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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA EXCEEDS ‘SUPERTEST’ STANDARDS

SACRAMENTO, CA – The national “supertest” program may be temporarily stalled but horses participating on graded stakes cards at Del Mar and Oak Tree will continue to be subject to the tough testing standards called for by the national model.

Many horses running in California are currently being tested for over 800 compounds at minimum levels exceeding the standards proposed by the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. So, even though TOBA recently announced the national testing has been delayed while racing authorities work out jurisdictional differences, California is way out in front of that program.

The Kenneth Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at UC Davis – one of two official laboratories utilized by the California Horse Racing Board for the testing of post-race equine blood and urine samples – already exceeds the proposed standards in its routine, daily screening of all equine samples sent to the lab. That means that any horse racing in California – regardless of breed, location, or racing class – can face on a daily basis the same or higher levels of scrutiny than TOBA is recommending for graded stakes horses on a national level.

To be certain that all samples taken from horses racing in graded stakes at Del Mar and Oak Tree undergo this level of testing, those racing associations have made arrangements with the CHRB to send all samples collected from all horses racing on a graded stakes program to the Maddy laboratory for testing.

“Our position was that California already had the capability of meeting supertest requirements, so why not make certain we were taking full advantage of these capabilities at the Del Mar meet?” explained Craig Fravel, executive vice president of the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. “Samples taken from any horse running in any race on a day when there is a graded stakes at Del Mar will be sent to the Maddy lab.”

Dr. Rick Arthur, a director at Oak Tree, made a similar observation when he said: “Oak Tree’s position is that we already are exceeding the supertest standards in California in our testing at the Maddy laboratory. Therefore, we are asking the CHRB to send all samples on graded stakes programs to the Maddy lab. There still will be many regular days of samples sent there as well.”

Roy Wood, executive director of the CHRB, pointed out that “due to the excellent working relationships between the CHRB, the Del Mar and Oak Tree racing associations, and the University of California at Davis, there will be no incremental cost for implementing this program.”

John Harris, the current CHRB chairman and a longtime friend of the late Senator Ken Maddy, commented, “Ken helped secure the funding mechanism for the Maddy lab, which has many benefits to the horse industry. He would be very proud to see this lab perform so well and strengthen this important part of racing’s integrity.”

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