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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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BOARD TO WEBCAST MARCH 22 MEETING

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Horse Racing Board will webcast its March 22 meeting at Bay Meadows and will consider continuing the experiment at subsequent monthly meetings.

“We want to provide this opportunity for Internet users everywhere to watch and listen to our meetings,” explained Executive Director Ingrid Fermin. “This should give them a better understanding of the process and we hope a greater appreciation for the efforts of our racing commissioners and staff to effectively regulate a complex industry and protect the public.

“The program relies heavily on existing equipment and technologies located at the meeting locations, so that is a variable we will need to deal with. We should learn a great deal from the Bay Meadows experiment. Then, subject to how that goes and a determination of the cost of the program, we will decide whether we can continue webcasting future meetings.”

Mory Atashkar, the CHRB chief information officer, has been working with Mihir Desai, vice president of Operations for 3Di Systems, for streaming of CHRB meetings live over the Internet. The March 22 webcast will be accessed through the CHRB’s own website (<http://www.chrb.ca.gov>). This and any future webcasts will be included in a searchable archive on the CHRB website for later viewing.

Chairman Richard B. Shapiro said the webcast is part of the CHRB’s “ongoing quest to provide full transparency of our actions and to better engage the public, participants, and stakeholders in the discussion and decision-making process. We are fortunate to have Mory and his staff in the IT department to undertake this endeavor.” He noted that agendas for all monthly Board meetings and committee meetings already are available on the CHRB website, along with reports and documents for Board meetings. Furthermore, Board meeting transcripts are posted on the site a few weeks after each meeting.

3Di will utilize the Internet access and sound system already in place at Bay Meadows and at any other meeting locations. After Bay Meadows, the remaining CHRB meetings this year will be held at Arcadia City Hall (April 19), the Kenneth Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis (May 22), Hollywood Park (June 19), Del Mar Simulcast Facility (July 19), San Luis Rey Downs Training Center (August 21), Arcadia City Hall (September 27 and October 18), and Cal Expo (November 29). Meeting locations and dates are subject to change. Meeting schedules are updated on the

CHRB website.

Desai said his company provides multiple bandwidth streams, which “eliminates the jumpy, frozen, or blurred videos you might have seen on the Internet. Those with dial-up modems and those with broadband connections will enjoy the same webcast, with each being served according to his available Internet speed. Fast connections will receive full-motion video, while slow connections will view a still picture (with full audio) of the presenter.”

Working with Bernie Thurman, general manager of Bay Meadows, and the racetrack IT staff, Desai and Atashkar completed a successful trial run-through of the system on Thursday. If the webcasting program continues, similar test runs will be performed at the other meeting locations.

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