



Board of Directors Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 **ITEM NUMBER:** 8A

SUBJECT: Update and Discussion on the Development of CAFE
(California Authority of Fairgrounds and Expositions)
Joint Powers Authority Initiative

DATE: September 17, 2021

FROM: Michele Richards, CEO

PRESENTATION BY: Michele Richards, CEO

RECOMMENDATION

Information item only.

BACKGROUND

At the request of the Governor's Office and with direction from CA Department of Food & Agriculture Secretary, Karen Ross, the framework is being developed for a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to establish the California Authority of Fairgrounds and Expositions (CAFE).

Some highlights of the proposed JPA include:

- The Authority would be governed by a Board, located in Sacramento, which would be comprised of thirteen (13) Directors: one from each of seven geographic areas representing the DAAs, one representing small fairs, one representing medium-sized fairs, one representing large fairs, one member appointed by the CDFA Secretary, one member appointed by the Director of the CA Department of Finance, and one member from the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).
- The primary purpose of the Authority would be to develop and provide service programs and a central administration to further the common interests of the member fairs to manage and operate fairgrounds in California pursuant to California Law. Some of the services currently being contemplated include human resources, procurement, contracting and legal.
- California Food and Agriculture Code Section 4051 provides that a District Agricultural Association can enter into a joint powers agreement with the

approval of the Secretary. The California Department of Food & Agriculture will be a member of the joint powers agreement and approves the participation of the DAAs.

- Each member fair could form a local nonprofit organization for the purpose of maintaining its fairgrounds and managing its programs including the annual fair.
- Members of the current DAA Board of Directors could serve on the local nonprofit Board.
- DAA employees could either maintain their status as CA State civil service employees or become employees of the local nonprofit.

This agenda item is meant to be a very brief introduction to the process currently being developed for the formation of the new JPA. There are many more questions to be asked and answered.

The Board will have the opportunity to have an initial discussion regarding the formation of this JPA and staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of further developments.