

Artist's Rendering of the  
Alameda County Fair with Turf Course  
by William Vaughn Willis



# California Racing Fair Venues

*Preserving a Heritage  
Building for the Future*

Presented By: The California Authority of Racing Fairs  
July 2007



Horses Run at the San Joaquin Fair. Racing has been conducted at the San Joaquin Fair since 1860.



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## Front Cover:

The cover showcases a rendering of the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton with a 7/8-mile Turf Course.

Plans are underway to make significant improvements to Fair racing venues in Northern and Southern California.

*Photo Credit: Will Vaughn Willis*

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# Some Observations On The Future Of California Racing

*By Christopher Korby, Executive Director, California Authority Of Racing Fairs*

## **Introduction**

Fairs have a grand old tradition of horse racing in California going back over 150 years to the days of the Gold Rush. So when pari-mutuel wagering came along in the early '30s, the Fairs embraced it like an old friend.

Fairs and horse racing share a long political heritage, reflecting a balance of interests that has served the racing industry well since 1933, when support from Fairs helped assure passage of the referendum approving pari-mutuel wagering. That referendum laid the foundation for modern racing in California.

California Thoroughbred breeders and California Fairs also share a long-standing interest in the economic vitality of California racing. It's no coincidence that California statute recognizes the common agricultural connection that links the breeding of horses, Fairs and horse racing. Horse Racing Law cites "encouraging agriculture and the breeding of horses in this state" and "supporting the network of California fairs" as important reasons in the legislative intent for allowing pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing. In so doing, statute recognizes Thoroughbred breeding as an economic pillar of the racing industry. Rounding out the connections to agriculture, the law recognizes Fairs as a vehicle through which the Legislature has chosen to distribute the economic benefits of horse racing to local communities and to the agricultural sector. Revenues derived from horse racing help sustain overall Fair activities, an important part of the fabric of California life. It's more important than ever that this long-standing alliance continue to work for the long-term, best interests of the racing industry in California.

There are major changes on the horizon for California horse racing. Planning for these changes will be critically important to its future. I'd like to offer some thoughts on this matter from the perspective of the California Fairs.

My observations on this subject will proceed in three parts: 1) our perspective on certain circumstances that presently obtain in the racing industry; 2) California Fairs historical partnership with racing and their commitment to its future; 3) a vision for the future of California racing that is at once practical, realistic and familiar.

## **Background and Perspective**

The economic model that underpins ownership of most Thoroughbred tracks in California is under strain. Real estate on which privately-owned, commercial race tracks sit has appreciated to valuations that may no longer justify horse racing as the highest and best use of the asset. Corporate owners, with responsibilities to their shareholders, may, will-

ingly or unwillingly, be compelled to consider development of their property for uses other than racing.

The move to develop race track real estate is already underway at Bay Meadows. Local observers with whom we have spoken estimate 18-24 months until approvals allow demolition and development to proceed.

There is a prospect on the horizon that could decelerate the trend toward development: revenue to the racing industry from expanded gaming. Such revenue, if it became available, could change the return-on-investment calculus for land under racing venues. At present, the chances of realizing this prospect are uncertain.

We would encourage industry leaders, particularly owners and breeders, who have a major stake in the future vitality of the racing industry, to look for commitments from their industry partners that are not reliant on expanded gaming for their future. Fairs are making such a commitment.

**Fairs' Commitment to Racing—Historical Antecedents**  
The long history of racing at California Fairs is evidence of the commitment that Fairs have to the sport. Racing has been conducted at Fairs in this state since the 1850's. Fairs were instrumental in securing passage of the initiative that created modern pari-mutuel wagering in the early 1930's. In fact, the first racing of the modern pari-mutuel era was conducted at Fairs in 1933 because Fairs had the facilities already in place to accommodate it. Fairs went on to build and re-build grandstands and stable facilities at nine venues around the state, from Humboldt County in the north to Del Mar in the south. Seven of these venues are fixtures on the Northern California circuit; two, Del Mar and Los Angeles County Fair (Fairplex) conduct racing on the Southern California circuit. Two Fairs, Pleasanton in the north and Fairplex in the south operate as training facilities year-round.

With the advent of simulcasting in the mid-1980's, Fairs again stepped up with a commitment to racing, creating a network of twenty-three simulcast facilities around the state. These satellite facilities annually contribute over \$600 million in pari-mutuel handle to California's racing industry. Most recently, Sonoma County Fair in Santa Rosa invested over \$3 million to build the first Turf Course at a Northern California Fair.

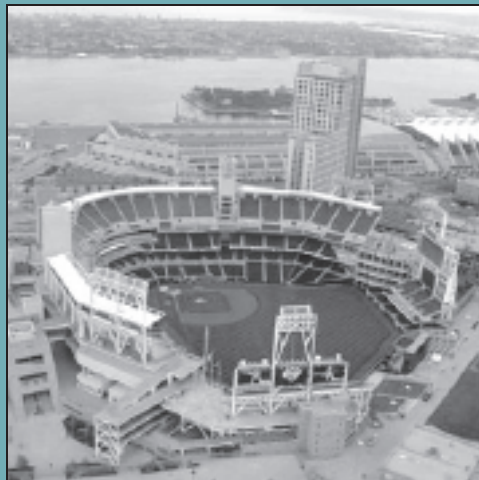
## **A Vision for the Future**

We propose a model for the future of California racing that is at once practical, realistic and familiar. We propose that racing facilities at Fairs, which are publicly-owned, expand and improve to fill the industry's needs as privately-owned, commercial race tracks are developed for purposes



# SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA RACING

BY  
CHRISTOPHER KORBY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS



## PUBLICLY OWNED MAJOR LEAGUE SPORTS VENUES IN CALIFORNIA

### BASEBALL

Name	Team	Owner
Angel Stadium	Anaheim Angels	City of Anaheim
McAfee Coliseum	Oakland Athletics	City of Oakland/Alameda County
PETCO Park	San Diego Padres	City of San Diego/Padres

### BASKETBALL

Name	Team	Owner
Oracle Arena	Golden State Warriors	City of Oakland

### FOOTBALL

Name	Team	Owner
McAfee Coliseum	Oakland Raiders	City of Oakland/Alameda County
Qualcomm Stadium	San Diego Chargers	City of San Diego
Monster Park	San Francisco 49ers	City of San Francisco

### HOCKEY

Name	Team	Owner
Honda Center	Anaheim Ducks	City of Anaheim
HP Pavilion	San Jose Sharks	City of San Jose

other than racing. There are examples and precedents of this public/private partnership model throughout major league professional sports; there is an especially successful example in the racing industry right here in California.

Before we look at some of the examples, let's look at some of the circumstances that align in this model:

- Fairs are California-based with a mission to use their profits here in California.
- Fairs can issue bonds, secured by future revenues from pari-mutuel wagering, in order to finance facility expansion and improvements.
- As publicly-owned facilities, Fairs are less susceptible to the impact of changing real estate valuations.
- Fairs are already diversified entertainment and commercial enterprises, landmarks in their communities, with year-round attendance measured in the millions.
- Profits from racing at Fairs are re-invested in California racing venues.
- Fairs can be a good political ally with deep roots in the state's agricultural community, a strong sector in California's economy and a major presence in the Legislature.

We would point to the public/private partnership at Del Mar as an exemplar of this model for California racing. We'll talk about that in a moment. First let's take a quick look at the example of major league professional sports.

Partnership between publicly owned venues and privately-owned franchises is a model long evident in major league professional sports. Such arrangements, though they may vary in form and nature in each instance, generally relieve franchises of the financial burden of venue ownership while allowing municipalities to secure and maintain major league sport franchises. Both benefit: the franchise is more economically viable and the municipality can realize the sense of civic pride and economic benefits attendant to a major league sports franchise. There are examples from baseball, basketball, football and hockey up and down the state in California. A table showing California major league sports

franchises operating in partnership with publicly-owned venues appears later in this article.

As noted above, there is a successful, existing example of this model for California racing: the operating partnership between Del Mar Thoroughbred Club (DMTC) and the 22nd District Agricultural Association (Del Mar Fair). Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, a private entity, operates one of the finest racing meetings in North America at a public venue financed, built and owned by the Del Mar Fair. The current facility was built 1990-1992 through state revenue bonds secured by revenue from pari-mutuel wagering. The upshot is a tremendously successful operation that benefits DMTC, the Del Mar Fair, the state and California horsemen. We don't think that the California racing industry could find a better model on which to build a strong, stable future.

### Conclusion

The racing industry is approaching a crossroads as increasing real estate values strain the economic model that governs operator-owned, private commercial race tracks. As land values increase, private race track owners are compelled to consider developing their property for purposes other than racing.

Fairs are proposing a concept for the future that envisions a larger role for publicly-owned venues at Fairs, perhaps along the lines already in place at Del Mar. In that example, a private racing association operates in a lease agreement with a public facility owned by a Fair. Fairs are diversified entertainment and commercial enterprises, less susceptible to the impact of changing real estate values than are operator-owned, private commercial tracks. Millions of Californians already visit Fairs each year. Fairs have and can finance expansion and improvement of their existing racing facilities through public bonds secured by revenue from pari-mutuel wagering. The model that Fairs envision keeps California racing revenues in California for the benefit of California participants. We believe that such a model provides a solid foundation on which to build a strong and stable future for the California racing industry.

# Northern California Racing Fairs

With a collective history of competitive racing that dates back to the 1850's, Northern California Racing Fairs can call on a proud heritage. That heritage is only a prelude, however, as Fairs assert their commitment to horse racing for the long run.

Fairs embody a unique partnership of public and private interests. Fairs are publicly owned entities with a mission of public service to their communities, support of the agricultural economy and active participation in the horse racing industry. Revenue from horse racing at California Fairs stays in California for the benefit of Californians.

Fairs represent a major public investment in the California horse racing industry. There are seven Fair racetrack venues in Northern California: San Joaquin Fair (Stockton); Alameda County Fair (Pleasanton); Solano County Fair (Vallejo); Sonoma County Fair (Santa Rosa); San Mateo County Fair (San Mateo); Humboldt County Fair (Ferndale); California State Fair (Sacramento); and Fresno District Fair (Fresno). These Fairs occupy more than 1,400 acres located in major metropolitan areas.

In addition, Fairs own and operate 14 satellite wagering facilities in Northern California. Statewide, Fairs own and operate 23 satellite facilities, which in FY 2005-06 drew 3.65 million racing fans. The fans wagered over \$853 million through the Fairs satellite network.

# Southern California Racing Fairs

Racing at Fair venues in Southern California represents some of the finest racing in the country. Los Angeles County Fair (Fairplex Park) is one of the largest and most successful Fairs in North America. The horse racing meeting at Fairplex is an important stop on the Southern California circuit. Satellite wagering at the L.A. County Fair keeps the racing spirit alive in the L.A. Basin year-round.

Del Mar. The words evoke a standard of excellence and the finest that racing has to offer. Del Mar's summer meeting, conducted by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club at facilities owned by and leased from the San Diego County Fair, offers some of the best racing in North America. Californians can be proud of the high standards and tradition of excellence that continue to flourish at this venue. This partnership is a model for the successful future of racing in California.



# San Joaquin Fair

City:	Stockton
Racing Since:	1860
US Census MMA:	649,868
Grandstand Capacity:	3,800
Track Surface(s):	Sandy Loam
Track Distance(s):	1 Mile
Annual Fair Attendance:	160,935
Interim Attendance:	391,386
Acres in Fairgrounds:	252
Simulcast Facility:	24,222 sq. feet
Handle (Simulcast):	\$31,626,066

## History

Racing began at the San Joaquin Fair during the Gold Rush days. Stockton was the first track to conduct modern pari-mutuel wagering in California on August 21, 1933 when approximately 1,500 fans attended the thoroughbred and harness races. For the first time since 1909, when the anti-gambling law passed to ban bookmaking and close the old Emeryville track, it was once again legal to bet on horses.

The fair was traditionally held in August, before shifting to the mid-June dates in 1988. Stockton is typically the first stop on the Northern California Fair Circuit.

The Fairgrounds is located approximately 75 miles east of San Francisco and 60 miles south of Sacramento.

## District Legislators



Days of Racing	2005: 10
	2006: 10
On-Track Handle	2005: \$ 2,181,188
	2006: \$ 1,698,840
All-Source Handle	2005: \$ 19,454,424
	2006: \$ 16,852,770
Stalls in Stable Area:	756
Year-Round Training:	NO

## Senators

Mike Machado - (R) District 5  
Dave Cogdill - (R) District 14

## Assembly Members

Alan Nakanishi - (R) District 10  
Greg Aghazarian - (R) District 26  
Cathleen Galgiani - (D) District 17  
Guy Houston - (R) District 15

## Recent Facility Improvements

Grandstand Improvements  
New Paddock  
Infield Improvements  
Renovated Restroom/Shower Facilities  
Backstretch Drainage Upgrades  
Tack Room and Barn Upgrades  
Complete Racing Office Renovation  
Track Safety and Maintenance Program

# Alameda County Fair

City: Pleasanton  
 Racing Since: 1858  
 US Census MMA: 7,092,596

Grandstand Capacity: 6,500  
 Track Surface(s): Dirt  
 Track Distance(s): 1 Mile

Annual Fair Attendance: 382,409  
 Interim Attendance: 2,644,243  
 Acres in Fairgrounds: 267

Simulcast Facility: 29,407 sq. feet  
 Handle (Simulcast): \$ 61,518,468



Days of Racing 2005: 11  
 2006: 11  
 On-Track Handle 2005: \$ 6,905,585  
 2006: \$ 5,576,048  
 All-Source Handle 2005: \$ 38,317,137  
 2006: \$ 35,624,198  
 Stalls in Stable Area: 701  
 Year-Round Training: YES

## History

Stamped as the oldest one mile racetrack in America, the Pleasanton oval dates back to 1858, when it was constructed by the son of the Spanish Don, Augustin Bernal.

On July 23, 1939, mutuel wagering started in Pleasanton. The San Francisco Chronicle reported the occasion by saying, "the revival of East Bay racing will be on the same spot where horse racing virtually had its birth in California more than 70 years ago when the Spanish Dons built the first track here." In fact, the Chronicle referred to Pleasanton as "The birthplace of horse racing in California."

The Alameda County Fair occupies 267 scenic acres in an upmarket East Bay community at the crossroads of Interstate 680 and Interstate 580, approximately 40 miles north of San Francisco.

## District Legislators

### Senators

Tom Torlakson - (D) District 7  
 Don Perata - (D) District 9  
 Ellen Corbett - (D) District 10

### Assembly Members

Guy Houston - (R) District 15  
 Mary Hayashi - (D) District 18  
 Alberto Torrico - (D) District 20  
 Sandre Swanson - (D) District 16

### Recent Facility Improvements

Major Paddock Upgrades  
 \$4.45 Million Solar Power Installation  
 Renovated Backstretch Restroom/Shower Facilities  
 Backstretch Drainage Upgrades  
 Tack Room and Barn Upgrade



# Solano County Fair

City:	Vallejo
Racing Since:	1951
US Census MMA:	412,336

Grandstand Capacity:	5,000
Track Surface(s):	Dirt
Track Distance(s):	7/8 Mile

Annual Fair Attendance:	78,767
Interim Attendance:	310,000
Acres in Fairgrounds:	157

Simulcast Facility:	9,939 sq. feet
Handle (Simulcast):	\$ 28,030,019



Days of Racing	2005: 11
	2006: 11
On-Track Handle	2005: \$ 2,871,017
	2006: \$ 2,142,633
All-Source Handle	2005: \$ 33,046,332
	2006: \$ 30,722,036
Stalls in Stable Area:	874
Year-Round Training:	NO

## History

Plans for buying land and securing money for the Solano County Fair began as early as 1938, but World War II intervened. Planning resumed after V-Day; on February 22, 1948, ground-breaking ceremonies took place and on September 21, 1950, Governor Earl Warren snipped the ribbon signaling the opening of the first fair. In 1951, horse racing made its debut.

The Solano County Fair, in Vallejo, is located at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Highway 37, approximately 40 miles north of San Francisco.

## District Legislators

## Senators

Patricia Wiggins - (D) District 2  
Michael Machado - (D) District 5

## Assembly Members

Noreen Evans - (D) District 7  
Lois Wolk (D) - District 8

## Recent Facility Improvements

New Paddock  
Renovated Backstretch Restroom/Shower  
Horsemen's RV Lot Upgrades  
Backstretch Wash Rack and Drainage Upgrades  
Tack Room and Barn Upgrades  
Track Safety and Maintenance Program



# Sonoma County Fair

City: Santa Rosa  
 Racing Since: 1879  
 US Census MMA: 466,725

Grandstand Capacity: 5,180  
 Track Surface(s): Sandy Loam/Turf  
 Track Distance(s): 1 Mile/7 Furlongs

Annual Fair Attendance: 370,032  
 Interim Attendance: 1,175,000  
 Acres in Fairgrounds: 182

Simulcast Facility: 21,076 sq. feet  
 Handle (Simulcast): \$ 20,559,067



## History

The first recorded fair in Sonoma County's history was a single day display, held on the Santa Rosa Courthouse Plaza in October 1855. In 1879, a 90-acre portion of the present Sonoma County Fairgrounds was acquired by a group who accessed a levy on its members to provide funds for the construction of a one-mile track complete with stalls, grandstand, and other improvements. The Sonoma County Fair has grown in size over the years, and that growth has been accomplished without the aid of tax revenue.

The 2005 meet marked the debut of a 7 furlong turf course at the Sonoma County Fair. A packed grandstand gave the field a standing ovation during the inaugural turf race on Opening Day, July 27, 2005.

The Sonoma County Fair, in Santa Rosa, is located just off of Highway 101 approximately 75 miles north of San Francisco and in the heart of California's wine country.

## District Legislators

Days of Racing	2005: 12
	2006: 12
On-Track Handle	2005: \$ 6,203,650
	2006: \$ 5,644,607
All-Source Handle	2005: \$ 41,717,374
	2006: \$ 40,232,745
Stalls in Stable Area:	1,022
Year-Round Training:	NO

## Senators

Patricia Wiggins - (D) District 2  
 Carole Migden - (D) District 3

## Assembly Members

Noreen Evans - (D) District 7  
 Jared Huffman - (D) District 6

## Recent Facility Improvements

New Turf Course  
 Renovated Restroom/Shower Facilities  
 Tack Room and Barn Upgrades  
 Grandstand Concession Stand Upgrades  
 Horsemen's RV Lot Renovation  
 Track Safety and Maintenance Program

# Humboldt County Fair

City: Ferndale  
 Racing Since: 1896  
 US Census MMA: 126,518

Grandstand Capacity: 2,000  
 Track Surface(s): Dirt  
 Track Distance(s): 1/2 Mile

Annual Fair Attendance: 72,000  
 Interim Attendance: 120,000  
 Acres in Fairgrounds: 65

Simulcast Facility: N/A  
 Handle (Simulcast): N/A



Days of Racing	2005: 10
	2006: 10
On-Track Handle	2005: \$ 775,170
	2006: \$ 727,308
All-Source Handle	2005: \$ 3,080,934
	2006: \$ 2,959,549
Stalls in Stable Area:	260
Year-Round Training:	NO

## History

Ferndale has been the site of the Humboldt County Fair since 1896. By most accounts, horse racing flourished in Ferndale during those early years. Languishing for a time, horse racing was legalized again in 1933 and in 1935 became a mainstay of the fair. The half-mile oval demands skill from horse and rider. It is not only horse racing that takes you back to "yesteryear" in Ferndale. The entire community, with its unique atmosphere of Victorian structures, bountiful antique shops and friendly residents, recreates a sense of times past.

The Humboldt County Fair, in Ferndale, is located along California's beautiful North Coast. The entire town of Ferndale, noted for its Victorian architecture, is registered as a National Landmark.

## District Legislators

### Senators

Patricia Wiggins - (D) District 2

### Assembly Members

Patty Berg - (D) District 1

### Recent Facility Improvements

Major Paddock/Winner's Circle Upgrade  
 Renovated Restroom/Shower Facilities  
 Backstretch Drainage Improvements  
 Tack Room and Barn Upgrades  
 Jocks' Room Renovation (in-progress)  
 Grandstand Concession Stands Renovation  
 Track Safety and Maintenance Program

# California State Fair

City: Sacramento  
 Racing Since: 1861  
 US Census MMA: 1,930,149

Grandstand Capacity: 6,500  
 Track Surface(s): Dirt  
 Track Distance(s): 1 Mile

Annual Fair Attendance: 941,327  
 Interim Attendance: 550,000  
 Acres in Fairgrounds: 350

Simulcast Facility: 37,800 sq. feet  
 Annual Handle (Simulcast): \$ 53,689,057



Days of Racing	2004:	N/A*
	2005:	N/A*
On-Track Handle	2004:	N/A*
	2005:	N/A*
All-Source Handle	2004:	N/A*
	2005:	N/A*
Stalls in Stable Area:		N/A*
Year-Round Training:		N/A*

## History

The California State Fair has over 150 years of history behind it. Created in 1854 by the State Agricultural Society, the event enjoyed a nomadic early history. In 1861 the fair's wandering days came to an end, when it found a permanent residence in Sacramento. The original purpose of the exposition, to promote California agriculture, remains intact today, but horse racing has become a significant force in its success. Now the oldest continuous race meeting in California.

## District Legislators

## Senators

Darrell Steinberg - (D) District 6  
 Dave Cox - (R) District 1

## Assembly Members

Dave Jones - (D) District 9  
 Roger Niello - (R) District 5

## Recent Facility Improvements

Washrack/Backstretch Drainage Improvements  
 Restroom/Shower Facility Upgrades  
 Winner's Circle Landscaping  
 \$2 Million Solar Power Installation  
 Tack Room and Barn Upgrades  
 Track Safety and Maintenance Program

\* The California State Fair ran a Harness Meet in 2004 and 2005



# Big Fresno Fair

City: Fresno  
 Racing Since: 1882  
 US Census MMA: 922,516

Grandstand Capacity: 5,000  
 Track Surface(s): Dirt  
 Track Distance(s): 1 Mile

Annual Fair Attendance: 571,051  
 Interim Attendance: 990,870  
 Acres in Fairgrounds: 165

Simulcast Facility: In Grandstand  
 Annual Handle (Simulcast): \$ 22,269,530



Days of Racing	2005: 11
	2006: 11
On-Track Handle	2005: \$ 3,442,261
	2006: \$ 3,476,203
All-Source Handle	2005: \$ 8,104,725
	2006: \$ 9,364,097
Stalls in Stable Area:	800
Year-Round Training:	NO

## History

Traditionally the final stop on the Northern California Fair Circuit, the Fresno Fair was established in 1882 by a group of Fresno businessman and professionals serving as members on the Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce. The groups collectively raised a total of \$25,000 and purchased 100-acres of land. Two years later the Association incorporated horse racing into the daily activities. In 1941 Fresno offered its first pari-mutuel horse racing meeting. During the war years, racing at Fresno was interrupted, but returned to stay in 1948.

## District Legislators

## Senators

Dean Florez - (D) District 16  
 Dave Cogdill - (R) District 14

## Assembly Members

Juan Arambula - (D) District 31  
 Tom Berryhill (R) - District 25  
 Nicole Parra (D) - District 30  
 Michael Villines (R) - District 29

## Recent Facility Improvements

New Paddock  
 New Winner's Circle  
 Infield & Tote Board Landscaping  
 Renovated Restroom/Shower Facilities  
 Backstretch Drainage Improvements  
 All New Washracks in Backstretch  
 Tack Room and Barn Upgrades  
 Major Upgrades to Grandstand Satellite Facility  
 Track Safety and Maintenance Program  
 Major Backstretch Electrical Upgrade

# Los Angeles County Fair

City: Pomona (L.A.)  
 Racing Since: 1922  
 US Census MMA: 16,373,645

Grandstand Capacity: 12,500  
 Track Surface(s): Dirt  
 Track Distance(s): 5/8 Mile

Annual Fair Attendance:  
 Interim Attendance:  
 Acres in Fairgrounds: 543

Annual Handle (Simulcast): \$ 80,336,258



## History

In 1922, ground was broken and access roads were built for the Los Angeles County Fair. A half-mile race track and a grandstand seating 4,000 were constructed.

The inaugural L.A. County Fair opened on October 17, 1922, and ran for five days through October 21. Following the success and public acceptance of the first Fair, a \$75,000 bond issue was approved for the construction of permanent buildings and a grandstand for horse racing.

In the early '80's, the track was expanded to 5/8 of a mile.

## District Legislators

Days of Racing	2005: 16
	2006: 16
On-Track Handle	2005: \$ 11,814,889
	2006: \$ 11,339,530
All-Source Handle	2005: \$ 105,308,618
	2006: \$ 105,729,325
Stalls in Stable Area:	1,300
Year-Round Training:	YES

## Senators

Gloria Negrete McLeod - (D) District 32  
 Bob Margett - (R) District 29

## Assembly Members

Anthony Adams - (R) District 59  
 Nell Soto - (D) District 61  
 Bob Huff - (R) District 60

## Recent Facility Improvements

Backstretch Improvements  
 Renovated Grandstand  
 Renovated Paddock

# San Diego County Fair

City: Del Mar (San Diego)  
Racing Since: 1937  
US Census MMA: 2,813,833

Grandstand Capacity: 15,000  
Track Surface(s): Dirt/Turf  
Track Distance(s): 1 Mile Dirt

Annual Fair Attendance: 1,205,719  
Interim Attendance: 1,959,837  
Acres in Fairgrounds: 364

Simulcast Facility: 90,000 sq. feet  
Annual Handle (Simulcast): \$ 110,002,315



Days of Racing	2005:	43
	2006:	43
On-Track Handle	2005:	\$ 108,907,840
	2006:	\$ 100,685,048
All-Source Handle	2005:	\$ 546,971,289
	2006:	\$ 511,215,852
Stalls in Stable Area:		1,200
Year-Round Training:		NO

## History

The 22nd District Agricultural Association manages and operates the Del Mar Fairgrounds and its adjoining facilities. The Fairgrounds and Horsepark are the sites of approximately 350 events each year, including a 43-day Thoroughbred meet operated by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club.

Del Mar Thoroughbred Club was founded by a group headed by Bing Crosby and actor Pat O'Brien in the seaside community of Del Mar. The track has been a summer playground for horses and horsemen since it opened its gates on July 3, 1937.

The Del Mar track has blossomed into one of the nation's leaders for daily attendance and handle and attracts top owners, trainers, riders and horses each summer. A new grandstand, completed in 1993, added state-of-the art amenities while preserving the Spanish charm and warmth of the original facility.

## District Legislators

### Senators

Christine Kehoe - (D) District 39  
Mark Wyland - (R) District 38

### Assembly Members




Martin Garrick - (R) District 74  
George Plescia - (R) District 75

### Recent Facility Improvements

Backstretch Improvements  
Satellite Facility Upgrades  
New Barn Construction  
Renovated Grandstand (1993)



# California Fairs Satellite Network

Location	Fair/Regional Description	Table/ Carrel Seating	 Food Service					 Vehicle Parking	 Viewing Displays			
			Restaurant	Deli	Grill	Catering	Beverages & Full Bar		Television	Big Screen TV's	Jumbo Screen TV's	Carrel tabletop TV's
Anderson	Shasta District Fair	240		✓	✓	✓	✓	505	12	5		
Bakersfield	Kern County Fair	600		✓		✓	✓	Unlimited	26	12	2	
Del Mar	San Diego County Fair	3,500	✓	✓		✓	✓	12,000	425	40	4	
Eureka	Redwood Acres Fair	300		✓	✓	✓	✓	625	14	4		
Fresno	Big Fresno Fair	600		✓	✓	✓	✓	3,000	13	16	6	
Indio	Riverside County Fair	500		✓	✓	✓	✓	400	50	10		
Lancaster	Antelope Valley Fair	450		✓	✓	✓	✓	400	60		6	120
Monterey	Monterey California Fair	332		✓	✓	✓	✓	235	18	4		8
Perris	Southern California Fair	350		✓		✓	✓	250	65	6		54
Pleasanton	Alameda County Fair	800	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1,500	95		10	60
Pomona	Los Angeles County Fair	1,000	✓			✓	✓	45,000	65	8		147
Sacramento	Cal Expo & State Fair	950	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10,140	105		15	90
San Bernardino	National Orange Show	1,400	✓	✓		✓	✓	1,500	175		14	42
San Jose	Santa Clara County Fair	132		✓		✓	✓	475	20	10		
Santa Barbara	Earl Warren Showgrounds	300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1,000	26	14		
Santa Maria	Santa Barbara County Fair	250		✓	✓	✓	✓	565	42	14		
Santa Rosa	Sonoma County Fair	600	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1,000	90		8	20
Stockton	San Joaquin Fair	500		✓	✓	✓	✓	750	120	14	10	
Tulare	Tulare County Fair	300		✓	✓	✓	✓	1,000	14	6		
Turlock	Stanislaus County Fair	200		✓	✓	✓	✓	1,000	12	6	6	
Vellejo	Solano County Fair	250		✓	✓	✓	✓	250	40	16		
Ventura	Ventura County Fair	600		✓	✓	✓	✓	1,700	165		14	26
Victorville	San Bernardino County Fair	350		✓	✓	✓	✓	350	26	8		

# Fair Satellite Wagering Facilities

