

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
Fax (916) 263-6042

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Los Alamitos Race Course
4961 E. Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Contact: Mike Marten
(714) 820-2748
Cell: (714) 240-1870
Fax (714) 821-6232

CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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EXPANDED CHRB COMMITTEE CONSIDERS RACING'S FUTURE

DEL MAR, CA – The thoroughbred racing calendar for 2008 and beyond will be considered Friday when the Strategic Planning Committee of the California Horse Racing Board convenes at 10 a.m. at the Surfside Race Place (simulcast facility).

CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro expanded the three-member panel to include all seven racing commissioners due to the special significance of the issues to be addressed, which include the possible closings of racetracks in California and the need for alternative plans for racing and stabling.

Traditionally, each year the CHRB only focuses on the following year's racing calendar, but some of the racing commissioners, particularly Chairman Shapiro and Commissioner Marie Moretti, have been advocating the development of multi-year plans, so the discussion Friday will look beyond 2008.

“We are looking at longer and deeper solutions to improve horse racing in California,” explained Chairman Shapiro. “The dialogue should be thoughtful and constructive. We need to establish goals to improve the industry.

“I’m hoping we will consider the criteria that we (the Board) should be using in the allocation of dates, while staying within the framework of the relevant provisions of the Horse Racing Law. Do we believe we have too much racing and do we want to consider cutting back race dates? Do we want gaps in the calendars to stimulate fan interest? Do we want to look at where we have synthetic tracks and where we don't have synthetic tracks? Let's finally get these issues on the table, deal with it, and try to make a difference.”

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