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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 11, 2007

HARRIS COMMITS TO HELPING ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES

SACRAMENTO, CA – Upon being reappointed to the California Horse Racing Board by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last month, John Harris indicated his top priorities for the next few years would be to continue working with the Board to improve racing in California and insure a level playing field for all stakeholders.

Harris, a Republican, was first appointed to the CHRB in 2000 by Governor Gray Davis, and then reappointed by Davis in 2003. This third term runs through July 26, 2011.

“We need to encourage an environment that will result in positive growth for the sport and business,” explained Harris. “One reason I wanted to stay on the Board is because of all the uncertainty right now relative to where racing will occur in both Northern and Southern California over the next decade. Given the strong possibility that two of our major, historic racing venues could close, we must all work together to ensure continuity of racing, continuity of training, and continuity of jobs and revenue to the industry and the State of California.

“I want to eliminate the practice of overlapping the fair meets with the thoroughbred meets in the north, as we no longer have the horse inventory to conduct two meets at the same time. Overlap hurts the fairs financially, and going forward we need them to be viable racing facilities. I was very glad to see the full Board confirm this view at our recent meeting.

“I feel our ADW system needs review to insure we have a fan-friendly system,” continued Harris. “And I feel we need to work with our stewards to insure their decisions are consistent throughout the state. On medication issues, I feel we should be tough, but also fair, and have California continue as a leader in insuring integrity in racing.”

Harris, who served two terms as CHRB chairman in 2004 and 2005 and currently serves as vice chairman, spends countless hours of his personal time addressing critical issues in horse racing. Long before he came to the Board, he was recognized for his heavy involvement and commitment to the racing industry.

“I am extremely pleased that John has been reappointed and he is willing to continue working with the Board to address the needs of horse racing,” said CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro. “It is rare that someone with John’s talent, experience, and commitment is willing to donate his time and energy in extended service to the public.”

Harris owns and operates Harris Farms in Coalinga, a major livestock and crop operation,

which also includes Harris Ranch Restaurant and Inn on Interstate 5 near Coalinga. He has owned thoroughbreds since 1958 and is a prominent breeder of racehorses. He was elected a director of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association in 1974, served as the organization's legislative chairman for 20 years, and was twice elected CTBA president. Harris also has served on the boards of the Breeders' Cup, Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), Grayson-Jockey Club Research Board, and the Center for Equine Health/UC Davis Advisory Board. He is a member of the Jockey Club, and currently serves on the boards of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America and the Pacific Legal Foundation. John and his wife, Carole, live on one of their horse farms on the Kings River east of Fresno.

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