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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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**BOARD REVIEWS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**

ARCADIA, CA – A company specializing in surveillance systems reported Thursday to the California Horse Racing Board on the success of an experimental program that included two digital cameras monitoring activities in the stable area at Del Mar last summer.

The CHRB has shown interest in surveillance technology for several years and has been encouraging racetracks to install high-tech systems in their stable areas. Commissioners John Harris and Marie Moretti arranged for numerous presentations by companies specializing in camera security systems. And last February, Chairman Roger Licht named Commissioners Alan Landsburg and Harris to an ad hoc committee that is considering, among other things, whether to require racetracks to install such systems as a condition of licensure.

Nighthawk Security Systems installed the extensive surveillance system for the frontside at Del Mar, which is principally designed to cover public areas for crowd and traffic control. The system was expanded this year to include two cameras in the stable area.

Greg Levorchick, vice president of Nighthawk, demonstrated this backstretch surveillance experiment by showing digital replays to those attending the CHRB monthly meeting on Thursday at Arcadia City Hall. From as far as 1,500 feet away, the cameras were able to zoom in and provide remarkably vivid, close-up pictures of individuals as they walked through shedrows and approached horses in stalls. Levorchick emphasized that digital recordings are “court-admissible evidence.”

Michael Kilpack, the CHRB supervising investigator who oversaw the experiment at Del Mar, said surveillance cameras would be “one more valuable tool for monitoring activities in the stable areas.” Kilpack said he would work with the racetracks to make certain that any surveillance system would meet the specialized requirements of stable area security.

Several racing associations already have expressed interest in installing backside surveillance systems, and Commissioner Harris welcomed that interest, indicating he would prefer to see the racetracks install those systems voluntarily.

Commissioner Landsburg said following the presentation, “I think we’re looking at the future, and each step we take in this direction brings us greater integrity.”

In other business, Chairman Licht noted that Breeders' Cup Limited went to court and received a writ that restrains jockeys from wearing advertising in Breeders' Cup races this Saturday at Santa Anita Park, and the CHRB took action earlier this year to prohibit such advertising at all California racetracks on October 25.

"It is the Board's position that in the event that anyone attempts to violate these prohibitions, strong sanctions will be issued, including the possibility of even scratching the horse," said Licht. "This is being communicated to all of the riders, so hopefully we'll have full compliance."

A proposal to continue an experiment involving the veterinarian's list at the Hollywood Park fall meet failed to receive Board approval when the commissioners split 3-to-3 on the matter.

When a horse is scratched from a race for veterinary reasons, that horse goes onto the veterinarian's list and cannot race again until it comes off the list. CHRB policy requires horses to remain on the list for a minimum of five days.

Hollywood Park, which experienced an unusually large number of scratches in recent years, received permission from the CHRB to increase the minimum to 10 days for the 2003 spring-summer meet. This resulted in a 43-percent decrease in veterinary scratches, supporting Hollywood Park's contention that the real reasons for the scratches had nothing to do with the health of the horses. The major horsemen's organizations opposed the Hollywood Park proposal, indicating it would be an unfair burden on horse owners and would lead to even shorter fields.

Commissioners John Sperry, William Bianco, and Harris voted against the Hollywood Park proposal. Commissioners Licht, Moretti, and Landsburg voted in favor. Commissioner Sheryl Granzella was absent. Chairman Licht asked industry leaders to discuss alternatives for dealing with the problem of scratches and to report back to the Board in December.

The Board approved the license for a horse-racing meeting at Santa Anita from December 26, 2003, through April 18, 2004, and the Board conditionally approved the license for Los Alamitos from December 26, 2003, through December 19, 2004. The Board also approved one additional night of quarter-horse racing at Los Alamitos.

A motion to adopt a regulation allowing for a new wager called "Beat the Odds" failed for lack of a second.

Gregory Avioli, deputy commissioner with the National Thoroughbred Racing Associations, reported on the NTRA's progress over the last five years. He described the increased popularity of horse racing, due in part to expanded television coverage of horse racing arranged by the NTRA. He said the NTRA helped convince VISA to reverse itself and permit the use of its credit cards for account wagering. He also noted that the Breeders' Cup is expected to generate more than \$50 million for the local economy and State of California.

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