at
23 times and causing OCTA buses to route in Mesa Del Mar
24 neighborhoods and the lack of adequate parking during the fair.
25 If you're going to bring in that many people, you need to have a

1 place to put them.

2 And, again, staff needs to be working on these issue.
3 You have \$62 million in the bank. There's nothing barring you
4 from hiring a traffic firm to do those studies and to locate
5 parking and trying to find rental lots. Like, four months out
6 from fair just doesn't work.

7 We need a comprehensive traffic management and
8 planning plan. This project should be folded in as part of the
9 Master Site Plan. There's little value to be gained from this
10 project if we don't have a comprehensive traffic management and
11 parking plan. And this could, quite frankly, be a waste of
12 money. Thank you.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

14 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I -- I just need to make a
15 comment really quick. And you can stop me if I'm speaking out
16 of bounds, Josh. But --

17 MR. CAPLAN: So long as your comments are focused on
18 the Agenda, you can make your comment.

19 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I think it's just very
20 difficult for me to hear what anybody is saying when they're
21 personally attacking staff or members of this Board.

22 So we taken into consideration what everybody says,
23 but please, try to stay factual as possible.

24 MS. MUNDEKIS: I was stating facts.

25 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for your comment.

1 MR. POLLMEIER: Ms. Rubalcava-Garcia, did you watch
2 the video tape?

3 CHAIR RUIZ: You have not been recognized yet.

4 MR. POLLMEIER: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for your comment.

6 With that, I will call on the next speaker,
7 Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

8 MR. POLLMEIER: Yeah. I would like to ask -- and it's
9 a rhetorical question because I know she can't respond -- if
10 Ms. Rubalcava-Garcia actually watched the video tape link I sent
11 to her? As well as to all members.

12 You know, there's a thing called Hanlon's razor which
13 says: "Don't attribute to malice that which may be adequately
14 explained by ignorance."

15 And I'm going to try to apply that here. I've never
16 seen a plan -- I've been to many Planning Commission meetings.
17 Not just in Costa Mesa, but other places. What I saw was a
18 Planning Commission that was very confused. And they were
19 confused because what was presented to them was repeatedly
20 described as a conceptual plan and yet it was an application for
21 final approval of that plan.

22 At one point during the meeting -- I'm not sure. I
23 don't recall if it was Jason Jacobson or if it was Mr. Karns who
24 made the comment -- who basically laid out a timeline where it
25 could be a couple of years before these signs are built.

1 The Zoning Application expires after a year. What
2 there was here was a fundamental lack of understanding of what
3 the whole process should be. And the process should have been
4 to bring this conceptual design to the Board and to the public.
5 To have public workshops, not public meetings where people are
6 limited to three-minute comments. But public workshops where
7 the public can actually have meaningful -- can ask questions of
8 staff and can have meaningful input.

9 And by the way, I certainly hope that the budget
10 meetings next year -- next month -- are workshops and not just
11 meetings where -- where we're required to limit our comments to
12 three minutes because we need to have workshops.

13 And, in fact, that's what Planning Commissioner Zich
14 said. When Ken said to -- Ken said, "Well, I understand that
15 people are upset that this is the first they see it. But the
16 first time that someone sees something is always the first time
17 they see it."

18 And Commissioner Zich said, "Well, there's a big
19 difference between," won't you agree, "seeing it a couple days
20 before final approval meeting and seeing it for the first time
21 in the first of several workshops."

22 That's the point. We shouldn't be going off seeking
23 final approval for plans until they've been workshopped with the
24 public. Ditto the budget. Ditto the Master Site Plan. Same is
25 true of the branding exercise -- all of these things.

1 Embrace the public. Don't hold them in arms' length.
2 Don't have secret meetings between staff. Public -- "secret"
3 may be a -- unpublicized meetings between Board members and
4 staff. Bring the public in. Make them your partners because
5 that's what this is about. This is about failing to address the
6 public.

7 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on
8 Mr. Jay Humphrey, followed by Anna V.

9 MR. HUMPHREY: Good afternoon, Board, again.

10 This presentation for both here and at the city, I
11 applaud the fact that you're trying to get different parts and
12 pieces all, kind of, in place and what have you together. I
13 think that's wonderful.

14 And I appreciate the fact that you guys would, in
15 fact, have -- whoever instigated -- would go to the City to find
16 out what they're going to do, keeping in mind that there -- the
17 proposed signage would encroach on City property.

18 So while the City doesn't normally need to approve
19 anything you're building -- you can build wherever you want here
20 because the State approves it and the City has no word on it --
21 until it encroaches on City territory. And when it does that,
22 then you need to be talking to the City.

23 So -- but I applaud the fact that people say, "Well,
24 it might be encroaching so we need to get there." Keep in mind
25 that if the encroach is in the City and the City doesn't like

1 it, they can just say, "Tear it down." And I'm sure a Court
2 would say, "Follow that up." Making sure it's no longer
3 encroaching. So I applaud you guys for doing that.

4 My problem is is that it was clearly -- as has been
5 brought up -- horse before the cart. And the problem here is is
6 that in my estimation that part of the process should be full
7 information to the Board. And I look at the -- what I saw on
8 the Board packet -- the only thing I could get in the Board
9 packet is this piece of paper and a letter. That's it.

10 The same packet -- and by the way, all these pages --
11 the same packet -- is now available at the City which is a total
12 packet of what this program is and the packet is very
13 substantial for the Planning Commission -- the Planning
14 Commission -- to make a decision to allow a final approval of
15 these plans. These plans come from your consultant, not from
16 the City. The City didn't generate this. You guys generated
17 it.

18 So it's important to keep in mind that here is
19 material that has been done. And I got to see it the first time
20 two days before the Planning Commission -- three days, pardon
21 me -- before the Planning Commission to see it. And I only
22 became aware of it because the City put a sign on the ground
23 saying that this is going to happen. If the City hadn't put
24 that sign there, I would have never known it.

25 So keep in mind that this lack of information, whether

1 it was intentional, whether it was simply something that
2 somebody just overlooked because they don't necessary know all
3 the processes, it gives the public the sense that they're not
4 being involved with their neighbors.

5 And I know that you guys all keep telling me that you
6 want to be good neighbors, and I accept that. I accept that
7 everybody wants to do that. But sometimes the steps have to be
8 taken that force that to happen.

9 I appreciate this fact by that process, and I would
10 like to make sure that you guys expand it. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Anna V, followed by
12 Mary Spadoni.

13 MS. VRSKA: Ms. Spadoni had to leave.

14 First, to Member Rubalcava-Garcia, put your big girl
15 pants on and suck up the public comments. It's actually very
16 inappropriate for you to, in essence, have a chilling effect on
17 public comment by criticizing public comment. It's a First
18 Amendment right issue. Otherwise, don't choose public service.
19 That's my comment to you.

20 My comment to VP Karns is what a heaping load of crap.
21 You can try to put lipstick on it and dress it up, but that's
22 what it is. The way this process should have been done is as
23 follows: It should have been done -- it should have brought to
24 the Board where it is discussed.

25 After that, there should have been extensive public

1 outreach to make sure that it conforms to, you know, fits in
2 with the neighborhood. I understand that the fairgrounds wants
3 to do what they want to do in terms of boosting business, but
4 you still live -- I mean, this still is property within the
5 bounds of Costa Mesa and you have to live within the
6 neighborhood.

7 So putting them in jeopardy in terms of safety, in
8 terms of subjecting them to further traffic problems, visibility
9 issues, is not being a good neighbor and is not good. Then, and
10 only then, once all that process has been done, it should have
11 gone to the Commission.

12 Having this gone straight to Commission makes me
13 wonder, I mean, how -- how many years has VP Karns been here?
14 How many years have you all been doing this? You don't know the
15 process about going to the Planning Commission and what that
16 entails?

17 I think everyone was confused about what the heck was
18 going on. And what makes the thing even more egregious is that
19 this signage doesn't even conform to the rules and regulations.
20 In some instances, it's asking for 300 percent more signage that
21 is allowed.

22 I mean, so you all can package it up and put bows on
23 it however you want, but this is exactly what the public has
24 been criticizing in so many areas. And the reason we come up
25 here and criticize is not because we don't have something better

1 to be doing than sitting here six hours, is because you all are
2 not doing your jobs and overseeing the stuff that needs to be
3 done. You can delegate authority, but you cannot delegate
4 responsibility. Thank you.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on the next
6 speaker, Beth Refakes.

7 MS. REFAKES: Beth Refakes, Costa Mesa resident.

8 I did attend the Planning Commission Meeting. And
9 from my perspective what was presented wasn't quite ready for
10 prime time.

11 First of all, the project was brought to the City
12 prior to any approval by the Fair Board. Second of all, there
13 was no community outreach. There were residents there who had
14 just found out about it. They didn't know anything about it.

15 And if you say you're going to be good neighbors, you
16 have to do community outreach before you kind of ram this stuff
17 down people's throat.

18 There's no light study on the impacts surrounding
19 residents. Some residents that were at the Planning Commission
20 meeting said that they were already bothered by some of the
21 lights from the fairgrounds.

22 I was a volunteer at the -- the car show here on -- on
23 the first Friday of October. And when the show was over --
24 which was about 7:00 o'clock -- it was dark out. The
25 illumination from the main sign at the main gain gate provided

1 so much light, we didn't need to have any additional lighting to
2 pick up all our stuff and pack it onto our vehicles. So there
3 is a lot of light given off by these LED signs.

4 The other problem is that the project is based on a
5 2013 study. You should have a traffic study done and a parking
6 study done. I think there were also issues that were brought up
7 in your Master Site Plan about re-striping the parking lot to
8 get more vehicles parked. So things have changed since 2013 and
9 I think you need to look at that.

10 The other thing is that the signs are too high. And
11 you're going to have people driving along looking up at the
12 signs and they're not going to be paying attention to the
13 pedestrian traffic. So I have a lot of concern with that.

14 The footings along Arlington are too large and they
15 can cause visibility from -- for pedestrians. Okay. You're not
16 going to be able to see pedestrians when they're walking along
17 these large solid footings.

18 And I know this went to the bike --
19 Walkability Committee that the City has and they were also
20 concerned about the safety of pedestrian traffic along Arlington
21 because of the size of signs.

22 And since the state cramps local control, is there any
23 ability for the City to enforce the conditions of approval
24 because there were a lot of conditions of approval attached to
25 the approval process for dimming when they had to be dimmed and

1 different issues so that the LED lights were not so invasive and
2 could impact the residents. So I hope you rethink this. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. Any more questions or
5 comments from the Board before we move onto the next item?

6 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just a couple.

7 I -- I -- clearly, this needs to be an action item
8 where the Board can actually provide some direction to staff.
9 So at some point in time, I'd like to see this come back as an
10 action item.

11 Before that, I would like to see input from the
12 community. The, you know, all we have is an example of what the
13 sign would look like. We don't how many, where, et cetera, et
14 cetera. So I think going forward with this at this point in
15 time is premature.

16 But, again, it's just an information item, so I just
17 share that for whatever is worth.

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. Okay. We'll now move
19 onto the next item which is Item 9E. And I will turn that over
20 to Director Rubalcava-Garcia and Director Meyer.

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So today, the
22 Audit Committee would like to get approval on the response
23 letter related to the 2017 Audit.

24 Everything in here addressed the items in the
25 management report. So we did also, as a mentioned earlier,

1 provide a copy to the public for review and comment. So if
2 anybody else has any questions, I'd like to get a motion to
3 approve.

4 CHAIR RUIZ: Is there a motion?

5 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: So moved.

6 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

7 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
8 vote.

9 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

10 CHAIR RUIZ: My apologies. Back up. I didn't see the
11 public speakers. I'm sorry. I will go back to that. Need to
12 get another cup of coffee.

13 Okay. I will call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by
14 Vincent Pollmeier.

15 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm
16 addressing 9E regarding the 2017 Audit.

17 I am having issues with the letter that you're
18 proposing. At the last Board meeting, the draft of the letter
19 was passed out to the audience and that was only -- that only
20 came after a letter was sent to the Board regarding: "Where's
21 the audit?"

22 So in paragraph 3, Internal Control Weaknesses and
23 Contracting Policies and Procedures, I am really having a great
24 deal of difficulty with the way that you're trying to soft-pedal
25 the way that the previous audits were delayed and held back and

1 hidden in many ways and prevented resolution of the issues in a
2 timely manner.

3 You know, it says: "This finding was a matter of
4 timing," in quotes, "as it was a reportable action from the 2016
5 Audit and action correct was taken at the May 2018 Board
6 meeting."

7 We need to be clear on that -- that critical
8 information was hidden from the Board. That the CEO was not
9 sharing the audit reports with the Board in a timely manner, and
10 there needs to be stronger wording on that.

11 There needs to be clarity as to the facts as far as
12 what happened, instead of soft pedalling it with "timing" in
13 quotes. And you need to be clear in what you're doing as far as
14 preventing audits from overlapping again.

15 When you lay out a timeline of the way that audits are
16 performed by CDFA and how this Board deals with the audits, you
17 find that there are multiple audits open from CDFA and that the
18 Board is just taking their time in dealing with these issues.

19 These issues were supposed to be dealt with within 30
20 days of the audit being completed. And, you know, while you're
21 trying to -- I'm not exactly sure what the policy is from CDFA,
22 whether they want the audit resolution letter within 30 days
23 from the closure of the audit after the auditors tell you what
24 the findings are, or from the final delivery of the report.

25 Either way, the auditor meets with you at the end of

1 the audit and says what needs to be corrected. So it's easy at
2 that point to start putting in the corrective actions and
3 getting the draft letter ready. That way, you are ready to go
4 and close out that audit.

5 It is very bad that this organization does not deal
6 with audits in a timely manner. And that letter needs to be
7 corrected to actually show the truth of what happened.

8 And we need to be honest that there are a lot of
9 issues here. And we need to start addressing those very clearly
10 and taking the necessary corrective actions which involve -- may
11 involve retraining or replacing staff as needed. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on -- yes.
13 Go ahead.

14 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So in response to that --
15 and you may expand if you have to add anything to that,
16 Andreas -- so everything in this letter is factual.

17 And the way the process does work, is all of this
18 feedback that we are addressing is directly from the auditor.
19 So these are the auditor's concerns to the audit.

20 So we are, in essence, responding. I did put my girl
21 pants on when I wrote this letter and addressed everything as
22 professionally as I possibly could.

23 There are some duplicate responses in here as it
24 relates to Item 3 as mentioned by the public comment. And the
25 reason why it's a duplicative is because we addressed this when

1 we did the 2016 Audit. It was -- there was the same -- this
2 issue was also brought up in that audit. And due to the delay,
3 we responded to it here as well.

4 Moving forward, we should not have overlapping because
5 as -- I can speak to Director Andreas and I -- have worked
6 diligently in making sure that we're closing these audits out.
7 And moving forward, there should not be an overlap. And
8 that's -- that's all I have to say about that, so --

9 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.
10 Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

11 MR. POLLMEIER: Well, first off, I want to -- I want
12 to commend Directors Rubalcava-Garcia and Myer and their goal of
13 trying to stop this -- this -- the lengthy delays of these
14 audits and move them along expeditiously and get them resolved.
15 And I also want to commend them for releasing this letter for
16 public comment.

17 But there's a problem. And the problem is that the
18 letter responds to the -- responds to the management report.
19 The conclusions of the management report from the audit.
20 There's no way for the public to know if these responses are
21 adequate, reflect the needs of the public, or anything --
22 without seeing that management report too. And that was never
23 released. And the State -- the CDFA has taken the position that
24 until they receive this letter, they can't release that audit.
25 So it falls upon this Board. This Board has the authority, and

1 apparently, the responsibility to release that.

2 Now, specifically, I have an issue -- I want to draw
3 an issue to two of the things of the responses. So in response
4 for payments for outside legal counsel, it says:

5 "With respect to securing outside legal counsel at its
6 meeting of May 23rd, 2019, the Board adopted a policy
7 prohibiting the District from engaging outside legal counsel,
8 unless those professional services are proved by the Attorney
9 General's Office in writing." That sounds great. But that's
10 the law.

11 What you just said there is: "We agree to not break
12 the law any more." Okay. Then if you look to 3, "In response
13 to finding the management report, the District did not establish
14 written policies and procedures regarding its contracting as
15 required by Section 4051 of the Food & Agriculture Code.

16 The District -- the Board adopted an amendment to
17 District's asset protection policy requiring the District to
18 procure any goods or services complying with any and all
19 applicable portions." And it goes on to list several state laws
20 and regulations.

21 Well, if you look at Section 4051 of the Food &
22 Agriculture Code, it basically says that an association can
23 contract in accordance with -- has to contract in accordance
24 with (A) the written policies and procedures for contracting
25 that are developed and maintained by the Board of Directors of

1 the Association and all applicable state laws.

2 So, again, what those written policies and procedures
3 are supposed to be -- policies and procedures -- are the
4 procedures to make sure that you follow State law.

5 Saying, "We're not going to break the law any more" is
6 not an adequate response. Now, I recognize -- and so one of the
7 things I want to make sure is that in the effort that's going
8 forward with Director Meyer, as you guys do your -- your
9 policies, that your policies include specific procedures to make
10 sure that contracting does follow the law -- all the laws.

11 And by the way, I'll point out as I pointed out
12 earlier in the meeting, you have a contract right now that's
13 illegal with a law firm. You're breaking this.

14 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you.

15 DIRECTOR MEYER: Robert, can I just make a few
16 comments on this following up on what Natalie shared.

17 First, I completely agree -- and both of us completely
18 agree that the timing of these audits getting completed is just
19 not acceptable. And it's something that we are working on,
20 correcting. We are also both frustrated by the fact that it
21 took until this meeting for this to be brought forward. And
22 we've expressed our unhappiness about that fact.

23 Onto the specific items that are discussed in the
24 letter, I actually would be comfortable with making this
25 language a little bit stronger if -- if the Board is interested

1 in doing that as well. I do think it's concerning that it took
2 until 2018 to correct an audit finding that actually goes back
3 to the 2015 Audit Report. I think that's just unacceptable.

4 I will say that the language that's in the policy that
5 was adopted in 2018 was reviewed by the auditor and he indicated
6 that it was sufficient to abate this audit finding. I think
7 it's not a very well drafted revision of the policy, and it's
8 something that's on our list for the Governing Review Process to
9 make it clear.

10 That said, the Board won't be adopting a 200-page
11 contracting manual because one exists at the State level and
12 that's what we're following, and I have a lot of confidence in
13 our contracting staff that they're following it appropriately.

14 So there are going to be some specific restrictions
15 around contracting and the Board will address in the policy, but
16 I don't want there to be a misunderstanding about what's
17 required because the auditor has been clear to us that by
18 adopting the safe contracting manual as the policies and
19 procedures that apply to us, that's sufficient to meet the
20 statutory requirement.

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Go ahead.

22 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So what amendments would
23 you make? Because I don't -- I am all for amending it, but I
24 don't know if it's worth the delay.

25 So if we amend this, then we can't close it out and we

1 can't start getting the 2018 then. We're well into preparing
2 for 2019. And I'm all for making -- believe me, like, for those
3 of you who know me, I'm a very direct person and I have no
4 problem with stronger language; however, I'm not sure it's going
5 to help us in this case.

6 So, you know, I appreciate that. And moving forward,
7 we can draft stronger language when it comes to delays. But --
8 so -- that -- that's --

9 DIRECTOR MEYER: This has to get closed out today.

10 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. All right. Is there a motion on
11 the floor?

12 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So moved.

13 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

14 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
15 vote.

16 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

17 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

18 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

19 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

23 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

24 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

25 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

1 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

2 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

4 Okay. We now move onto the next item, Item F, which
5 is Consideration of and Vote of the Board Policy Regarding
6 Public Comment During the 32nd DAA Board Meetings, Including
7 Whether a Member of the Public Can Cede Speaking Time to Another
8 Member of the Public.

9 Director Bagneris wanted this on the Agenda, but,
10 obviously, she isn't here today. So I'm going to read the
11 background on this:

12 "At the September 26th, 2019 Board of Directors
13 meeting, a member of the public read a statement provided to her
14 by another member of the public not present at the meeting. The
15 member of the public did not exceed the three-minute limit.

16 Director Bagneris asked to agendize discussion of
17 public comment during Orange County Fair & Exhibition -- I mean,
18 Event Center Board meetings, including whether to allow one
19 member of the public to seek his or her time to another member
20 of the public."

21 And I do have some language here, Josh. Can I read
22 the --

23 MR. CAPLAN: Sure.

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. This is the language she was --
25 wanted to see on here and it reads like this:

1 "Speakers are requested to sign in prior to the start
2 of the meeting and are limited to three minutes." That's
3 current language.

4 This is the new language that she wanted to adopt.
5 It's, "Speakers may -- speakers' time may not be modified based
6 on the number of public speakers. No speaker may cede his or
7 her time to any other speaker. Public comments on Agenda items
8 will not be accepted during the meetings as items are addressed.

9 Public comment on issues not on the current Agenda is
10 allowed; however, no debate by the Board shall be permitted on
11 such public comments and no action will be taken on such public
12 comments items at this time, as law requires formal public
13 notice prior to any action on the agenda."

14 Do I have any comments or questions from the Board
15 before I go to the public?

16 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I don't recall seeing that.

17 MS. MUNDEKIS: Yeah. We didn't get that in the Agenda
18 packet. This is the first time we're hearing it. Thank you.

19 CHAIR RUIZ: That's on here. So --

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think what Doug was referring to
21 is Director Bagneris' proposed changes.

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Right. That was not in the packet? Oh,
23 the language, you mean.

24 MS. MUNDEKIS: No.

25 DIRECTOR AITKEN: The proposed language you just -- I

1 just would need to read it. I'm not --

2 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. All right.

3 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think I heard it correctly, but
4 I'm not prepared to vote on any changes to pretty well
5 established public comment law without reading it.

6 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

7 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: And I agree with Ashleigh.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: I will read what she was proposing.
9 Only, it says, "Speakers may not -- no. Speakers time may be
10 modified based on the number of public speakers. No speaker may
11 cede his or her time to another speaker." That's the language.

12 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I think that's at the
13 discretion of the Chair; right? I mean, that was something that
14 we talked last week. And I don't know if it would call for
15 amending current language. Because I do agree that it could
16 result in, you know, other issues, but I think that it's at the
17 Chair's discretion whether or not they want to allow somebody to
18 utilize somebody else's time.

19 DIRECTOR MEYER: I wouldn't be comfortable adopting
20 the --

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. You know, and it's not something
22 that's happening at every meeting. Something, I believe, it's
23 only happened one time since I've been here. So if the Board is
24 comfortable, we'll just keep current language as is.

25 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I mean, my question would be:

1 Is there any type of liability for the Board if we don't have a
2 policy and we allow one person to do it and then the next
3 meeting somebody comes up with a microphone and they have
4 letters from five people and want 15 minutes.

5 MR. CAPLAN: There is. So if the Board decides to
6 tell one member of the public to speak for three minutes and
7 then use somebody else's three minutes, then they would have to
8 apply that same allowance across the board.

9 You certainly -- if you give the opportunity to one
10 person, you have to give it to every member of the public.

11 DIRECTOR MEYER: Why don't we frame the question a
12 little differently.

13 As I recall what happened at that last meeting, the
14 person didn't speak longer than the three minutes that they were
15 allowed and they were able to read the letter they had from
16 somebody else within their three minutes.

17 I don't see a reason to deviate from that practice at
18 this point. And so until there's a reason to think of doing it,
19 maybe -- I don't know that we even need to follow or adopt a
20 policy.

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. That's -- if there's no more
22 questions or comments, I'm going to turn it over --

23 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I have a comment.

24 CHAIR RUIZ: Go ahead.

25 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I was the acting Chair when you

1 were not here and this happened. Well, I made a decision that
2 the person was able to read and it was under three minutes
3 total.

4 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

5 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just a comment if I could.

6 Not to carry things on too long, but I've worked in
7 organizations where it was very specific. Three minutes is
8 three minutes, three minutes.

9 I've also worked in organizations where an individual
10 was allowed to give their three minutes or whatever their time
11 was to another party to, basically, get all of the facts out on
12 a specific issue.

13 I mean, we've had, I don't know, Ashleigh will
14 remember the elephant hearings that we were involved in and, you
15 know, after a while, you know, hearing the same thing over and
16 over and over and over again. And sometimes there is a benefit
17 to allowing one spokesperson to have 10 or 15 minutes to
18 articulate the point of 20 people in the audience. So there is
19 some advantage to allowing them to give their three minutes to
20 somebody else.

21 Again, I've been in organizations where it worked both
22 ways, and I think the important thing is making sure that the
23 public has an adequate opportunity to speak to the Board on any
24 and all matters that are before us.

25 DIRECTOR MEYER: Can be table it?

1 CHAIR RUIZ: Yeah. We can definitely do that. But I
2 want to hear from the public speakers that wish to speak on this
3 item.

4 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Move to table.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Hear from speakers. Yeah. I will call
6 on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

7 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm
8 addressing the restriction on free speech which is proposed in
9 the Agenda.

10 So the proposal is a restriction on the First
11 Amendment rights and on the rights enshrined in the California
12 Constitution and California Statute on the rights of public to
13 participate in this meeting.

14 We are not asking for excessive privilege to be
15 granted or that one person be granted excessive time over
16 another. What we're dealing with is the ability of someone to
17 read a written comment from another person within their three
18 minutes allotted them.

19 So under the proposed policy, I, for instance, could
20 not read part of a speech from Ronald Reagan during my three
21 minutes because Mr. Reagan is deceased and cannot join us today.

22 I propose that the Board keep the current public
23 comment policy and then deal with things like, for instance, the
24 issues presented during the elephant hearings. Those were the
25 hearings in which the fairgrounds decided to no longer allow

1 elephant rides during the fair. And quite frankly, this meeting
2 room was packed more than you've seen in the last several years.

3 The Board can make special provisions for dealing in
4 situations like that by encouraging a group to appoint a
5 spokesperson for their group and then deciding on a fair
6 allotment of time.

7 So I propose that you just keep things the way they
8 are; it works. We all know what the rules are. And thank you.

9 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Vincent Pollmeier, followed
10 by Anna V.

11 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: We should just vote on it.
12 I mean, it's an action item -- after.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Yeah.

14 MR. POLLMEIER: I strongly encourage you to table this
15 for a couple of reasons:

16 One, is that it's not at all clear what -- and she's
17 not here, so she can't explain -- it's not at all clear what
18 Chair Bagneris meant by "cede time."

19 Director La Belle talked about it in terms of where
20 one person turns their time over to another person so that
21 person has additional time. But the example which was given
22 that apparently triggered this, wasn't someone ceding their
23 time. It was them reading a comment from someone else which, by
24 the way, if it's simple not just said that it was a comment from
25 someone else, there'd be no way to know.

1 I also find it ironic that in discussing this, the
2 Chair read a comment from Director Bagneris who isn't here which
3 would not be allowed under Director -- under at least one
4 interpretation of what Director Bagneris wants.

5 So I think we should definitely table it at least
6 until we understand what the heck we're talking about. I also
7 think we should table it because when you read -- the two times
8 you read Director Bagneris' proposed language, in one -- the
9 first time you read it, you said that the time cannot be
10 shortened because of the number of people -- number of speakers.

11 And the second time you read it, you said the time can
12 be shortened because the number of people. I suspect the latter
13 is what was meant, but it probably should be consistent.

14 So I recommend we table this. Keep the current policy
15 as it is, and then, you know, I don't see this as being a huge
16 problem, especially if the latter -- the former situation where
17 someone is simply reading someone else's comments who can't be
18 here, especially when this Board won't move meetings to times
19 when people aren't working. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on Anna V,
21 followed by Mary Spadoni.

22 MS. VRSKA: So I'm frankly tired of this Board trying
23 to do things to limit public comment. Whether it's having
24 meetings at inopportune times or whether it's trying to cut down
25 time or whether it's trying to control the content. I'm not an

1 attorney, but I've been going to public meetings enough to
2 understand that you cannot control the content.

3 And -- but what you're trying to do by saying someone
4 can't read a letter by someone else is controlling content and
5 that is a violation and you probably would get sued.

6 I had this issue with the City of Costa Mesa about
7 clapping. I was asked by the police to leave and I said I'd be
8 very comfortable doing that if you actually arrest me and take
9 me outside. I will not resist.

10 And I de facto one because actually clapping is a form
11 of speech. And if you allow clapping, then you can't allow
12 clapping for some things and not allow clapping for other things
13 because then you're de facto controlling what a person is trying
14 to say.

15 So it is a nuance thing but just embrace public
16 comments and embrace the criticism. Do your jobs, fix the
17 things that need fixing, and stop getting offended by people's
18 comments and trying to limit what people are saying. That would
19 be my advice. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mary Spadoni.

21 MS. SPADONI: I agree with all the previous speakers.

22 And many times as already mentioned, someone who can't
23 come to the meeting will call and say, "Look, would you express
24 my money on this," and they'll give some type of paragraph that
25 and want you to represent them because they can't be at this

1 meeting.

2 Our suggestions are not on anything that is to any one
3 individual member on the Board. It's just a genuine thing that
4 we want the fair to be run more fairly and that goes with the
5 public comments.

6 So if there's something that you can fix that you may
7 agree, you may not agree, but the public comment is just that.
8 It's a comment. We're protected by law, and I think you should
9 just keep the rule as you have it and go with it. And it might
10 stir you having an occasional evening meeting so those people
11 that are submitting something in writing could actually appear
12 in person. Thank you.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I will now turn it
14 back to the Board.

15 DIRECTOR MEYER: I move we table it.

16 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

17 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call
18 vote.

19 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

21 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

22 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

23 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.

25 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

1 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

2 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

3 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

4 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

5 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

6 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. We now move onto the
7 next item, Item 9G. And I will turn that over to
8 Michele Richards.

9 MS. RICHARDS: From time to time, we received notice
10 from California Department of Food & Agriculture, our State
11 agency, on updates to standard templates or forms that we use in
12 the course of business.

13 On August 30th, we received a letter from CDFA that
14 the standard F31 Template which is what a lot of the smaller
15 fairs use for fair time or year-round event rentals, that there
16 were some updates to that form.

17 The form that we use in our rental agreements, most
18 often is greatly expanded from what CDFA, you know, issues as
19 standard templates and contains stronger language. But we
20 wanted to take a look at what these amendments were and
21 incorporate them into our existing rental agreements to make
22 sure that any changes or any pertinent information was included.

23 Some of what CDFA is recommending is already a part of
24 our booking and rental policies or our rules and regulations.
25 And staff is in the process of incorporating any of those

1 amendments into our current form.

2 I'm happy to go through them, you know, line by line
3 if you'd like. I'm happy to not do that if you prefer as well.
4 It's important to understand, though, that the changes CDFA has
5 indicated are legally sufficient.

6 So, you know, our staff is working to incorporate
7 those amendments into the form that we use for year-round events
8 and then rentals during fair time. So it's up to the Board's
9 discretion. Again, I'm happy to go through it line by line if
10 you'd like.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: Any questions or comments from the Board?

12 DIRECTOR MEYER: Just one. And it's not one that
13 needs to be addressed at this time because I think we are going
14 to address it with the Governance Process.

15 But I continue to have a problem with any use of our
16 property in a discriminatory fashion. And so not including
17 non-discrimination language in any agreements we're entering
18 into for use of our property is something that really offends
19 me.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Any more questions or comments
21 from the Board?

22 (No response)

23 If not, I will go into the public speakers and I will
24 call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

25 MS. MUNDEKIS: Mr. Pollmeier has left.

1 I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking on Item 9G
2 regarding the new contracting terms.

3 Thank you to the Board for bringing this forward.
4 There's a lot of really good updates to the contract terms,
5 including the emergency use laws. So thank you for doing this.
6 I do have a few questions. And if staff can answer them today,
7 we can get them answered or in a future meeting.

8 My understanding is that this is going to be language
9 used going forward. I am particularly concerned about the
10 emergency use language because that involves a lot of public --
11 that involves public safety and security.

12 So I'm wondering if there's any way that we can give
13 notice to renters with contracts which -- for future events
14 which have been signed during the process of being signed --
15 that the emergency use clause would apply to them.

16 And the reason I ask this is that sometimes there are
17 contracts which are negotiated a year in advance and they would
18 not -- and even though that event has not happened yet -- that
19 new emergency use clause would not be included in the contract
20 because the contract has already been executed and agreed to.

21 So just trying to find out if there's a way that we
22 can plug any gap with the emergency use clause to have it cut in
23 at a certain date for all users of the property. That way, it's
24 uniform and easier to administer.

25 My other question regarding long-term events like

1 Cirque du Soleil. Cirque du Soleil comes here, like, once every
2 two or three years. They camp out for about six weeks and they
3 have a separate type of agreement because they have a different
4 use of the property than somebody who just comes in here for a
5 few days to have an event.

6 On those events, how would the emergency use clause be
7 implemented? Again, if somebody wants to get back to me on this
8 or wants it to be discussed meeting at a future Board meeting,
9 that's great. You know, it's -- you know, and I'd like to thank
10 the Board and staff for taking action regarding this because
11 it's really important that we recognize that this property --
12 one of the reasons is here is for emergency use and sheltering
13 of people and animals and staging of equipment. So thank you.

14 DIRECTOR MEYER: I'm willing to move the approval of
15 this.

16 I actually would be interested in the answers to the
17 first question about about on and off -- for contracts -- a
18 binding contract is a binding contract, but if CDFA has any
19 guidance about what to do with contracts regarding already
20 entered into, there's an operational way to address that. I
21 would be interested in that.

22 MS. RICHARDS: Well, contracts can always be amended.
23 That's kind of the short and simple answer. But John Quiroz
24 from CDFA is here. Maybe he could answer it more specifically.
25 So I think the question is regarding the emergency use language.

1 Can that be -- can contracts that are currently in
2 place be amended to include that? Even contracts that have
3 already been signed?

4 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Or do they need to be?

5 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah.

6 MR. QUIROZ: So, yes. Those --

7 CHAIR RUIZ: John, can you step up to the mic, please.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. QUIROZ: Yeah.

10 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

11 MR. QUIROZ: Thank you. Yes. Those contracts can be
12 amended. But first, I would like to check with our Legal
13 Department to make sure that, you know, if there's any certain
14 situations that might come about because I know there's
15 different terms. Some -- there's years, some are, you know,
16 actually go a lot longer than that. So I have to check with our
17 Legal, but I will get back and, of course, confirm with Josh as
18 well. Thanks.

19 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

20 DIRECTOR MEYER: So I move the approval which is ask
21 that you follow through on that and find out.

22 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

23 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second for
24 approval. Roll call to vote.

25 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

1 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

2 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

3 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

4 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

6 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

7 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

8 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

9 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

10 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

11 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

12 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Okay. We now move
13 onto the next item, 9H. And I will turn that over to
14 Michele Richards again.

15 MS. RICHARDS: So this is a bit of an annual
16 housekeeping item.

17 This is Consideration of and Vote on the Appointment
18 of the Board Chair to Serve on Behalf of the 32nd DAA as an
19 Elector for the California Fair Services Authority Board of
20 Directors Elections.

21 In the past, up until -- oh, gosh. I don't know.
22 Maybe seven -- seven -- eight years ago, it used to be the CEO
23 of the OC Fair & Event Center would serve on the Board of
24 Directors of CFSA.

25 But you if you look in the notes and on the staff

1 report, there was a new policy that this Board of Directors
2 adopted that be it resolve that the OC Fair & Event Center Board
3 Chair is hereby appointed to serve on behalf of the OC Fair &
4 Event Center as an elector for California Fair Services
5 Authority Board of Directors.

6 So that's the recommendation in place.

7 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So moved.

8 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

9 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second.

10 DIRECTOR MEYER: Is this our new Chair or our current
11 Chair?

12 MADAM SECRETARY: The new.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: The new Chair, right, Josh?

14 MR. CAPLAN: It's whoever the existing Chair is.
15 Whenever these meetings are.

16 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

17 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Right now it's you. In a few
18 minutes it may not be.

19 (Public laughs)

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Roll call to vote.

21 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

22 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

23 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

24 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

25 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

2 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

3 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

4 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

5 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

6 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

7 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you. Okay. We now
9 move onto the next item, 9I. And then we'll turn that again to
10 Michele Richards.

11 MS. RICHARDS: Actually, another housekeeping item --
12 oh, wait. Are we out of order here? Sorry. Oh, "I"? Okay.
13 This is another annual housekeeping issue.

14 The 32nd DAA Board of Directors Delegates Authority to
15 Execute All Forms of Agreements, Contracts, and Purchase Orders
16 Without Further Authorization From the BOARD. All Such
17 Agreements, Contracts, and Purchase Orders Are to be Submitted
18 to the Board of Directors for Review at Subsequent Meetings.
19 And This Delegation is Subject to Board Review at Each Annual
20 Meeting.

21 And you can see there are authority limits that
22 include contractual authority to CEO Kathy Kramer up to 50,000
23 for general contracts and 300,000 for talent guarantees.

24 To myself as VP of Business Development, and Ken
25 Karns, VP of Operations, that we may sign contractual

1 instruments as delegated by the CEO within the limits of that
2 authority.

3 And then, additionally, the Board authorizes an
4 exemption for staff to issue payments for billings in excess of
5 50,000 via the over 50,000 expenditure budget schedule which is
6 submitted with each annual budget, or an approved contract, LOU,
7 or rental agreement, or is payment for utilities, Cal Card
8 expenditures, insurance payroll, or State-mandated employee
9 services.

10 So, essentially, what this does is it reestablishes
11 signing authority on contracts and other instruments.

12 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Chair Ruiz, if I might. I know
13 the Governance Committee is working on a number of policies that
14 will tie into contracting provisions and that.

15 I would like to recommend that this be carried over
16 for consideration at the time we adopt the annual budget in
17 December. I think that would be the more appropriate time to be
18 reviewing contract limits and authority and that sort of thing.

19 So I know it's on for an action item tonight -- or
20 today -- but that would be my -- my preference.

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Well, when does the
22 current authorization expire? So we don't -- I don't want to
23 tie anybody's hands to getting work done and making sure the
24 operations continue.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. That's a very good question and

1 I'm going to rely on my memory on this because it's not
2 typically something that I'm involved with from an approval
3 standpoint.

4 But this is considered the annual meeting. So last
5 year at this time, the Board voted this approval. I don't know
6 if it's right to assume that it's until the next annual meeting.
7 I'll look to Josh.

8 MR. CAPLAN: No. In the description, I'm clear on
9 whether -- it's not clear whether this authority is granted for
10 a specific period of time.

11 In other words, whether this is looking forward to
12 January 1, 2020 for the 2020 calendar year, or whether it's
13 from, you know, October 24th, 2019, to October 2020. Language
14 here is not clear. And I'm pretty certain that last year when
15 this item was discussed, also, there was no discussion on what
16 dates that authority would apply to.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Some from a governance
18 perspective, maybe that's something we definitely include. What
19 dates it covers.

20 Do you anticipate that -- and I can't recall if we
21 talked about this. I know we have but I can't recall if we made
22 any decisions to to change it, but have we talked about changing
23 any of the contract limitations or --

24 DIRECTOR MEYER: We haven't gotten there yet. I mean,
25 the way I read it, there seems to be a standing delegation in

1 Policy 2.3, for signature authority. And I think this is
2 agendized because it's automatically agendized every year at the
3 annual meeting. I think that means that authority delegation
4 lapses.

5 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: We can always -- even if
6 we approved it today, we can revisit it at another time if it's
7 agendized and make modifications to it. So we're not tied to it
8 for an entire 12-month period.

9 A couple of amendments I would recommend moving
10 forward is I would eliminate the names next to the titles. I
11 would just put the title. So whoever is in that position is the
12 person who would be making those -- who has that authority.
13 That's one recommendation. But other than that, I think --

14 DIRECTOR MEYER: And that's how the policy currently
15 reads, so I'm not sure. I would say we just defer to what the
16 policy authorizes.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. But I would move to
18 approve.

19 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: No.

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Oh, public comment.
22 Sorry.

23 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes. Comments before we get there. No.
24 That's okay. I have a couple of speakers and I will call on
25 Reggie Mundekis, followed by Anna V.

1 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking
2 to Item 9I which is the delegation of authority.

3 I think there's been a number of great questions from
4 Mr. Caplan and Board members regarding the specifics of this
5 delegation of authority. I have a number of questions.

6 Okay. It says that you're delegating authority to CEO
7 Kathy Kramer. CEO Kathy Kramer was not at the Monday Board
8 meeting and is not at this Board meeting and has accepted a job
9 at another out-of-state fairground. So the Board needs to tell
10 the public whether Kathy Kramer still works here or not and
11 if -- and in what capacity.

12 Until the issues with Ms. Kramer are resolved for the
13 financial safety and security of this facility, I'm requesting
14 that her delegation of authority be withdrawn because it's not
15 prudent to have Ms. Kramer who is in some state other than being
16 in full employment here, perhaps, having authority to conduct
17 financial transactions on behalf of this institution. If you
18 want to give the authority to Ms. Richards, I would not have
19 issue with that.

20 There's also an issue with the amount of authority
21 you're giving away. What you're doing here -- and you probably
22 don't realize it -- is that you've given away all of your
23 authority to staff which is why when you ask staff to do
24 something differently or to not engage in a transaction, they
25 look at you and they say -- they look at you and they say, "But

1 you told me I can do that."

2 So you need to save some authority for yourself or put
3 in some clauses that say this may be edited or changed at any
4 time and that any matter may be called out for review by the
5 Board.

6 State law in the Food & Ag Code -- I don't have the
7 site in front of me -- says that any delegation of authority can
8 be revoked or changed at any time. And that language really
9 should be incorporated in here. That way if you -- for
10 instance, if things are working well and you have a CEO and
11 staff that you're in sync with and there aren't many issues, you
12 could have a broad delegation of authority.

13 But if things start to have issues or when matters
14 come up that you have a question about, you have the clause in
15 there that let's you claw things back and be in charge when you
16 need to be in charge. So thank you very much. And I greatly
17 appreciate knowing whether or not Ms. Kramer still works here.

18 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Next speaker, Anna V.

19 MS. VRSKA: So I support efficiency and I think
20 sometimes it does make sense to delegate and sometimes it
21 doesn't make sense.

22 Over the last few years because of this broad
23 delegation of authority, there have been a lot of problems at
24 this institution. So for me, what that says is that it has to
25 be pulled back -- this delegation. We have to redo the rules or

1 put new checks and balances -- whatever has to be done.

2 And then once we're in that better place, maybe the
3 authority can be rereleased to some of these levels. But as
4 things stand now, I think this is not prudent at all. I hope we
5 can learn from the mistakes that have happened in the past. And
6 there have been numerous ones and very many different issues
7 that I'm not going to repeat myself and bring them up again.

8 But I will repeat that, you know, while you can
9 delegate authority, you cannot delegate responsibility. And
10 ultimately, even though Kathy Kramer was CEO and, you know, made
11 all these decisions in the past few years that have come back to
12 bite the community and you all in the rear end, you still are
13 the responsible entities. It's not on Kathy Kramer. It's on
14 you for letting her do the stuff that has been done all these
15 years for which you've been warned during the years.

16 You know, there's been grumbling about public and
17 looking into this and looking into that and looking at this
18 contract, and why is this contract being done this way, and why
19 are things being signed after the whole thing has happened and,
20 you know, all this liability stuff.

21 So my opinion would be to be -- to put in as many
22 safeguards as you can without, you know, having to micromanage.
23 But definitely put in the language about that it can be revoked
24 at any time. Maybe lower some of the limits and remove the
25 names.

1 And, yes, please elucidate what is going on with CEO
2 Kramer. Thank you.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Okay. I will now
4 turn it back to the Board.

5 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I move and carry this over until
6 the budget process adoption at the December meeting and we
7 consider at that time.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion on the floor. Is there
9 a second?

10 DIRECTOR MEYER: Second.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Question?

12 MS. RICHARDS: Just a quick question.

13 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: What does carry it over
14 mean?

15 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: That we consider making any
16 changes at the -- as a part of the budget process.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So does the other continue
18 to -- okay. So we're not going to halt operations?

19 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: No, no.

20 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay.

21 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

22 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Any changes would be dealt with as
23 a part of the --

24 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. Because nothing's
25 changed, though; right? So this is exactly the same as what was

1 approved last year?

2 CHAIR RUIZ: Correct.

3 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: But we may make changes.

4 DIRECTOR MEYER: We have that authority at any time.

5 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I just think we need to do it --
6 this is a part of the overall budgeting process that we're going
7 to go through in November and December and I think what we do
8 ought to be as -- we consider as a part of that. That's all I'm
9 saying.

10 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. There's a motion and a second.

11 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So I'm concerned with that
12 motion only because it appears as though we're saying we're
13 going to table this item until next time and that, kind of, puts
14 staff in limbo.

15 So if you would entertain a recommendation, Doug, I
16 would recommend we move to approve this and then agendize it as
17 part of the budget discussion next time just to keep it seem
18 less.

19 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yeah. That's fine.

20 CHAIR RUIZ: So what is your motion?

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'd like to make a motion
22 to approve.

23 CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion on the floor already
24 by --

25 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So will you accept that?

1 CHAIR RUIZ: Director La Belle, would you accept that
2 amendment. Director La Belle?

3 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: As long as that amendment includes
4 bringing this back for consideration as part of the 2020 budget
5 process.

6 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I second that.

7 CHAIR RUIZ: All right. There's a motion.

8 DIRECTOR MEYER: One more. I thought Natalie's point
9 was a good one. We should strike the names and it should just
10 be the offices that are delegating.

11 CHAIR RUIZ: You're okay with that amendment,
12 Director La Belle?

13 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes. I'm fine with that.

14 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. There's a motion and a second on
15 the floor. Roll call to vote.

16 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

17 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

18 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

19 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

23 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

24 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

25 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

1 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

2 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

3 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Okay. Last item. I
4 will now turn it over to Director La Belle and Director Aitken.

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you. So it's that fun time of
6 year again. Director La Belle and I made up the Nominating
7 Committee.

8 And after a very lengthy and thorough vetting process
9 of all Board of Directors, we have a recommendation from our
10 committee and we would like to recommend and have the Board
11 consider our recommendation to appoint as the new Chair,
12 Director Cervantes, and as the Vice Chair, Director Meyer.

13 CHAIR RUIZ: Is there a motion on the floor for that?

14 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'd like to make a motion
15 to approve.

16 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

17 CHAIR RUIZ: Motion and a second. Roll call vote.

18 MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

19 CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

20 MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

21 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

22 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

24 MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

25 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

1 MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

2 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

3 MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

4 DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

5 CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Congratulations.

6 (Applause)

7 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So on behalf of the Nominating
8 Committee and obviously the entire Board, we wanted to present
9 Director Ruiz with this gavel and plaque of appreciation for
10 serving as a Board Chair for the year 2019 -- 18' to 2019.

11 It has been a pleasure to work with you. You are an
12 amazing steward of this organization, and you did an amazing
13 job. Two years is a -- it's a lot of time out of your day job.
14 And those of us that have served in that capacity recognize
15 that. And I just want to say from the Committee, thank you very
16 much for leading us through this year. Group photo.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Just don't get my shoes.

18 MS. RICHARDS: Andreas, can you pull the chair away.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Who are we looking at?

20 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for that, Ashleigh.
21 Director Aitken and Director La Belle.

22 And the new Chair and the new Vice Chair, I want to
23 congratulate both of you. I have no doubt this Board would be
24 in good hands with the two of you being the stewards for this
25 Board.

1 So having said that, we already had Closed Session. I
2 will now move onto the next item which is the Board of Directors
3 Matters of Public Information. And I will start to my right.
4 Director Rubalcava-Garcia, do you have anything?

5 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Nothing to report.

6 CHAIR RUIZ: Director Meyer?

7 DIRECTOR MEYER: Nothing to report.

8 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Director La Belle?

9 DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just to congratulate you, Robert.
10 I think you did an outstanding job in terms of all of your
11 efforts the past year. You were very responsive to all of our
12 requests, and I really want to thank you for your hard work.

13 And congratulations or condolences to Sandra and
14 Andreas. I really want to thank you for all your help and all
15 your efforts.

16 So -- and my only other comment is when we have our
17 budget meeting on the 14th, let's make a special effort to get
18 the word out to do a press release or what have you that there
19 would be -- I think it's going to be set up as a committee
20 meeting -- but the intent is that the full Board would be here
21 and we'll go through a very detailed review the of what's been
22 proposed for 2020. With that no further comments.

23 CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Director Aitken?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Ditto that. No further comments.

25 CHAIR RUIZ: Director Cervantes?

1 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I also want to congratulate you
2 for a job well done and most important for being present and
3 your guidance.

4 And then I want to congratulate Director Meyer. This
5 is amazing. Thank you.

6 CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. And I'll just close out
7 and want to say thank you to the current Board for your support
8 that you gave me throughout this year -- last 12 months that I
9 was the Chair and to the staff as well. Great job as always.
10 Keep up the great work.

11 And to the new Chair and Vice Chair, you can count on
12 my support for anything you need. I will be here for you guys
13 and thank you all once again.

14 I will entertain a meeting -- I mean, our next Board
15 meeting will be November 21st, 2019. And is there a motion to
16 adjourn?

17 VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: So moved.

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Second.

19 CHAIR RUIZ: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

20 (Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, a Hearing Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that a record of the proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand, which was thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony given.

Further, that if the foregoing pertains to the original transcript of a public meeting, before completion of the proceedings, review of the transcript [] was [] was not requested.

I further certify I am neither financially interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any attorney or party to this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date subscribed my name.

Dated: November 7, 2019



LUIS R. HERNANDEZ

[& - 9h]

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[9i - agrees]

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[agricultural - appreciate]

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[appreciate - available]

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