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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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**AMERMAN REGRETFULLY RESIGNS FROM BOARD**

SACRAMENTO, CA – John Amerman announced Wednesday that he has regretfully resigned from the California Horse Racing Board due to a family decision to live a substantial portion of the year outside of California, which will prevent him from fulfilling his obligations as a racing commissioner.

“My wife, Jerry, and I have purchased a residence outside of the United States, and we plan to spend a substantial amount of time during the year in our new home,” explained Amerman. “In light of the CHRB’s monthly meeting schedule and the need for special meetings from time to time, I concluded that I would not be able to properly fulfill my obligations as a member of the CHRB.”

Amerman said he already had submitted a letter of resignation to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, effective immediately. Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Amerman to the Board on June 30, 2006, to a term that expires January 1, 2010.

CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro said he regrets Amerman’s departure, noting, “John is the epitome of what a perfect Board member should be. He has class, integrity, unwavering vision, and dedication to improving the racing business. It has been an honor to work with him and to consider him a friend. I understand his reasons for resigning, and honestly, I can’t say I blame him.”

Much has been accomplished during Amerman’s nearly two-year tenure, most significantly the installation of synthetic surfaces at four major thoroughbred racetracks in California, the adoption of strict new penalty guidelines for medication violations, and initial steps to ban steroids in California racing before the end of the year.

“It has been a great privilege to serve on the CHRB,” said Amerman. “We have taken many steps to provide for the safety of the horse and the jockey, and the leadership we’ve demonstrated could provide a pathway for other state racing commissions to follow.”

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