



In the Matter Of:

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

HEARING

May 27, 2021

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, May 27, 2021

9:00 A.M.

CERTIFIED COPY

Reported by:

Patricia Garrido

CSR No. 14364

32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, May 27, 2021

9:00 A.M.

Meeting of the OCFEC Board of
Directors, stenographically reported by Patricia
Garrido, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of
California, commencing at 9:00 a.m. and ending at
12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 27, 2021, Via Zoom.

APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia, Chair
Doug La Belle, Vice Chair
Sandra Cervantes, Member
Robert Ruiz, Member
Ashleigh Aitken, Member
Barbara Bagneris, Member
Newton Pham, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer
Ken Karns, Chief Operating Officer
Summer Angus, Meeting Secretary Executive Assistant
Joan Hamill, Chief Business Development Officer
Doug Lofstrom, Former CEO
Nick Buffa, Director of Security & Traffic
Operations

1 APPEARANCE OF BOARD COUNSEL:

2 DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
3 JOSHUA CAPLAN
4 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
5 San Diego, California 92101-3375
6 Phone: 619-738-9000
7 Fax: 619-645-2271
8

9 PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

10 Carolyn Beaver
11 Leigh-Ann Kazolas
12 Reggie Mundekis
13 Gibran Stout
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32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, May 27, 2021

9:00 A.M.

CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: All right. It's 9:00 a.m. I'd like to call this meeting to order. All matters noticed on this agenda in any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the chairperson.

The mission of the Orange County Fair & Event Center is celebration of Orange County's communities, interests, agriculture, and heritage with results justifying resources expended.

At this time I'd like to ask Director Cervantes if she could lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Absolutely. Ready?

(Pledge of Allegiance conducted.)

CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director Cervantes. Summer, can you please take roll call? I

1 know Director Kovacevich is unable to attend today.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair -- Chair

3 Rubalcava-Garcia?

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Here.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

6 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Here.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

8 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Here.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

10 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Here.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris? Director
12 Aitken?

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Here.

14 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Pham? And Director
15 Kovacevich? Thank you.

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Summer.
17 And I know Director Bagneris will be joining in a bit,
18 her meeting is running over. At this time I'd like to
19 announce that the Board will be going into closed
20 session. Summer, will gather any public comments, so
21 please see Summer if you'd like to give public comment
22 once we return. Thank you.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. I'm making the break
24 out room right now. Please stand by. Okay. And Chair
25 Rubalcava-Garcia, I'm not seeing Josh Caplan.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Oh, okay.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Josh, are you on the line?

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So why don't we go
4 ahead and move on to -- we can give Josh a couple
5 minutes to get on. Actually, we do have Bruce Reynolds
6 on the line so we can go ahead and go to closed session,
7 and if we need to circle back with Josh after, we can do
8 that.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. Okay. I'm opening the
10 room now. Okay. Josh, are you there? All right.
11 Everyone else just stand by for just a moment, and I'll
12 organize public comment.

13 (Closed Session held from 9:04 a.m. until 10:00
14 a.m.)

15 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, when you're
16 ready can you take roll call, please, to make sure all
17 the directors got back into the room.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: No problem. Chair
19 Rubalcava-Garcia?

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Present.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

22 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Here.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

24 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Here.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

1 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Here.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Here.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Here.

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Pham?

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Should we go ahead and
8 get started? Thank you, Summer.

9 The District's Board of Directors received the
10 advice on legal counsel on pending litigation items
11 included on the closed session portion of the agenda and
12 has nothing further to report.

13 This time we are going to go ahead and move on
14 to agenda Item 6, Board meeting -- Board meeting held on
15 April 22nd for the minutes. Can I get a motion to
16 approve the minutes?

17 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I so move that we move
18 forward and approve the minutes. This is Sandra.

19 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
20 Cervantes. Can I get a second?

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Second.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
23 Aitken. Summer, please take roll call.

24 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

25 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

2 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

4 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz? Director
6 Ruiz? I'll circle back. Director Bagneris?

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

9 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: One more time for Director
11 Ruiz? Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, that is five votes.
12 We're okay.

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: All right. Thank you.
14 Is Director Pham on the call? He was in there. Okay.
15 We're going to go ahead and move on to agenda Item 7,
16 Matters of Public Comment.

17 Public comment is allowed on issues not on the
18 current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall
19 be permitted on such public comments and no action will
20 be taken on such public comment items at this time as
21 law requires formal public notice prior to any action on
22 a docket item.

23 Speakers are requested to sign in prior to the
24 start of the meeting and are limited to three minutes.
25 Comments will be accepted on agenda items during the

1 meeting. Speakers wishing to address the Board on items
2 on the agenda are requested to sign in prior to the
3 start of the meeting and identify the agenda items on
4 which they choose to address the Board. Speakers are
5 limited to three minutes.

6 Okay. At this time do you have any public
7 comment, Summer?

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: We do not have any public
9 comment for general public comment at this time.

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Thank you.
11 Okay. Moving on to agenda Item No. 8, Consent Calendar.

12 All matters listed under Consent Calendar are
13 operational matters about which the Board has governing
14 policies implementation of which is delegation to the
15 CEO. They will be enacted in one motion.

16 There will be no discussion of these items
17 prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the
18 motion, unless members of the Board, staff, or public
19 request specific items to be discussed separately and/or
20 removed from this section.

21 Any member of the public who wishes to discuss
22 Consent Calendar items should notify the chair of the
23 Board at the time requested and be recognized by
24 invitation of the Chair to address the Board.

25 Does anybody wish to pull an item from the

1 calendar?

2 CEO RICHARDS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, staff
3 would like to pull standard agreement, SA-03721-YR.
4 That was SA-03721-YR. That is the contract for sound
5 monitoring, and the Board might remember that we issued
6 an RFP, a bid was awarded, there was a protest filed, we
7 elected to reissue the RFP.

8 Again, a bid has been awarded, but there's been
9 a protest. So we are working with DGS through that
10 protest period, and we will bring that contract back
11 once we get resolution.

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, CEO
13 Richards. Is there any questions or comments from the
14 Board on the Consent Calendar, or the items pulled by
15 CEO Richards? Hearing that there are none, Summer, can
16 you please -- or can I get a motion to accept the
17 Consent Calendar?

18 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: So moved. This is Sandra
19 Cervantes.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
21 Cervantes. Can I get a second?

22 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Second. Director.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
24 Ruiz. Summer, can you please take roll call?

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

3 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

5 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

7 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

11 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

12 DIRECTOR PHAM: Summer, Newton is on the line
13 as well.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director Pham, is that
15 a yes for the Consent Calendar?

16 DIRECTOR PHAM: Yes.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

19 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Summer.

20 Thank you, everybody. Moving on to agenda Item No. 9,
21 the Governance Process. Item 9A is OC Fair planning
22 update for the 2021 Fair. I'm going to go ahead and
23 turn this over to CEO Richards.

24 CEO RICHARDS: Thank you. This agenda item
25 is -- is to give the Board a final update on our Fair

1 planning efforts and an opportunity to give any
2 additional policy direction to staff. This is not our
3 annual kick off preview Fair fanfare presentation that
4 we love to give. That will be in June. This is just an
5 operational update, an opportunity for next step.

6 So today we're going to provide the Board with
7 Orange County's reopening status, a look at what the
8 most current vaccination numbers are in Orange County.
9 We'll go over some very high-level differences between
10 the 2021 OC Fair and previous fairs. We'll walk the
11 Board through our -- how we're communicating our health
12 and safety procedures to the public and how we're
13 informing our guests of the rules and procedures when
14 they come to the Fair.

15 So let's start with where we're at as a county.
16 We are now in the least restrictive yellow tier. But
17 as we've all heard, there are changes ahead effective
18 June 15th. We've received information from the
19 California Department of Public Health that effective
20 June 15th there are no capacity limits on attendance any
21 longer and social distancing will no longer be required
22 of mega events like the OC Fair which have attendance of
23 over 10,000.

24 Also On June 15th, we've received information
25 that masks are required for those not fully vaccinated

1 and recommended for those fully vaccinated. And there's
2 been a little confusion about the language that the
3 California Department of Public Health used in
4 communicating that. So we're getting clarification on
5 the specifics through the Orange County Health Care
6 Agency.

7 We have received a move-forward approval on the
8 Fair from the Orange County Health Care Agency, and very
9 happy to report that according to the latest numbers
10 from the Orange County Health Care Agency over 1.8
11 million people -- 1,852,511, to be precise -- are either
12 fully vaccinated or have received one dose of the
13 vaccine.

14 And as many of you have heard, the vaccine is
15 now available to all. And in fact, at the super pod
16 site here at the Orange County Fair & Event Center, you
17 don't even need to make an appointment. You can just
18 walk up. All are welcome, and I believe Pfizer is
19 offering the vaccine to children, 12 and over. And I
20 believe -- I believe that's going to change for Moderna
21 as well in the next week or so.

22 We encourage everyone to get vaccinated before
23 the super pod closes June 5th or anywhere that the
24 vaccine is available and it's widely available in Orange
25 County. So now let's talk about what will be different

1 this year about the 2021 OC Fair, and there are a lot of
2 differences but we'll keep it fairly high level.

3 In terms of health and safety, we are selling
4 tickets online through advanced tickets sales. You must
5 reserve the day that you're going to be here at the Fair
6 and purchase your ticket ahead of time.

7 And again, there are no fees to the guests for
8 doing that, so a 14-dollar ticket on the weekend, a
9 12-dollar ticket on Wednesday or Thursday cost exactly
10 that amount for the guests. We are absorbing those --
11 those Ticketmaster fees. There is a daily attendance
12 limit. We're working with approximately 45,000 people
13 per day.

14 There's a reason why we're sticking with an
15 attendance limit even though we've been informed by the
16 county and the state that after June 15th those
17 attendance limits go away. The biggest reason is that
18 we don't want to overwhelm our resources. We want to
19 have a far less impact on our neighborhoods in terms of
20 traffic and parking.

21 All of us have heard about staffing challenges
22 and we want to make sure that we can properly staff the
23 Fair for everyone's safety and well being. We want to
24 create a great guest experience for those coming to the
25 Fair and provide lots of elbow room and shorter lines at

1 the Fair. And, of course, because of the financial
2 model that we've presented, we know that we can be
3 profitable at -- at that approximate 45,000 per day
4 attendance capacity.

5 At this point masks are mandatory, but, again,
6 we're looking for clarification on that from the state
7 and from the county. We have -- are creating lots of
8 extra seating and spaced-out seating for our guests,
9 giving plenty of elbow room. A lot of the promotions
10 that were in place in prior years that were designed to
11 drive lots and lots of people through the gate, those
12 promotions have been eliminated so that we can have more
13 controlled attendance.

14 And then, of course, we're putting our health
15 and safety plan in place. There are approximately 30
16 documents that have been created over the last 15 months
17 as we've prepared for the return of the OC Fair. A lot
18 of work on the part of staff and our Health Care
19 partners in the community, and we are ready.

20 In terms of guest amenities, unfortunately OCTA
21 did not get their grant again to bring back the OC Fair
22 Express. We're hoping that we'll see that again in
23 2022, but there will not be OC Fair Express, although
24 there are several routes for OCTA that will drop folks
25 off right adjacent to the Fair.

1 We believe that our attendance limit -- with
2 our attendance limit, we'll be able to accommodate the
3 vast majority of guests coming to the -- the Fair.
4 There will be very little need for offsite parking.
5 We've reduced the number of merchants and concessionaire
6 spaces again to provide plenty of space, plenty of elbow
7 room, and we are encouraging cashless transactions with
8 those concessionaires and merchants.

9 And then, of course, fewer carnival rides to
10 provide more spacing. In terms of programming, we've
11 announced before that we will not be activating the
12 Action Sports Arena. We'll be using that for parking
13 and storage, but we are working on the possibility of
14 bringing back some of the programming from the Action
15 Sports Arena post-Fair.

16 Livestock Market week will be held before the
17 Fair, and the Junior Livestock Auction will be virtual,
18 but we're assured that there will still be plenty of
19 animals for everyone to discover at the OC Fair. The
20 Explorium Kids Tent, that programming will move to the
21 Promenade so the kids will definitely be highlighted at
22 the OC Fair.

23 Pig races, we're giving them a front and center
24 location. They will move to Park Plaza. We are
25 replacing Live Band Karaoke which used to take place on

1 Plaza Pacifica, that's being replaced with Dueling
2 Pianos. And I'm really excited about that one. I think
3 that'll be great new programming at the Fair.

4 The Pacific Amphitheater will be activated.
5 Again, the new guidelines go into effect June 15th with
6 no capacity limit. We are planning shows starting in
7 late July through early September, and announcements of
8 shows are coming out almost on a weekly basis. And we
9 will have a full programming overview next month when we
10 do our -- our big Fair fanfare.

11 I mentioned 30 documents related to health and
12 safety. Those are all being assembled into our COVID
13 health and safety playbook, and we'll provide a detailed
14 view of the health and safety procedures for all sectors
15 of the Fair and our year-round operations.

16 We've also launched our How to Fair campaign to
17 educate our guests on what they need to know about
18 attending the 2021 Fair. And as new guidelines are
19 emerging, we're updating those materials on our website
20 and through all of our communications channels. Right
21 now we're in phase three of our guest journey where
22 ticket sales, transactions are happening as we speak.
23 And beginning in July we'll be pushing out those --
24 those requirements on a wider basis.

25 Our website includes specific up-to-date

1 information including what you need to know before you
2 go so our guests are well informed before they arrive at
3 the Fair. And I'd like to share that page on our -- our
4 website. Well, gosh, hang on one second. Summer, can
5 you help me there and pull up -- I'm having --

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes.

7 CEO RICHARDS: Let me see if I can. I think I
8 might be able to find it here. I had that all queued
9 up, and I -- I've lost it. Okay. I think I've got it
10 now. Don't you love technology? There we go. Can you
11 all see that?

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes.

13 CEO RICHARDS: Okay. Let me enhance it real
14 quick for the video. There we go. So this is the page
15 when you click on OC Fair, on our website, you have lots
16 of choices about general information, how to apply for a
17 job at the Fair, how to buy tickets, how to be a partner
18 at the Fair, sponsorship opportunities, but the health
19 and safety page goes over lots of great information for
20 our guests about what they need to know regarding
21 purchasing advanced tickets because of our limited
22 capacity.

23 We will be launching our OC Fair app very soon
24 that everyone will be able to access up-to-date
25 information right on their -- their phones. What the

1 latest guidelines are regarding wearing of masks, social
2 distancing, and again, you know, that's all expected to
3 go away June -- June 15th.

4 Our guests will be able to access our new
5 layout. We're putting the finishing touches on that and
6 that will be posted, and then for more information about
7 road and traffic information as people are coming to the
8 Fair. But I'd like to play a quick video. It's only a
9 minute or so long that our staff put together, and
10 there's a series of these -- these videos to help our
11 guests understand what they need to know.

12 (Video Played.)

13 CEO RICHARDS: All right. So we are getting
14 ready. We're getting ready to welcome back the Fair,
15 welcome back all of our guests, our maintenance and
16 facilities departments are getting the buildings and
17 grounds in tip-top shape. Our carnival rides have
18 started moving in. Our security team is coordinating
19 plans with our first responder partners.

20 Our parking plans are being executed to have
21 the least impact on surrounding neighborhoods.
22 Admissions team is managing our online ticket sales. HR
23 is busy hiring about 1,000 additional employees.
24 Finance is setting up cash operations and Fair finance
25 reports. Technology and production is installing

1 additional systems and equipment.

2 Purchasing and contracts is filling hundreds of
3 orders. Our concessionaires and merchant partners are
4 preparing to serve our guests. Our entertainment
5 department is adding new shows every day. Exhibits and
6 education is creating beautiful exhibits.

7 Centennial Farm and livestock animals, well
8 they just can't wait to welcome back our guests. Heroes
9 Hall is ready to salute our veterans again. Marketing
10 and communications is getting the word out. Our sales
11 team is welcoming back our sponsors and adding new ones,
12 and a million other details.

13 So I will stop there and see if anyone has any
14 questions. And Summer, I'm thinking that that is not
15 showing up on the screen, is that correct?

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: The "We Are Getting
17 Ready" is showing up on the screen?

18 CEO RICHARDS: Yes. Is that?

19 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

20 CEO RICHARDS: Oh, awesome. Okay. Very good.

21 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, CEO
22 Richards, that was a great overview. Do we have any
23 comment from the Board at this time or questions for
24 Michele?

25 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Natalie, I have some

1 comments, but I'd like to see if there are any public
2 comments before I --

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: We do not have any
4 public comment on this item, Director La Belle.

5 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. And I'm very
6 appreciative of all the work that staff has done, and
7 obviously I'm fully supportive of opening up the -- the
8 Fair this year and Pac Amp. I -- I have some
9 significant concerns that I'm going to express and then
10 I'm going to make a motion relative to those issues.

11 As of yesterday only 49 percent of -- from what
12 I was -- was told -- only 49 percent of California
13 residents are fully vaccinated. Looking ahead,
14 obviously, the vaccination rates have dropped
15 significantly for a variety of reasons. I think
16 probably best case scenario come Fair time, you're going
17 to have maybe 80 percent vaccinated which means with our
18 45,000 limited capacity there are going to be -- there
19 are going to be at any one point in time 9,000 people
20 that are unvaccinated walking through the Fair.

21 Even with social distancing and that sort of
22 thing, I think that creates a potential health and
23 safety problem. Obviously in -- to June 15th, I guess,
24 there's going to be restrictions lifted and then
25 obviously mid Feb -- or mid July, we don't know what the

1 requirements are going to be. CDC seems to be going
2 back on a variety of issues.

3 I'm very concerned that in Pac Amp we're going
4 to have 8,000 people on any given event sitting six to
5 12 inches apart from -- from their neighbor. All of
6 that being said, it would clearly be my preference as
7 one individual to mandate that anyone attending the
8 Pacific Amphitheater concerts provide proof of full
9 vaccination at a minimum.

10 And my motion is going to be as follows: That
11 we have the ability to be more restrictive than the
12 state requirements or the control requirements from CDC.
13 So I'm going to recommend that, my motion is that to
14 provide support to staff and to make it very clear to
15 our -- our customers that masks will be mandated on all
16 activities related to the Fair; that masks will be
17 mandated for all of those attending concerts at the
18 Pacific Amphitheater; and that no food or beverage be
19 allowed inside the Pacific Amphitheater, obviously that
20 can be consumed in the concourse area adjacent to it;
21 and that food and beverage be -- be isolated to specific
22 locations there where we can control, you know,
23 obviously the use of masks.

24 So I would make that motion and would be
25 hopeful that would be a second to that or a discussion.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: That's a very long
2 motion Director La Belle. If I may take some time just
3 to dissect what you're requesting the Board to consider.
4 So are you saying that even if the state decides that
5 masks are no longer mandated, you're asking the Board to
6 say that we will continue to enforce even beyond the
7 state required mandate?

8 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: You know, I -- I think
10 we'll open this up to the Board. We don't have any
11 public comment on this item, but one concern that I have
12 is, you know, we are not scientists -- oh, yeah, go
13 ahead, Director Bagneris.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'd like to go ahead and
15 second the motion only so that we can have the proper
16 discussion on it.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I would like to open
18 up for discussion before we vote on it. I think that
19 would be a good way to -- are there any other directors
20 who have a question for Director La Belle on this item?

21 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Madam Chair, only because
22 he made a motion and if we get the motion approved we
23 can have that proper discussion as well and then there
24 would be a vote after that so I would still like to go
25 ahead and second Director La Belle's motion.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Before we take roll
2 call, I would like to have a discussion. And I
3 completely respect where you're going with this,
4 Director Bagneris, but I think we have in the past
5 discussed things before we go forward with the motion.
6 I think it's difficult for the Board to vote without
7 having considered all of the -- the issues that may
8 arise with the motion.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Madam Chair, just for
10 clarification, I'm not calling for the vote. I'm just
11 seconding the --

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Oh, it's for the
13 second. Okay. Then we have a second. Oh, thank you.
14 Thank you for -- thank you. Sorry. So we have a second
15 from Director Bagneris on Director La Belle's motion.
16 Do we have any additional comments from the Board?
17 Thank you, Director Bagneris. I haven't had enough
18 coffee today. Okay. Any other questions from the
19 Board?

20 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah. This is Director Ruiz.
21 Yeah, I just would like a little bit more clarity on
22 Director La Belle's motion. I -- I think I understand
23 most of it, but as far as the drinks at the Pacific
24 Amphitheater, I would like some more detail as to what
25 the intention of that is and how that is supposed to

1 work and how we can enforce it.

2 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Robert, my concern
3 is that we're going to be opening it up to 8,000
4 visitors that are going to be in the Pac Amp and in very
5 close proximity to each other. That, you know, assuming
6 I'm somewhat correct if we can get to 80 percent
7 vaccination, you're going to have anywhere from 1600 to
8 2,000 individuals in Pac Amp that are not going to be
9 fully vaccinated for whatever reason, their own choice,
10 obviously.

11 But I think it's very important to make sure
12 that we enhance the public safety aspects to require
13 that all individuals inside Pac Amp as well as inside
14 the Fair be fully masked expect when they are consuming
15 beverages or food and that beverages and food be
16 precluded from the Pac Amp itself other than the
17 concourse area that surrounds it.

18 So if you want a beer, if you want a snack or
19 whatever, that you need to go out to that area there
20 and, you know, follow the protocols for proper
21 distancing and that sort of thing. So -- so that's my
22 intent, and I think we're in a situation where there's a
23 lot of unknowns out there, and I think the sooner we can
24 make it clear to our future customers that the Fair
25 Board is serious about requiring masking and social

1 distancing, although it may not be required by state
2 regulations, whatever, whatever.

3 I think it's very important that we continue to
4 do it for at least this year's event. So that's --
5 that's -- hopefully that clarifies your question.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Doug, my only concern
7 about this is that, you know, we're Fair Board directors
8 appointed by the governor, but we're not scientists.
9 So, you know, the fact that the Fair could consider
10 enforcing something beyond the recommendation of the
11 state Health Care Agency does cause for concern because
12 I think we would be putting our staff and other people
13 who are enforcing the mask rule in -- in -- in jeopardy.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair Rubalcava --

15 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Natalie, my concern is
16 that -- all I'm trying to do is provide staff with the
17 back up they need from the Board to be able to enforce
18 the masking requirements. As we've seen in the last 15
19 months, there have been a lot of charges literally on a
20 daily basis. And I think that it's very important that
21 we err on the side of caution, and that's -- that's my
22 recommendation. Obviously it's -- it's up to the Board
23 in terms of whether we wish to proceed on that basis.

24 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director Aitken, did
25 you have a comment, sorry.

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Just as for a question for
2 Michele just to clarify what, and for the public, what
3 is our current policy for mask wearing for the entire
4 property?

5 CEO RICHARDS: So right now the -- the -- the
6 guidelines that are in place right now are from the
7 state level, and it requires wearing -- wearing masks
8 while on the property. And again, those -- you know,
9 those guidelines are -- those restrictions are waived as
10 of June 15th. So on Friday of last week, The California
11 Department of Public Health published the new guidelines
12 that will go into effect June -- June 15th, and they
13 essentially have eliminated the capacity limits.

14 They've eliminated the social distancing
15 requirements, and they are strongly recommending masks
16 for those that have not been vaccinated. But then mask
17 wearing will not be mandatory for those that have been
18 fully vaccinated. And they're -- the requirements
19 requiring verification of vaccination is up to the guest
20 that they would self attest to whether or not they
21 were -- they are vaccinated or not.

22 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. I think that's
23 helpful. I'm a little nervous from -- from a staff
24 prospective having different rules for different parts
25 of the property, and how would we enforce that? And so

1 I -- I really understand Doug's concern, and I think
2 we -- as we go forward, especially next month, we're
3 just going to keep getting more and more information as
4 we -- as we go forward, but I'm inclined to follow the
5 guidelines that are issued by the state since we are
6 state property.

7 DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz. I agree
8 with Director Aitken in what she said. I understand
9 Director La Belle's intent and -- and it's -- and it's a
10 good intent because after all safety is our number one
11 priority here, but having said that, it's -- we're in
12 May, we still got June, mid of July before we open up
13 our doors.

14 Other concert venues are starting to open up
15 their doors now, so I would like to see how they're
16 handling, you know, that -- their -- their venues as far
17 as the drink process and the mask mandate and all that.
18 You know, Orange County is a tough place to do business
19 when it comes to enforcing certain laws, and we all know
20 that -- just, you know, the Board of Supervisors had
21 people with torches and pitchforks outside of their --
22 their meeting place because of a vaccination mandate
23 passport that -- rumor got out that they were going to
24 require.

25 So, you know, us going above and beyond what

1 the state says -- or going over, about what the state is
2 mandating would be putting our staff at risk to enforce
3 those things. It's a great intent, but I think when we
4 get to July and try to enforce that mask mandate, it's
5 going to be a tough sell, I think, to the public,
6 especially here in Orange County.

7 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is Director
8 Cervantes, and I also agree even though it is scary.
9 It's scary times, and I totally understand where
10 Director La Belle is coming from. I am hopeful that
11 between now and the time that we do open and that when
12 June 15th comes around, when -- we will follow the state
13 issued guidelines, we will see what happens after that
14 and how people feel. But I think the route that we need
15 to take is to just follow the state-issued guidelines.

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. And
17 Summer, by any chance -- I know that this is not the way
18 we normally conduct business, but has there been any
19 members of the public who have mentioned they would like
20 to make public comment on this topic now?

21 CEO RICHARDS: Summer, we're not hearing you.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: I'm so sorry. I had a -- a
23 pause. I was frozen for a minute. Are we -- are we
24 going for the roll call vote for Director La Belle's
25 motion?

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Well, I was just
2 inquiring as to if any members of the public wished to
3 talk on this topic.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Actually, yes, we've got a
5 couple in the chat. Jeanine Robbins followed by Reggie
6 Mundekis. Jeanine, when you're ready, go right ahead.

7 JEANINE ROBBINS: Good morning you guys. An
8 issue that I've been hearing about from different
9 vendors, from people who hope to attend the fair is
10 they're very concerned about RCS and their employees. I
11 understand from some other vendors that RCS has been
12 spending a lot of time in Arizona and Texas at different
13 events and they're very -- they're wondering will
14 vaccinations be required of those employees? That's
15 all. That's all I really had to say. So thank you.

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Jeanine. Reggie,
17 when you're ready.

18 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Reggie Mundekis here.
19 Thank you for this opportunity to address you this
20 morning. You know, I see the concerns of all the
21 members of the Board. We're up against the issue, the
22 challenge, of the state that said you can reopen, you
23 don't have to wear a mask, but at the same time, I
24 actually echo many of Doug La Belle's concerns.

25 And those are so much the concerns I've raised

1 before. You know, I'm just going to share with you that
2 I personally, most likely, won't attend the Fair this
3 year because I am still concerned because the virus is
4 still out there, and there's a lot of vac- -- a lot of
5 disease denial in our county coupled with refusal to get
6 vaccination, so -- I also understand that if you start
7 to try to put on more restrictions than other places
8 have you're going to get pushback on staff, and that's
9 hard on staff.

10 To me, I think that we're kind of between a
11 rock and a hard place on this one. You know, if we say
12 hey, you know what, we're going to have these other
13 restrictions on eating and drinking in certain areas,
14 mask wearing, social distancing in the Pac Amp, and
15 things like that, and some of those people are going to
16 be -- I'm just going to say it, assholes -- all right.
17 These are people who feel free to threaten elected
18 officials and civic employees with killing them because
19 they don't agree with them. So that's what we're up
20 against.

21 So with that said, I think that we need to find
22 ways to help staff including giving them counseling and
23 health care that when they have to deal with these
24 people they have the tools to deal with it and I also
25 echo Jeanine's concerns regarding RCS and other people

1 who are traveling to work at the Fair from out of state,
2 especially in areas where there's been a lot of, you
3 know, a lot of disease and people who refuse to get
4 vaccination, so that's where I am on this. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie. That's it
6 for public comment.

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Any other
8 comments from the Board before we go ahead and vote on
9 the motion?

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yeah, yes. This is
11 Director Bagneris. So my -- my comments are -- I'm
12 hearing everything that's just been said, and I'm -- I'm
13 torn from one aspect, and that is how -- the guidelines
14 say that if you are not vaccinated, you have to wear a
15 mask, and how do we prove that? That is going to cause
16 staff a huge, huge issue.

17 And like Reggie just said, we have public
18 members who are just unhinged about this mask issue. So
19 that may already be an issue. But in the same sense, we
20 are a state facility and they're state guidelines. And
21 I can't see us being more restrictive than what the
22 state is imposing.

23 So right now, I would have to say that I would
24 not be in favor of the motion, but we do need to figure
25 out how we're going to help staff how to enforce the

1 rules without endangering our staff.

2 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you.

3 DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz. We
4 still got another month. Can we revisit this next
5 month? I -- I don't know, just a thought, or do we want
6 to act on this right now?

7 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Hi. This is Director
8 Cervantes, and I feel it's a good discussion, and I feel
9 that we need to go ahead and vote on this today. So
10 this way staff also knows where the Board stands, and --
11 and the public, and obviously because safety is our
12 number one concern, we will have to go ahead and, you
13 know, continue to revisit because things can change.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And Madam Chair, I would
15 piggyback on that to say even if we vote this motion
16 down today, it could come back in June, if -- if we
17 really see the need to do that and we could vote it --
18 we could vote differently. So there's nothing that
19 precludes that we vote today on this motion that would
20 preclude us from bringing it back in June.

21 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Okay. Perfect.
22 Thank you. Why don't we go ahead and vote on the
23 motion, and I'm just going to repeat the motion so that
24 I'm -- make sure that we're clear on what we've voting
25 on and what we have a second. The motion on -- before

1 the Board today is to enforce the mask policy regardless
2 of what the state mandate is at the time of the Fair.

3 Did I get that right, Director La Belle?

4 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. I think that's --
5 that's the essence of it, that masks be required at all
6 times in -- at the Fair as well as at Pac Amp, and that
7 the food and beverage areas be isolated from Pac Amp
8 itself during the concerts, and be set aside at various
9 areas within the Fair so that when people are consuming
10 beverages and eating food which is obviously a very
11 important part of the -- of the Fair experience that
12 they -- they be in an area where they're separated from
13 other -- other activities.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. And we
15 have a second from Director Bagneris. Summer, can you
16 go ahead and take roll call please?

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

18 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: No.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

20 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

21 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

22 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

24 DIRECTOR RUIZ: No.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

3 DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Pham?

5 DIRECTOR PHAM: No. But I'd like to say, it's
6 a pretty fluid situation, so for sure I'm probably going
7 to want to revisit next -- next meeting.

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. The motion fails.

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you to the
10 members of the public for the comments, and thank you to
11 the board for that discussion.

12 We're going to go ahead and move on to agenda
13 item -- let me just make sure I'm in the right place --
14 9B. This one -- actually, I hope it's okay, you know,
15 after this, after we take 9B, I'm going to go ahead and
16 skip over to Committee Reports because we do have a --
17 an important presentation that the Community Committee
18 is going to give, and I really would like to get that --
19 the Community Affairs Committee has put something
20 together, and I would like the -- to have that
21 presentation done before our presenter has to jump off
22 of this call.

23 So why don't we go ahead and move over to
24 agenda Item 9B and this is reviewing the initial
25 planning documents for the strategic planning session.

1 So as -- as you can recall, I'm just going to recap
2 where we are and how we got to the strategic planning
3 process, but the Board met last month and we decided
4 that we would move forward with a three-year -- a
5 three-year strategic plan.

6 The process will begin in September after the
7 Fair, but we really just wanted to get some prework done
8 and give the Board some time to take consideration of
9 topics that they might want to discuss. We -- we did
10 decide on the direction that we would be going for
11 strategic planning, but we still want to get more
12 information from the Board on this topic.

13 The -- we also decided as a Board, that the
14 facilitators on the process will be our -- our internal
15 staff, so CEO Richards will work in collaboration with
16 the Board to execute strategic planning. We feel at
17 this time that we're, our staff internally are in better
18 position than a consultant would be on executing this
19 three-year strategic planning process. So I'm going to
20 go ahead and turn it over to CEO Richards to see if she
21 has anything additional to add.

22 CEO RICHARDS: Sure. Also in that discussion,
23 we talked about while we're -- we're busy with the Fair,
24 it's a good time for us to do a little preplanning going
25 into the strategic planning initiative gathering

1 information from our Board members and members of the
2 public as well to see what issues are important to them.

3 So today we have a draft questionnaire that
4 we'd like to share with the Board. The Board -- Board
5 members don't need to answer this at this time, but
6 we're looking for feedback about whether these are the
7 right questions, if there's anything missing or anything
8 that we want to change. But this type of information,
9 while Board members would answer these questions
10 anonymously, it would be gathered into one collective
11 feedback that we would bring to the strategic planning
12 process.

13 And it would just help staff kind of guide
14 the -- the discussions, so I'll just run through the
15 questions real quickly and then maybe we can open it up
16 for feedback or any other ideas, so we'd like to ask
17 Board members who they think our stakeholder groups are
18 and whose input is important to our strategic planning
19 process.

20 No. 2, what information do we want to gather
21 from our stakeholder groups? What is the Board
22 interested in understanding from those stakeholders?

23 No. 3, this is a list of topics that the Board
24 brainstormed in our last meeting that should be included
25 in the strategic planning process. So we'd like to

1 understand the importance of those issues and have the
2 Board rank the importance of -- of each of them and then
3 indicate if they feel those are more operational or if
4 those are more strategic issues.

5 We'd like to understand what each Board member
6 feels in terms of defining what the organizational
7 mandates are, in other words, what's at the top of the
8 list, the must-do's, the -- the projects that -- either
9 projects or initiatives that we must accomplish.

10 We'd like Board members to take a look at our
11 current mission statement and evaluate is that the -- is
12 that the right mission statement for now and in our
13 future, which is celebration of Orange County's
14 communities, interests, agriculture, and heritage, with
15 results justifying resources expended.

16 We'd like the Board to review our current
17 values. Are these right for us at this time, why or why
18 not, are there any that are missing? Safety, people,
19 integrity, stewardship, compliance, diversity, and
20 inclusion, excellence, and community and neighborliness,
21 are the values that we have listed as of now.

22 We'd also like for Board members to give us
23 input on what their vision of success is for the
24 organization in the next three years. As we indicated,
25 we're going to be looking at a shorter-term three-year

1 strategic plan. So in other words, how will we measure
2 whether or not we are successful at the end of the three
3 years? What are those -- what is each Board member's
4 vision for the organization? And then a good old
5 fashion SWOT analysis.

6 What are our -- our internal strengths and
7 weaknesses and what are our external opportunities or
8 threats to the organization? So these are all great
9 preplanning questions that will give us an opportunity
10 to gather lots of input prior to the strategic planning
11 process, so the question before the Board is: Are --
12 are these good questions? Do we want to make any
13 changes? Do we want to add anything?

14 And then are -- going back to question No. --
15 No. 2 is: What information do we want to gather from
16 our stakeholder groups? So we have a great opportunity
17 between now and the fall, while the public is very
18 engaged with us at the Fair, to gather information from
19 our stakeholder groups. So I'll turn it back to you,
20 Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, if you want to lead a discussion
21 with the Board members.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any questions from the
23 Board or suggestions for the -- the direction the
24 strategic planning is currently going?

25 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Natalie, I think the

1 questionnaire is -- is excellent, and the other thing I
2 would add, and I believe staff has already forwarded
3 this to us, back in 2014, we went through a similar
4 process for those of us that were on the Board at the
5 time, and that was done by Kelly and Associates, and I
6 think that becomes a great source spot even for the
7 current Board to take a look at.

8 And then back in 2016, I think Barbara was the
9 chair at the time, there was another kind of update or
10 report done, so I think having both of those in our --
11 in our packet of information to look at as we go through
12 this process, I think would be helpful. And, of course,
13 we have the other studies that have been underway, the
14 master plan and the infrastructure studies, so all of
15 those obviously would contribute to the -- the final
16 product.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director La
18 Belle. Any other questions or comments? And we do have
19 time, so you can take some time to digest the document
20 and -- and make any recommendations, and you could
21 always direct those to CEO Richards, if after this
22 meeting there's something that you would like to suggest
23 we adjust.

24 CEO RICHARDS: We'll be creating a fillable PDF
25 so that Board members in their own time can, you know,

1 share information so it'll be really easy to -- to fill
2 out and -- and then I'll be following up with each
3 individual Board member on their thoughts as well.

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. And
5 Summer, I think we have one public comment on this item.

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: We do. Reggie Mundekis, when
7 you're ready.

8 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Thank you for this
9 opportunity to address you on this. It's Reggie
10 Mundekis. I -- I really appreciate the Board taking on
11 this process. We need it, both for business reasons
12 and also as we move out of the pandemic and hopefully
13 into something -- a new normal.

14 Regarding question one: Who are our
15 stakeholder groups? If we could change the wording of
16 the second statement: Whose input is important to a
17 strategic planning process, maybe to something like, you
18 know, which groups should input into our strategic
19 planning process, because when I read that statement for
20 the first time it sounded to me like you are asking:
21 Who are our stakeholders, and who are the ones that we
22 need to listen to? And I don't think that's what you
23 mean, so if we just get that re-worded so it's
24 completely clear that we're asking who should we be
25 asking questions about the fairgrounds, who should be

1 included in that discussion.

2 And No. 3, can we split revenue generation and
3 revenue diversification into two separate line items?
4 Because those are actually, to me, they're two separate
5 items, and then get people to suggest, when they say
6 revenue diversification, what does that mean? Does that
7 mean trying to rent the property out more on Monday,
8 Tuesday, and Wednesday, or does that mean opening a
9 casino? Does that mean a gas station? What -- when you
10 say revenue diversification, what are you thinking
11 about? It's not a commitment just like what space are
12 you thinking about moving into?

13 Let's see. Oh, and then regarding the current
14 mission statement, I -- you know, the current mission
15 statement was written by the Board that put the property
16 up for sale which is one of the reasons it has that odd
17 tagline regarding "with results justifying expenses."
18 So feel free to change this mission statement, if you
19 want to. I'm not sure if you're going to get much
20 pushback from people when you bring forward new
21 suggestions. So thank you, and let's keep up the good
22 work on this project.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you for your
24 comments. Any additional comments from the Board? So
25 can I get a motion for approv- -- or just to go ahead

1 and move forward with the document, and --

2 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I so move. This is
3 Sandra.

4 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Second, Doug.

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I have a -- Sandra,
6 Director Cervantes and a second from Director La Belle.
7 Can I get a roll call?

8 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

9 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

11 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

13 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

14 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz?

15 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

18 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

20 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Pham?

21 DIRECTOR PHAM: Yes.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. And
24 Michele, is it possible -- I know we have plans for
25 setting up a strategic planning session late-August,

1 early-September, and the comments that were made by the
2 public today related to that, we can always discuss it
3 at the strategic planning session. So if we could just
4 keep note of those.

5 CEO RICHARDS: Sure. I've got notes, so we'll
6 get -- we'll get a fillable PDF out to all Board
7 members, and we'll start the discussion by gathering
8 that information from Board members before the Fair, and
9 we'll be that much further ahead in the planning
10 process.

11 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Perfect. Thank
12 you. Thank you for all your work on that. And I'd just
13 like to move on to agenda Item G, and we'll come back to
14 the other items, Committee Liaison Reports. And I would
15 like to go ahead and jump over to the Community Affairs
16 Committee and have direct -- I'm going to go ahead and
17 toss it over to Director Ruiz.

18 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes,
19 we had a meeting on the 17th of this month, the
20 Community Affairs Committee, in regards to the piece
21 that we would like to put on the fairgrounds.
22 Unfortunately, we didn't get much participation from the
23 public, we only had one member of the public. And
24 having only one member, that member brought a lot of
25 great ideas to this meeting as to -- and input as to,

1 you know, what direction we should go with the art piece
2 that we want to put on the grounds to celebrate Orange
3 County's rich diverse history.

4 So I think -- I still think we're headed in the
5 right direction, again, even though we didn't get a lot
6 of participation, suggested some ideas as to get more
7 input from the public and one of them was to put out a
8 survey and even have one during the upcoming Fair to get
9 more input from the public as to what direction we
10 should go. Again, it was a great meeting, great ideas
11 and thoughts were tossed around.

12 And I -- I really -- I really am excited about
13 this. I think we're going to come up with a really
14 great piece that's going to honor Orange County's rich
15 history, and I'm really looking forward to this. I wish
16 we had more support from the public, but that will come
17 with time, and I think eventually we'll get the piece
18 that hopefully, you know, just about everyone would
19 like.

20 So having said that, the staff also shared with
21 us a diversity calendar for 2021 that we want to
22 celebrate the diversity of different people throughout
23 the year. So I think being in the month of May, this
24 being Asian-American Pacific Islander heritage month,
25 the staff put together a nice piece here that we're

1 going to show you now.

2 And with that, I am going to turn it over to
3 Director Newton Pham to go ahead and do this
4 presentation for us. Director Pham?

5 DIRECTOR PHAM: Yeah. You know, like Director
6 Ruiz said, can't take too much credit for the
7 presentation, staff did a great job, but then, you know,
8 I have somewhat education myself as well. And I've been
9 asked to narrate it which I'm honored to do so.

10 So May is Asian-American Pacific Islander
11 Heritage Month, and, you know, in October 5th, 1978,
12 President Jimmy Carter signed Resolution 1007
13 proclaiming the first 10 days in May as Asian Pacific
14 American Heritage Month -- week. In 1992, Congress
15 passed Public Law 102-450, which called for the entire
16 month of May to be recognized as Asian-American Pacific
17 Islander Heritage Month.

18 And, you know, the month of May was significant
19 and selected for two reasons, you know, to commemorate
20 the arrival of the first known Japanese immigrant to the
21 US on May 7th, 1843, and to honor the completion of the
22 transcontinental railroad on May 10th, 1869, you know,
23 the building of which took up the 20,000 Chinese
24 workers, you know -- up to 20,000 Chinese workers
25 participated in. You know, there's an estimated 20

1 million Asian-American and Pacific Islanders in the US
2 and it's the fastest growing population in the United
3 States.

4 AAPI is represented in over 30 countries and
5 ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages,
6 and, you know, it's the most rapidly growing segment of
7 the US labor force as well with considerable
8 occupational diversity across all groups. Since 2008
9 there have been more immigrants coming from Asia than
10 from any region in the world. California itself has the
11 largest Asian-American population in the US, and
12 specifically here, Orange County has an estimated AAPI
13 population of nearly 600,000.

14 You know at the OC Fair held a couple years ago
15 in 2019, a survey result showed that 16 percent of
16 correspondents identified as AAPI, and, you know,
17 approximately 12 percent of the OC Fair & Event Center
18 Civil Service staff identify as AAPI.

19 A.G. Kawamura is a third-generation fruit and
20 vegetable grower and shipper from Southern California.
21 He's a former secretary of the California Department of
22 Food and Agriculture and from 2003 to 2010, you know,
23 and has worked on innovative ways to provide fresh
24 produce to local food banks through his nonprofit
25 solutions for urban agriculture.

1 Tsurumatsu Asari was the first documented
2 Japanese immigrant in Wintersburg, California, which is,
3 you know, Huntington Beach. Asari was already a
4 successful sugar beet and alfalfa farmer and merchant by
5 the time he opened up the Asari goldfish hatchery and
6 tried his hand at goldfish farming.

7 Founded by Teruo Tanaka, Tanaka Farms is a
8 family-owned and operated and has been in existence for
9 over 100 years. Tanaka Farms currently is located in
10 Irvine and strives to provide quality produce and
11 educate the community on the values of healthy eating.

12 You know, in honor of Heroes Hall, we recognize
13 that many AAPI veterans who have served in our country
14 are from Orange County. You know, during World War II,
15 the 40 -- 442nd Regimental Combat Team made up entirely
16 of Japanese Americans was the most highly decorated unit
17 in the history of American warfare for its size and
18 length of service with more than 18,000 medals and
19 honors awarded to the 14,000 who served the 442nd is
20 known today as the Purple Heart Battalion.

21 Kazua Masuda an Orange County native was
22 assigned to the 442nd. He was killed during a battle in
23 Italy while providing cover for his comrades to escape.
24 He was awarded the Distinguish Service Cross
25 posthumously for extraordinary heroism. Kazuo Masuda

1 Middle School In Fountain Valley was dedicated in his
2 honor in 1975 and a plaque with his commendation can be
3 found in Heroes Hall Walk of Honor.

4 Filipino soldiers and civilians fought along
5 American troops in the Philippine War and in the
6 Philippines during World War II and an estimated one
7 million Filipinos lost their lives in -- in the war.

8 The AAPI community is also well represented in
9 political leadership in Orange County, including
10 Congresswoman Michele Steele, 48th District;
11 Congresswoman Young Kim, 39th District; State Senator
12 Min David, 37th District; State Assemblyman Philip Chen,
13 55th District; State Assemblyman Stephen Choi, 68th
14 District; State Assemblywoman Janet Nguyen, 72nd
15 District; OC Supervisor Andrew Do, 1st District; and OC
16 Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, 5th District.

17 You know, other top AAPI leaders in Orange
18 County include Dr. Clayton Chau, Director of OC Health
19 Care Agency; Kirti Mutatkar, President and CEO of United
20 Agribusiness League; Manjusha Kulkarni, Executive
21 Director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning
22 Council; Alisi Tulua serves as the OC Asian and Pacific
23 Islander Community Alliance and National Coalition for
24 Asian Pacific American Community development; Dean Kim,
25 manager of the OC Baking Company, supplying bread to

1 over 100 restaurants in Orange County; David Sun and
2 John Tu, Co-founders of Kingston Technology Company.

3 Additionally these are, you know, another small
4 sample of AAPI-owned businesses in Orange County. And
5 the OC Fair & Event Center is proud to be the host
6 location for these, you know, wonderful AAPI cultural
7 festivals and events. You know, we hosted OC Japan
8 Fair, as well as the OC Night Market which is, you know,
9 comprised of a lot of Asian-American and Pacific
10 Islander foods, and the Tet Festival.

11 You know, you can also help celebrate AAPI
12 Heritage Month by reading and learning about the history
13 of the communities particularly in Orange County. You
14 can explore historical monuments by visiting online
15 museums and attending events and discovering exhibits
16 for the AAPI communities, and, you know, you can also
17 learn about traditional Asian and Pacific Islander
18 music, and, you know, the unique instruments. And you
19 can support AAPI non-profit organizations that help
20 those in Asian Pacific Islander communities in Orange
21 County.

22 You know, as a closing, you know, for me, I
23 do -- I do want to say that it's been a, you know, very
24 interesting year and a very challenging one, and -- but
25 it shouldn't be lost that, you know, for me as an

1 Asian-American, I feel very fortunate to be in a country
2 where, you know, the opportunities presented in the
3 prior slides exist, and I feel very proud to be an
4 American.

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
6 Pham. That was a fantastic presentation and celebration
7 of this wonderful community. And thank you Director
8 Ruiz, and, of course, staff for putting so much thought
9 and effort into highlighting the wonderful contributions
10 that members of the Asian-American Pacific Islander
11 community have made here in Orange County and in the
12 country. Any questions or comments from the Board?
13 Director Ruiz, does that conclude your report for
14 Community Affairs?

15 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes, it does. And I -- I want
16 to echo your comments, great job by Director Pham and a
17 great job by staff as always for putting this
18 presentation together. That's going to be it for my
19 report. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Thank you
21 for all your efforts on this front. I'm going to go
22 ahead and move on to Centennial Farm Foundation Liaison,
23 Director Cervantes?

24 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I don't have anything to
25 report at the moment.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Joan, do
2 you have anything to report on this topic? Okay.
3 Hearing that there are none, or unless you're on mute --
4 sorry. I can't see you.

5 JOAN HAMILL: I'm sorry. This is Joan. Was
6 that directed at me, Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

7 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

8 JOAN HAMILL: I'm sorry, on this topic I don't
9 at this time.

10 CEO RICHARDS: We know you attended the
11 Centennial Farm Foundation meeting, was there any action
12 taken or anything specific to report from that meeting?

13 JOAN HAMILL: Nothing to report at this
14 meeting. I'm sorry I was on delay a little bit, but no,
15 nothing to report. They're planning a meeting for next
16 month. They were happy to be back together after many
17 months apart and having their first meeting since 2020.

18 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Well, thanks
19 for the update. Director La Belle, Heroes Hall Veterans
20 Foundation?

21 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Natalie. I was
22 unable to attend due to a prior commitment. There was a
23 meeting last week. I don't know if Michele or Joan were
24 able to participate in that meeting or not, so I would
25 defer to -- to them.

1 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director Cervantes,
2 anything to add on that front?

3 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No. I was also unable to
4 attend that meeting.

5 JOAN HAMILL: I was able to attend the meeting,
6 and they were looking at their next order of business in
7 terms of how they can do some additional fundraising for
8 the foundation. They did put together an opportunity
9 for this weekend with Newport Rib Company, if people
10 want to purchase at Newport Rib Company, donations will
11 be made in the honor of Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation,
12 so I would encourage everyone to -- to order from
13 Newport Rib Company in Costa Mesa this month -- this
14 upcoming weekend rather.

15 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. The
16 Leadership Committee, that's Director La Belle and
17 myself. Director La Belle, do you have anything to
18 report?

19 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Other than the -- the
20 equestrian study that's prepared by Doug Lofstrom has
21 been completed and is being posted, and obviously that
22 will become a part of our strategic planning process
23 that we will be encouraging in over the next several
24 months.

25 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Perfect. Thank you,

1 and we -- we do actually have -- we met with Doug
2 Lofstrom on Friday -- what are we in May now, May 24,
3 and we had a great discussion, we were able to review
4 his final work product on the EQC and the overview that
5 he provided. So I actually invited him to this meeting
6 to provide a brief overview and then answer any
7 questions the Board might have related to that EQC
8 study.

9 DOUG LOFSTROM: Hi. Good morning, members of
10 the Board and -- and public. I'll make this brief. I
11 know many of you have just received the document, and I
12 don't know if you've had a chance to go through it, but
13 there are three things I would suggest to the Board to
14 do in preparation to a further discussion regarding EQC.

15 First thing is to read and digest the entire
16 document. I realize there is a -- a great deal of
17 information in it. And I think it will be helpful for
18 any future discussions that you have, that you have a
19 chance to go through the entire document. I would also
20 encourage you to review the results of the surveys, both
21 the public survey and the EQC-user survey. The links
22 have been provided to you.

23 On Monday Terry, Michele, and I had a chance to
24 meet with Kevin from FlashVote. I found the meeting to
25 be incredibly informative, and I think for you and the

1 public when you go through the links, you'll have a
2 chance to filter some of the results; age, gender, and
3 other topics. And I think you'll find the information
4 to be very helpful, insightful, and very informative.
5 But regarding any future analysis of the surveys, I will
6 quickly defer to Michele and Terry on that because they
7 have much more expertise on the survey process than I
8 do.

9 The second thing I'd like to share with you:
10 There are three very, very important sections in the
11 document. The first one is the equestrian center
12 operating model. That is the crux of the study. And
13 keep in mind that what we did was to show you how things
14 operate, not how to do them. It's not a technical
15 document. It's basically to share with the Board how
16 things operate.

17 The second important section is items to
18 consider regarding the equestrian center operating
19 models. So when you're looking at the first section --
20 or not the first section, but when you're looking at the
21 operating models, and you might be interested in a
22 particular model, this section gives you some things to
23 consider regarding that model.

24 I believe that you will most likely over time
25 add more to the list that I've provided. And I think

1 that will strengthen the review and study process if you
2 add more items regarding things that you would like to
3 know more about as it relates to a particular model.

4 The third section that I find very important is
5 one of the last ones that I wrote. You know, this
6 section review, evaluation, and assessment process is
7 the road map. It -- it's going to be a -- an
8 opportunity to take you through the process. As I was
9 developing this document for the past three -- actually
10 I started working on the document almost when I started
11 on the project, because I knew that I was going to be
12 providing a lot of information to a Board of Directors,
13 because the audience of this study is the Board of
14 Directors.

15 And I felt that if I provide all this
16 information and we don't give you a road map of what to
17 do with that information, that would be a disservice to
18 you. So this process that I have created is really from
19 an executive management point of view, and I believe
20 that the process that's been identified will lead you to
21 a decision.

22 It's not going to lead you to the decision.
23 And there's a -- there's a difference in my mind. A
24 means you're going to get yourself to a point where you
25 get to make a decision. And the decision is going to be

1 about the direction and vision for EQC.

2 I think the third thing I'd like to share with
3 you I think it's going to be very helpful as you go
4 through the document that you prepare your questions,
5 send those to Michele, and I'll be happy to sit down
6 with Michele and answer any questions you might have
7 that will help you prepare for the next discussion
8 regarding this topic.

9 I think having the answers back to you ahead of
10 that will speed up the discussions and will be good use
11 of your time. Just a couple of comments then I'll open
12 it up to questions. The equestrian center study follows
13 the outline that I originally prepared for Board
14 leadership and Michele. I believe that this study
15 basically tees up the discussion for the Board of
16 Directors. As you know, there's no recommendation in
17 this study, but I think the study will help you when you
18 host those discussions.

19 This is a complex subject matter. It's got a
20 lot of moving parts to it. It does have potential to
21 impact others. And as we all know, it can be very
22 emotional. I would be remiss if I didn't share with you
23 the following: The 32nd DAA has had a very interesting
24 journey regarding EQC, but I think it's appropriate to
25 recognize others who have made an effort prior to this

1 study being released.

2 I know there are current -- current Board
3 members, I know there are former Board members who have
4 given time to look into EQC. And I know there have been
5 prior management teams who have looked into EQC. I was
6 personally involved in three initiatives to help make a
7 difference in EQC. In my opinion this organization has
8 not ignored EQC.

9 With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions
10 you might have at this point.

11 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Are there any
12 questions from the Board for Doug?

13 CEO RICHARDS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, if I
14 could just add one more thing to what Doug said. We --
15 we will plan to put this on the agenda, most likely for
16 June or whenever Board leadership indicates so that
17 Board members will have an opportunity to discuss.
18 Today's meeting is to present the study, and as Doug
19 said, to give plenty of time for the Board members to
20 digest all the information. I think it's 60-some pages.
21 So it would be a little unfair for us to put it before
22 the Board and then expect a discussion today.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. It's just an
24 informational item. And one of the things I will
25 mention as you grab your favorite beverage of choice

1 whether it's a cup of coffee, a diet Coke, a glass of
2 wine, and spend some time with the document, like Doug
3 mentioned, it is just supposed to provide us with the
4 direction -- with the tools that we need to have a
5 thoughtful discussion and make sound decisions about the
6 equestrian center moving forward. So, you know, if
7 there are -- I do believe we have one question from the
8 public, which we can go ahead and take now, if they are
9 prepared to do so. Summer?

10 SECRETARY ANGUS: Actually we have four
11 speakers on -- on the topic. It'll be Carolyn Beaver,
12 followed by Leigh-Ann Kazolas, Reggie Mundekis, and
13 Gibran Stout. Carolyn, when you're ready.

14 CAROLYN BEAVER: Thank you. Can you hear me
15 okay?

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yeah. Go right ahead.

17 CAROLYN BEAVER: Good. Thank you very much.
18 First of all, thank you for sharing the report. I
19 appreciate that, and it is a lengthy report, and so I
20 will admit that I haven't had time to review it in full
21 detail. But I do want to make a couple of comments.

22 One is that on page 11 of the report where it
23 gives background about the Board action, there's an
24 important decision that the Board made in May 2018 that
25 is not included in the report. And I think it's very

1 important that frankly the report should be revised to
2 include this.

3 It states that in May, that the Board created a
4 three-person ad hoc committee which is true, but more
5 importantly, the Board did affirm in that meeting which
6 was May 24th that the equestrian center would stay. And
7 that was a motion that was made by Director La Belle and
8 seconded by Director Aitken. And I think it's something
9 that is very important, that that's important background
10 that people should realize.

11 Second of all, I would like to invite the Board
12 to come to the equestrian center to see the equestrian
13 center for yourself because reading a report is great,
14 and it's great information, but I really think that you
15 need to come and you need to see people ride and you
16 need to see people interacting with horses, you need to
17 see what we do because that is, I think, ultimately how
18 people get it, in terms of the importance of the
19 equestrian center to so many people.

20 I think that we need more conversations with
21 people that use the equestrian center on a daily,
22 weekly, monthly basis. We had the survey, but to be
23 honest, that's a pretty short survey, and I feel,
24 personally, as someone who's there generally, you know,
25 five days a week, sometimes more, that there's really

1 not enough input of those of us that use it frequently.

2 And so I -- I do welcome conversations and
3 being included in more conversations going forward about
4 how the equestrian center can be better utilized. I did
5 notice in the survey responses that there were some
6 survey members that commented that people from the
7 public weren't welcome and in some cases made to feel
8 like they shouldn't be at the equestrian center.

9 I don't know where that comes from, and that's
10 unfortunate. Certainly I do think that because of the
11 COVID restrictions we have been, as you likely well
12 know, we've been very restrictive as far as people not
13 being able to come and see horses like they used to be
14 able to, so that might be part of what drove that.

15 I do think that we do have some education that
16 needs to happen to people that use the facility to
17 realize that, yes, it is, you know, the public is
18 welcome, absent any COVID-19 restrictions. But people
19 should be made to feel welcome, but we do need to work
20 to make sure that we're ensuring the safety of our
21 horses as well.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: Carolyn, I'm sorry, that is
23 time.

24 CAROLYN BEAVER: Thank you.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Leigh-Ann Kazolas, when

1 you're ready.

2 LEIGH-ANN KAZOLAS: Okay. Thank you so much.
3 Can you hear me?

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go right ahead.

5 LEIGH-ANN KAZOLAS: The main thing that I want
6 to bring up and it's something that keeps jumping off
7 the page to me and others is the delineation between
8 equestrian center users and the public, and it's caused
9 some confusion in the survey. And also in the
10 interpretation of this report and the purpose of the
11 report which is to enhance public access.

12 Every single person who comes to the equestrian
13 center for any reason is a member of the public. An
14 Orange County resident who chooses to board a horse
15 there is a member of the public. Every man, woman,
16 transgender person, child, teenager, senior citizen,
17 that comes and takes lessons are members of the public.

18 Every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin,
19 and sibling that comes to watch their family member ride
20 or to visit their family horse -- and I'm telling you
21 this, there's hundreds of people in a given week -- are
22 members of the public. Every school field trip or every
23 senior center that brings its members for an outing,
24 every therapy group for veterans, battered women or
25 troubled kids attending free or reduced-cost camps

1 through Changing Strides, or even the folks who sign up
2 through the City of Costa Mesa Recreation Department,
3 the horsemanship classes, and yoga on horseback classes
4 are members of the public.

5 Every struggling adolescent, every LGBTQ+ rider
6 that comes and enjoys riding in a non-judgmental place,
7 or a child bullied at school who looks forward to seeing
8 their Pony Club friends if that's where they fit in, or
9 the homeless woman who has struggled -- or a woman who's
10 struggled with homelessness whose trainer let's her ride
11 despite being unable to pay are all members of the
12 public.

13 So again like what Carolyn said, we invite all
14 of you to come and see that this place is teeming with
15 public activity. And I feel that that is -- the public
16 activity, the scope and breath and range of all of that
17 was really left out of this report. There's no data on
18 how many people come here during the week. There's no
19 data on any of our description of any of the activities
20 that actually go on.

21 It is this delineation between equestrian
22 center users and the public that just stands out because
23 we don't ever hear the delineation between fairgoers and
24 the public, or a Centennial Farm cooking class or goat
25 yoga class participants and the public. And maybe I'm

1 missing something, it just jumped up to me, we're a
2 public facility, and we are open to everyone at all
3 times.

4 We have families, and power-walking
5 stroller-pushing moms that come through all the time, a
6 widower who recently lost his wife that comes through
7 and visits, we are open to the public. Now free access
8 to public has created some problems and some
9 unsupervised public access anywhere, it comes with some
10 safety and security concerns.

11 We've encountered people from the community who
12 insist on feeding horses after being respectfully told
13 not to, who've been bitten despite the warning signs on
14 stalls to not pat a horse for a reason, we've had
15 skateboarders thinking our speed bumps are fun, teens
16 throwing rocks and intentionally seeking horses for fun,
17 and one incident with a mentally unstable man who was on
18 the property one night and let all of the white horses
19 out of their stalls to gallop around the property.

20 So some of us around the property do see this
21 unrestrictive public access as a challenge and it can be
22 scary, but we do have numerous solutions. We have an
23 idea about having volunteer docents and doing regular
24 tours and online sign-up systems ready to go and lots of
25 other ideas for open houses and events and we would love

1 to do something with the OC Wine Society, when they get
2 back up and running, and do some --

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Leigh-Ann, I'm sorry that is
4 time.

5 LEIGH-ANN KAZOLAS: Lots of ideas. Thanks.

6 SECRETARY ANGUS: Okay. We have Reggie
7 Mundekis, when you're ready.

8 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi, Reggie Mundekis. Thank
9 you for this opportunity to address you today. I'd like
10 to thank Mr. Lofstrom for this report. I appreciate the
11 time, effort, level of detail, that has gone into this
12 challenging project, and I deeply appreciate the work
13 that you've put into this and the thought that has gone
14 into this.

15 So I -- I read the report for the first time.
16 I think it's really great, and I came up with a couple
17 of issues that we may want to just start kind of
18 muddling around in our heads and figuring out how we
19 want to deal with some of these issues. My first
20 question is just: What's the staff appetite for
21 possibly managing the equestrian center?

22 And to me that -- the staff is allowed to say,
23 no, we don't want to manage it, we want it to be a
24 contract, rather than just coming up with some financial
25 justification for the staff not managing it. I think

1 that should be like a yes or no question, and if the
2 answer is yes, we negotiate.

3 We need to find out what the actual cost of
4 participation is for different types of equestrian
5 activities because that helps us get to the issues of
6 how do we address public access, especially for our
7 lower and middle income residents. And when I say
8 public access, that includes both passive access,
9 walking around, stroller-pushing, things like horse
10 shows, but also active use regarding some sort of like
11 on-horse or horse-participative programming.

12 And going into that, we should -- we should
13 start asking questions to help us qualify and quantify
14 the ongoing access programs, both in terms of both
15 passive access, walking around, stroller moms, and some
16 of the other activities -- are going down -- going down
17 there like vaulting and some of the therapy programs --
18 and those, we need to start getting some more details on
19 those so we can figure out what do we have and what do
20 we need to build.

21 And then my last question is regarding the
22 maintenance repairs issues identified in the
23 infrastructure analysis. The current contract with the
24 current operators -- operator is supposed to be paying
25 for those. We need to get to a decision point on those,

1 because then that decision makes a determination as to
2 what happens with the equestrian center structure wise
3 and also what level of effort needs to be expended to
4 justify any further investment in the equestrian center.

5 So my concern is that if we end up paying for
6 the repairs because the operator refuses to -- okay. If
7 the public ends up paying for the repairs, we're going
8 to want to see a much higher level of commitment for
9 low-cost access for your lower and middle income
10 individuals and more program and passive recreation
11 opportunities for the public. So thank you very much.
12 Great report.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie. Gibran
14 Stout, when you're ready.

15 GIBRAN STOUT: Can you hear me?

16 SECRETARY ANGUS: Yes. Go right ahead.

17 GIBRAN STOUT: Awesome. I'd like to start by
18 thanking everyone. Thank you, Board, for making this an
19 actual investment report. Thank you to Doug and the
20 staff for your efforts. I know it's going to take us
21 all a while to finish reviewing and digesting, myself
22 included, a lot of information here.

23 One of the things that jumped out at me was the
24 report was based on interviews with seven people -- five
25 trainers and two members of the public. And they are

1 two members that often speak at these meeting, so we
2 know what they think.

3 This is a great starting point, and I'm really
4 looking forward to the next step. And I'm hoping that
5 this next step is discussion, actual, real, interactive
6 discussion with the public to fill in the gaps in the
7 report, because like Leigh-Ann said, the public includes
8 all users, passive, active, all users, and boarders.

9 And I don't understand also the delineation
10 between the two because if we're wanting to reach out to
11 the public it should include everybody. When this
12 process commenced, you promised discussion and inclusion
13 and workshop. We're looking forward to those workshops,
14 I know many, many members of the public have some great
15 ideas, suggestions, solutions which cannot be shared in
16 a four-question survey that's published for five days.

17 We really need discussion, we need inclusion,
18 workshop, virtual, would be great. City of Lakewood
19 does some really great interactive workshop. They're
20 doing a similar process right now, which I encourage the
21 Board to look at what they're doing. They got 1,000
22 responses to their survey. So I think that there's a
23 lot more that we can get there.

24 If you are sincere in your promises for
25 inclusive discussion, then please, please, please,

1 interview users, hold workshops, have them be virtual,
2 restore the equestrian center committee, that way we can
3 have some of these discussions outside of our
4 three-minute speaking at these meetings. We want to
5 have conversation, we want to have interaction, we don't
6 want to come to these meetings and just have three
7 minutes of unresponded-to discussions.

8 We don't want to send you emails with our ideas
9 without having any response to them. We want to just
10 remind you that users are the public, and we are begging
11 you to be included in the discussion not just more
12 questions and surveys. We want to give you our input
13 and we love this and we love the facility and we want
14 you to participate in it. So thank you very much.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: All right. Thank you,
16 Gibran. Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, that concludes public
17 comment on this item.

18 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Summer.
19 Any other additional comments from the Board on this
20 topic? I just wanted to highlight -- thank you to the
21 members of the public for your comments on this topic.
22 Something that popped out at me when -- during the
23 comments was it sounded like there might be question
24 that the equestrian center is, you know, its life on the
25 fairgrounds is limited, but that is not the intention of

1 this process.

2 It's really, to figure out the best path
3 forward from an operating perspective, and that is
4 really what the -- the report focused on, is different
5 operating models, and how they're functioning. And Doug
6 did a very thorough job identifying the different
7 operating models that other municipalities are using or
8 other private organizations. So it's -- it's a very
9 well rounded report.

10 I encourage everybody to take a look at it. I
11 also wanted to note that staff did have this 30-day
12 survey that went out, and I think it was at least 30
13 days that it was open for people to fill out. We did
14 receive 900 respondents from the general public, and I
15 believe we received about 115 from the equestrian center
16 community. So with that, I -- I want to once again ask
17 if there's any members of the Board who have any
18 questions for Doug before we move on to the next agenda
19 item.

20 And we will absolutely have this as part of our
21 strategic planning meetings, and those are open to the
22 public, and we'll likely be virtual starting in August,
23 so we'll have it there. One thing I do want to ask,
24 Michele, if you could add to the next agenda for June,
25 an item for the current operating contract.

1 I would like the Board to discuss whether or
2 not we extend, we actually review that current -- right
3 now I don't think -- we don't have a valid -- we just
4 have a contract that's sort of ongoing, and it would be
5 good for the Board to discuss what we do since this
6 process is going to take longer than, you know, three
7 months, you know, perhaps we can talk about extending
8 that for a year and getting a real actual contract in
9 place with our current operator.

10 Okay. All right. So the next item is the
11 Financial Monitoring Committee.

12 DIRECTOR PHAM: All right. So the committee
13 and staff met to review the April financials. You know,
14 revenue is currently favorable year-to-date through
15 April to budget by 2.6 million. This is primarily due
16 to the receipt of funds from the state under AB1499 of
17 830,000, and then there was a receipt of a one-time
18 funding support from the state of 1.56 million.

19 You know, our operations net funding are still
20 favorable to budget by 135,000. Operating expenses
21 year-to-date are also favorable, and overall cash and
22 investments are about 40 million. A decrease of about
23 13.7 over April of 2020, which all things being said are
24 pretty good. Staff also updated us on the 2020 STOP
25 report which has been submitted to the state.

1 And we received good news from the CFSA that
2 there will be no increase in our general liability or
3 workers' compensation fees this year. However, a full
4 update and re-valuation of our property insurance may
5 result in an increase. And that's it for the report.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
7 Pham. Anything to add, Director Bagneris?

8 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No. I'm good with that
9 report. Thank you.

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Moving on
11 to the Facilities Committee, Director Aitken and
12 Director Ruiz.

13 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Thank you. If you
14 haven't had a chance, Ken wrote a wonderful report for
15 our committee that is attached to the agenda. Just
16 things I wanted to highlight, I know that we are going
17 to be discussing our gate entry systems as a separate
18 agenda item, so I won't touch on that, but the Storm
19 Water Management project is 100 percent complete.

20 So we will no longer need to talk about that or
21 put that in our committee reports. I would like Ken to
22 touch on something that we wanted some Board input on,
23 and that is a potential partnership for a Cell on Wheels
24 tower that is a partnership with Verizon just to get
25 some direction on how we should go. So Ken, would you

1 mind addressing that issue?

2 COO KARNS: Thank you, Director Aitken. Yeah,
3 an opportunity has presented itself, and it's a
4 revenue-generating opportunity. However, staff wanted
5 to lift it up, so -- to ensure that we don't create
6 anything that could be controversial.

7 We have an opportunity to put in a
8 semi-permanent, semi-temporary -- so it's moveable --
9 COW, Cell on Wheels, just inside Gate 5 on our property
10 off of Arlington. The reason that we want to make sure
11 that there's no issues is that this type of temporary
12 installation will not be a decorative pine or palm tree
13 style of cell tower. That permanent type of
14 installation would likely not occur in this location
15 because they need more room, a lot more infrastructure
16 with the permanent palm or pine decorative footings and
17 foundations and typically a hut for equipment.

18 So this -- this is a semi-permanent temporary
19 above ground installation for that location, and
20 although it is revenue generating and we could've
21 proceed if we wanted to lift it up, make there's no
22 issues, and to see if the Board would like it agendized
23 with further information prior to us proceeding. It is
24 unlikely for us to proceed with this particular
25 installation in advance of the Fair.

1 Our Fair time temporary cows will be dispersed
2 to not confuse that we'd gone ahead. We have three that
3 are installed at Fair time. We might put one in this
4 location, if it -- if that works out. However, this
5 would be a separate installation that would be there for
6 a length of time not just Fair, so really the -- the
7 issue we want to highlight is that it would not be a
8 decorative style and make sure that that doesn't cause
9 any pain and if we want further feedback, we would
10 definitely have to agendize this for -- for action to be
11 given by the Board. But under current policies, since
12 it's revenue generating, Michele could engage in a
13 revenue contract, again, wanted to highlight it.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. And I think one the
15 important things is I look at this as something that is
16 operational that Michele can make a decision on. Given
17 that there is not an option to use the more decorative
18 palm tree type cell phone towers.

19 And I think, second, that we use these types of
20 structures during Fair time, you know, my recommendation
21 would be unless the -- another Board member wants to
22 agendize this for a further meeting, just to move
23 forward with this. But I did want to highlight it
24 for -- for the group.

25 COO KARNs: And if I could add to round out,

1 the contractor that we work with, Verizon, would get all
2 applicable permits through the City, everything would be
3 done the way it needs to be done. So if -- just to make
4 sure that everyone is aware of that, so we -- we have in
5 advance reached out to our colleagues at the City so
6 that we fully understand what that process is as well.

7 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Natalie, this is Doug.
8 Just for the record, if this matter comes before the
9 Board, I will be abstaining from participating in any
10 discussion or option on this item.

11 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Is there any -- thank
12 you, Doug -- is there any will from the Board to
13 agendize this or are we comfortable with CEO Richards
14 delegated authority to handle this item?

15 COO KARNS: And for full clarity, the City in
16 reviewing did express interest and that's why we did
17 bring it up, in decorative. Again, this cannot be a
18 decorative style at this time.

19 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: But this -- so just to
20 kind of elaborate on that, so the City doesn't have to
21 permit this item, you are -- of the courtesy of the --
22 of our state agency to ask the City?

23 COO KARNS: Yeah. If there's some work,
24 infrastructure work, that in boring under the roadway,
25 that the contractor would have to get a permit. But as

1 far as permission to put something on our property, no,
2 you're correct, it's a courtesy. So if we were to go
3 ahead, you know, the City could not enforce in any way,
4 shape, what we put on the property.

5 But we, again, want to be good neighbors. We
6 want to have it all out there for -- for everyone to be
7 aware. And again, it is temporary. So if we find it's
8 not conducive, it's not the right location, you know, a
9 year from now after whatever the terms of the contract,
10 we could move it. And again, when we go to a permanent
11 style depending how the grounds evolve over time and we
12 find a spot for a permanent one, I think at that time it
13 would be ideal to put in a decorative pine or palm style
14 cell tower.

15 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Ken, and
16 thank you Director Aitken. Once again, any will to put
17 this on the agenda, and, you know, we don't have to
18 decide this now, but it can always be agendized at a
19 later meeting before the posting period, so -- or
20 actually, we want to go ahead and move forward with
21 this.

22 Is any -- am I hearing any will from the Board
23 besides Director La Belle who has had to abstain from
24 any further discussion of this topic to go ahead and
25 have CEO Richards utilize her delegated authority to

1 move forward with this opportunity? Okay. Hearing that
2 there are none, I think that we can go ahead and not
3 agendize this.

4 COO KARNs: Thank you, everyone.

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, and thank
6 you, Director Aitken for your guidance on that topic, as
7 well as Ken, thank you. All right. Moving on to our
8 final item for this topic, the Governance Committee and
9 Director Cervantes, do you have any items to report?

10 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam Chair
11 Rubalcava-Garcia, and this is information. The summary
12 has been posted. SB 264, this bill is making its way
13 through the committee process, it has been amended. The
14 address -- to address gun shows on state property only.
15 The original bill also included county property.

16 If passed, the bill would prohibit gun shows at
17 the OC Fair & Event Center and other state properties
18 essentially impacting over 800,000 per year in revenue
19 for OCFEC. Western Fairs Association has taken an
20 opposed position on this bill. JPA, California
21 Department of Food and Agriculture, CDFA, is working on
22 the structure for a Joint Powers Authority that would
23 create operating agreements with nonprofits for the
24 operation of DAS and CDFA and once emphasized that the
25 transition away from the state still remains optional

1 for individual fairs.

2 This is quite exciting -- letter to Governor
3 Newsom. Hopefully he can make it. Staff has sent a
4 letter and contacts are working on getting it in front
5 of him and inviting him to tour our vaccination site
6 before it closes June 5th. Food and agriculture code
7 amendment, staff is working with Senator Dave Min and
8 Assemblymember Cottie-Petrie Norris on an effort to
9 amend current Food and Ag Code.

10 Language has been drafted to amend the code
11 which would allow local fair boards to make decisions on
12 local support of nonprofits and community groups.
13 Lastly Measure Q, this measure was passed last year by
14 the Costa Mesa City Council and allows for retail
15 cannabis sales in the city.

16 It is scheduled to be ratified by the City
17 Council on June 3rd. The measure would also allow
18 potentially -- or potentially allow for cannabis-related
19 events to be held within the city limits, including at
20 the OC Fair & Event Center. Event guidelines are being
21 drafted by the City and that concludes that report.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
23 Cervantes, and thank you the entire Board for your
24 committee reports. I appreciate all of your work and
25 dedication to that as well as staff for assisting us in

1 moving these items forward. That concludes our
2 committee reports. I'm going to go ahead and circle
3 back to agenda Item 9D. I'm going to go ahead and turn
4 this over to Michele so she can brief us on this topic
5 of the upcoming carnival RFP process.

6 CEO RICHARDS: Thank you so much. You might
7 remember when we presented our proposed 2021 budget last
8 fall to the Board. It included a list, that
9 presentation included a list of 13 operational RFPs that
10 we expect to release this year. For one of those RFPs,
11 the carnival services RFP, we requested that a Board
12 committee be assigned to work with staff through the RFP
13 process, mainly due to the complex nature and the
14 financial impact of this contract. It's -- it's
15 probably our largest in terms of scope and financials.

16 So we're seeking some initial input and
17 direction from the Board as we, you know, have begun the
18 process of pulling information together, in fact, Ken
19 Karns has already done a tremendous amount of background
20 research on this getting ready to launch that RFP
21 process. So any other thoughts from the Board on moving
22 forward, and then a request from staff that a
23 committee -- one of the committee be assigned to work
24 with us on this process.

25 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia,

1 this is Doug. I have a few comments that I'd like to
2 make if I could.

3 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Please.

4 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. I requested at the
5 last meeting that this be placed on agenda for Board
6 consideration, and it was based upon some earlier
7 presentations we had several years ago pre-COVID-19,
8 from independent midway operators to handle the midway
9 portion of the -- the process. I initially thought that
10 that had some -- some benefit, but based upon further
11 research, you know, as one of my former bosses used to
12 say, it doesn't appear to me now as it appeared to
13 appear to me then.

14 I think that would be a step back if we did
15 that, and that's why I wanted to get this before the
16 Board sooner rather than later. I believe Michele and
17 Ken probably are looking at sometime later this year to
18 bring the RFP back before it hits the streets for Board
19 review and comment. I think we should keep everything
20 together under one umbrella, the midway, the carnival,
21 and all the related activities to that.

22 Our current vendor is served as well in that
23 capacity. Obviously they will have an opportunity to
24 propose on the new RFP, staff advice is needed or a
25 number of very qualified firms out there that may or may

1 not choose to -- to participate. The only thing I would
2 add is as we go through the strategic planning process,
3 I think there might be some -- we might come up with
4 some sort of activity that would maybe require some more
5 of a year-round approach on the part of -- of whoever
6 gets the selected proposers --

7 Just as an example, if we decided to do a rodeo
8 sometime in November or something, and I know there
9 might be some benefit having some carnival operation
10 there and maybe some midway operation to expand the
11 benefit of that -- at that event.

12 So I guess my only specific comment that I'd
13 like to see on the draft RFP would be to incorporate
14 some mechanism in there whereby we would be asking the
15 proposers to submit information relative to be able to
16 participate in year-round activities to a limited degree
17 over and above the annual Fair. And again, I just
18 reiterate I would see no reason to spread any of that
19 out. I think that would be a step backwards rather than
20 moving forward and subject to your -- your guidance,
21 Chair, I would be more than happy to serve on the review
22 committee when that ultimately occurs. With that, that
23 would conclude my comments and I don't know if there are
24 any comments from the members of the audience or not.

25 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any other comments

1 from the Board? Thank you, Doug, for your feedback on
2 that. Do we have any public comment on this topic?

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: We have one. Reggie
4 Mundekis, when you're ready.

5 REGGIE MUNDEKIS: Hi. Thank -- it's Reggie
6 Mundekis, and thank you for the opportunity to address
7 you today on the carnival RFP. I support staying with
8 the model that has worked for us for so long and so well
9 and that's an integrated midway, where one contractor
10 manages and provides all the rides, the games, the food
11 with the area, the staffing, and the related services.

12 We're in a very competitive market. We compete
13 with Disneyland, not so much for a daily customer, but
14 as far as what we need to produce in order to attract a
15 customer. Our Fair is the cleanest, nicest Fair in
16 Or- -- in California. We are light-years above the San
17 Diego County Fair in terms of cleanliness and overall
18 appearance. The San Diego County Fair has used its
19 independent midway operation where they have many
20 separate individual contractors provide rides and games
21 and food within that area.

22 The result in look is rather jumbled. It's not
23 as clean looking or as physically clean as what we have,
24 and it's not as -- I'm going to say perceived as being
25 as safe as what our operation is perceived as. So in

1 order to maintain our high financial success and our
2 high customer success and maintain our premium brand
3 within the Fair industry, we need to stick with one
4 contract for all of the midway services which includes
5 the rides, the foods, the games, the staffing, and the
6 related services so that we can remain successful going
7 forward.

8 Don't break what is not broken. We don't need
9 to fix it. It works, just keep doing the same thing,
10 and work with staff and stakeholders to write an RFP
11 that lets us maintain that success. Thank you.

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie. That's it
13 for public comment, Chair Rubalcava-Garcia.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Can I get
15 a motion to move forward with the RFP process as the RFP
16 currently stands as one?

17 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I so move. This is Sandra
18 Cervantes.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I second. This is Ashleigh.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Any
21 further discussion on the item? Go ahead and call for
22 the previous question, Summer.

23 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

24 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

25 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

1 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

2 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

3 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

4 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Ruiz? Director
5 Ruiz? Director Bagneris?

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Aitken?

8 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Pham? Chair
10 Rubalcava-Garcia, that's five votes. We're okay.

11 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Thank you, and
12 I would like to ask the Finance Committee if they could
13 work with staff on this RFP process. Director Bagneris,
14 is that something you think you could take on?

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'd actually like to do
16 that. I was going to suggest it.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Awesome. Thank you.
18 So for -- we'll go ahead and have staff, Director
19 Bagneris, and Director Pham work with staff on that on
20 the RFP process. Moving on to agenda Item 9E, we are
21 looking at staff's proposal for a new gate screening
22 technology. I'm going to go ahead and turn this over to
23 CEO Richards for discussion.

24 CEO RICHARDS: Thank you. So throughout the
25 past year as we have worked through many challenges and

1 obstacles to plan for the return of our events and the
2 OC Fair, we've also been introduced to many new
3 products, new procedures, and emerging technologies to
4 better manage our operations in a COVID and post-COVID
5 landscape.

6 I'm going to turn things over to Ken in a few
7 minutes to introduce new security and crowd management
8 technology for which we would like the Board's support.
9 And the Board might remember that this item was first
10 introduced during our budget discussions for the 2021
11 budget last fall and has continued to be discussed with
12 the Facilities Committee as Director Aitken had
13 indicated earlier.

14 We've thoroughly researched the topic and we
15 feel now it's ready to share with the full Board. So
16 this is an unbudgeted item, and that's why we bring it
17 to the Board, but one that we feel that's important for
18 the Board to learn about and to consider for the 2021 OC
19 Fair and beyond. So I will turn it over to Ken.

20 COO KARNs: Thank you, Michele. Before we turn
21 it over again to Nick Buffa to highlight and answer any
22 questions in the staff report, we want to share a quick
23 video and a couple of key items before we turn it over.
24 So the video so that everyone gets -- can envision what
25 we talk about, we thought that would be important. So

1 here's a little video of the equipment.

2 (Video played.)

3 COO KARNES: So you can see where they get their
4 name blade units, and you can see people are just
5 walking through at their pace because, again, reminding
6 everybody that this technology can detect the difference
7 and a prohibited item, knife or gun, and a set of keys.
8 So you can get a sense of how we would improve many,
9 many items in our operation.

10 So hopefully that gives you a sense of what
11 we're talking about. So we want to highlight that
12 263,700 dollars that we're requesting is an operational
13 budget item not a capital item. We want to make sure
14 that before we have a long-term investment in this
15 equipment that it does everything that we need it to do
16 in our Fair operations, so a rental is what we're
17 recommending for this year, proof everything out, and
18 then come back in the future with a full report.

19 If we want to invest, what the payback is, how
20 many years it would take to pay it off because there's
21 significant staff savings, so -- but for this year, it's
22 an operational budget. Also, that this technology would
23 be installed for Blue Gate, Green Gate, and the Pacific
24 Amphitheater, but not Yellow Gate. Our Yellow Gate
25 operations have changed this year. You heard about the

1 OCTA, so not the impact from -- from the public in that
2 area, so we're not recommending spending on Yellow Gate.

3 And lastly, that our current mag -- mags that
4 we have been using the last few years will not go to
5 waste. We will presuppose those into some back-of-house
6 areas to have improvements in some of our back-of-house
7 operations or further improvements in our back-of-house
8 operations, so wanted to highlight those items. And
9 with that, I'm going to turn it over to Nick Buffa to go
10 through the highlights of our staff report and then
11 happy to answer any questions. So with that, Nick?

12 NICK BUFFA: Can everybody hear me here? All
13 right. There we go. Thank you for letting me speak,
14 everybody. Good afternoon. Just to give you a little
15 background on this information, one of the challenges we
16 faced when planning for the 2021 Fair was how to retain
17 bag or personal items inspections while still keeping a
18 safe and secure environment as far as reducing touch
19 points, eliminating exposure to COVID or other various
20 health issues.

21 So we started working with other companies in
22 what they had in mind, what they were going to do, some
23 were planning on eliminating bag checks and personal
24 item inspections altogether. We weren't comfortable
25 with that. So we started talking to some major league

1 baseball partners and some folks in Disney Orlando, Six
2 Flags Magic Mountain and they exposed us to this new
3 technology.

4 And simply put, an old magnetometer is exactly
5 what it says, it's a big magnet. So anything of any
6 size or density or certain weight when you walk through
7 it, obviously it will detect a gun, a significant knife,
8 an explosive, something of that nature. But before you
9 go through that machine, you have to divest all your
10 personal items, all the belongings from your pockets,
11 your purse, your bag, and then go through and it's a
12 single-file one-by-one process.

13 The biggest advantage with this equipment is
14 that it can tell the difference not just magnetic but
15 shape, size, density, similar to the millimeter wave
16 scanners, the body scanner at the airport, you put your
17 arms up in the air and thing goes around you nowadays.
18 It's all these technologies combined. You don't have to
19 stop. You don't have to empty your pockets. You don't
20 have to set down your bag. You don't have to go
21 single-file. You keep it a normal walking pace.

22 It completely eliminates the bag check unless
23 the machine is triggered then you do a secondary
24 inspection, but these smart machines can tell the
25 difference between an umbrella and a set of keys and a

1 mobile device or a weapon or something harmful. Again,
2 using many, many units of measure. The big benefit as
3 well that comes with it is because it's so efficient, we
4 can reduce the number of entry lanes -- a significant
5 reduction in staffing that was identified in the report.

6 Hopefully you guys got a chance to take a look
7 at that, but for many reasons we've looked at this
8 technology for about eight, nine months now and worked
9 with this company and seen it rolled out at other
10 venues. It's a great success and we think it fits our
11 venue, not only post-COVID but into the future as well
12 as far as expediting getting people in, keeping customer
13 service levels and safety and security levels as high as
14 we can keep them, while getting people in here and have
15 big crowds and protecting them from health and other
16 safety issues they might be exposed to.

17 COO KARNES: Thanks, Nick. With that, I'd like
18 to take any questions, but for clarity to go over one
19 thing that Nick expressed that if it goes off, there is
20 still that secondary lane that people will be directed
21 to for a further check. But beyond that we see some
22 great efficiencies. So we are looking for a motion to
23 approve this expenditure.

24 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: I take the staff
25 recommendation and I would just like to add thanks to

1 you Ken and Nick and Michele. That was a very, very
2 complete and outstanding staff, and I just wanted to be
3 on record acknowledging the hard work you guys have done
4 on that.

5 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: And This is Sandra. I so
6 move that we approve and move forward.

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I second.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Director Bagneris is
9 the --

10 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Second.

11 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any discussion on this
12 item?

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director -- Madam Chair, I
14 would just say that if we ever needed a technology like
15 this, we need it now, and I think it's a great
16 investment. It's something that's going to take us into
17 the future. So I thank our staff for the due diligence
18 in finding this -- this technology, and for the great
19 work.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I agree. Do we have
21 any public comment on this item?

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: We do not.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA. Okay. Great, and any
24 discussion from the Board? Okay. With that, I'd like
25 to call for the question.

1 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

2 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

3 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

4 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

6 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

7 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

8 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

9 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Aitken?

10 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Thank you.

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Motion
13 passed.

14 COO KARNS: Thank you, everyone. Nick, go get
15 it done.

16 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And thank you for
17 coming with a significant amount of detail that allowed
18 us to make this decision today, so we appreciate it.

19 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you so much, Nick.

20 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes. Moving on to
21 agenda Item 9E -- I'm sorry -- 9F, and this a for --
22 it's an action for the Board related to our foundation
23 MOUs and the number of tickets and parking passes they
24 are able to have the 2021 Fair. So I'm going to go
25 ahead and any -- anything to add to this one, Michele?

1 CEO RICHARDS: Just a little bit of background
2 that might help the Board. So we have standing MOUs
3 with each of our foundations, the Centennial Farm
4 Foundation and the Heroes Hall Foundation, and on the
5 slide you'll see a little excerpt from each of those
6 MOUs, and it states that the District, at its sole
7 discretion, may provide to each active foundation Board
8 member one complimentary pass to District's annual
9 County Fair, which pass may include an F lot parking
10 hang tag. The type and quality of additional
11 complementary passes will be assessed by the District on
12 an annual basis.

13 So this is a bit of a housekeeping item. We
14 come back to the Board each year, and the Board
15 discusses and votes on what would be provided to -- to
16 each foundation Board member. Again, just as a matter
17 of some background, since we entered into those MOU
18 agreements with both foundations, each year the Board
19 has voted to provide a -- a badge, a pass, that allows
20 foundation members to get into the Fair or each day.

21 They've each received one F lot parking hang
22 tag which allows them to park near Green Gate for each
23 day at the Fair and the ability to purchase up to 50
24 additional single-day Fair admission passes for one
25 dollar each. So also, a little bit of background too,

1 the MOU does indicate in exchange for the benefit that
2 the foundations provide to us.

3 And so I wanted the Board to have some
4 information about what that benefit is, so the Heroes
5 Hall Foundation provided a 45,000 dollar contribution
6 per their MOU on May 18th of 2020, and the Centennial
7 Farm Foundation provided a 25,000 dollar contribution to
8 Centennial Farm on January 17th of 2020. So I'm happy
9 to answer any questions that you might have.

10 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Any --
11 any public comment on this item, Summer?

12 SECRETARY ANGUS: We do not.

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any questions from the
14 Board?

15 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No. This is Sandra
16 Cervantes, I so move.

17 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Can we get a second?
18 Oh, wait -- yeah. I think I -- one thing, Michele, was
19 there a recommendation as to how many tickets?

20 CEO RICHARDS: No, there was not a
21 recommendation. The -- what I have on the slide is just
22 what the Board has done in the past. The Board can
23 choose to do that again. Although, you know, I -- I'd
24 add that we have cut back some of the complementary
25 tickets this year because of the nature of the 2020

1 Fair.

2 For example, our year-round or seasonal
3 employees that work for us during the Fair, normally get
4 20 OC Fair tickets for a dollar each. We changed that
5 this year to 10 tickets at two dollars each. So we did
6 make some changes. The Board is free to, you know, to
7 make any changes you like or to stick with what we've
8 done in the last several years.

9 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Michele, this is Sandra
10 Cervantes for clarification. The actual two nonprofits
11 we're talking about 50 tickets, correct?

12 CEO RICHARDS: That's -- that's what has been
13 given in the past, that's correct.

14 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Is that what -- any
15 discussion from the Board on whether or not that would
16 be the recommendation if the motion is to move forward
17 with the 50 or due to our current climate and the fact
18 that we've reduced staff to 20 to reduce it for our
19 foundation partners as well?

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think -- I think that's a
21 good suggestion to have it mirror what we're doing for
22 staff. And just as a point of clarification these are
23 the -- these tickets, do they require their guests to
24 make reservations as well to use them? Just so we can
25 kind of monitor how many people we're going to have on

1 property?

2 CEO RICHARDS: I don't think we've gotten to
3 that detail yet. We can certainly do that or we can
4 provide general admission which would be good any day.

5 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: They would have to
6 register, right, Michele?

7 CEO RICHARDS: Yes.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Can I get a
9 motion to approve the foundation ticket at 20 for two
10 dollars with one parking pass?

11 CEO RICHARDS: Excuse me. If I could clarify,
12 if you want it to mirror what our Fair time employees
13 are receiving, they're receiving 10 tickets at two
14 dollars each.

15 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. So at 10
16 tickets and one parking?

17 CEO RICHARDS: And one -- yes.

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I so -- I'll make the motion
19 to limit the passes available to our foundation Board
20 members to 10 tickets at two dollars with one parking
21 pass.

22 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Can we get a second?

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I second it.

24 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director
25 Bagneris. Any discussion from the Board on the motion

1 on the floor or on the Zoom?

2 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is Sandra. Even
3 though I agree that we need to go ahead and make
4 adjustments, I think that the fact that the actual
5 non-profits also raised money, you know, might not be
6 exactly an even amount of tickets, but obviously I agree
7 that adjustments need to be made.

8 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Any additional
9 discussion from the Board? Summer, can I get a call for
10 the question?

11 SECRETARY ANGUS: Chair Rubalcava-Garcia?

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

13 SECRETARY ANGUS: Vice Chair La Belle?

14 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

15 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Cervantes?

16 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No.

17 SECRETARY ANGUS: Director Bagneris?

18 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

19 SECRETARY ANGUS: And Director Aitken?

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

21 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay.

22 SECRETARY ANGUS: That's only four yeses, one
23 no.

24 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So we need five yeses
25 or -- okay. So then I guess we can table this until the

1 next meeting?

2 AG CAPLAN: Natalie, can you hear me? This is
3 Josh Caplan. The quorum is five, so you simply need --

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: A majority?

5 SECRETARY ANGUS: Oh, okay.

6 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thanks, Josh. Thanks
7 Summer.

8 Okay. So the motion passes. We will be
9 offering for our foundation partners Board members to
10 purchase 10 tickets at two dollars and they will get
11 access to one parking pass for the 2021 Fair.

12 Moving on to the last item on the agenda the
13 last item, Item 10, the CEO's operational announcement
14 update.

15 CEO RICHARDS: Let me -- I'll just adjust
16 the -- the order here, if you'll bear with me just one
17 second. There we go. Okay. Let me give a quick update
18 to everybody. It is a wrap for the emergency food
19 distribution events at the OC Fair & Event Center in
20 conjunction with Power of One foundation and the OC Food
21 Bank.

22 Since June 6th of last year Power of One
23 volunteers loaded fresh produce, meats, and dairy
24 products into the trunks of nearly half a million
25 vehicles feeding over two million people without

1 question during the pandemic. It was an amazing
2 organization to work with, and we were very, very happy
3 to be a part of it. And I have to mention that many of
4 our employees and Board members participated in that
5 volunteer opportunity.

6 It's also a wrap for the County of Orange COVID
7 testing which moved out on April 30th while the
8 vaccination and super pod moved in on March 31st.
9 Vaccinations will be ongoing through June 5th with
10 Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer vaccines all
11 available. No appointment is necessary. You can just
12 walk up, and we're encouraging all Orange County
13 residents to get vaccinated right away so we can get
14 back to fun.

15 And speaking of fun and vaccinations, the OC
16 Fair is teaming up with the OC Health Care Agency to
17 provide OC Fair tickets as an incentive to get
18 vaccinated. 25 family four packs of tickets will be
19 given away each Wednesday and Thursday for this year's
20 Fair. So if you haven't gotten vaccinated yet, you
21 might win yourself some Fair tickets as well.

22 The Original OC Swap Meet debuts at the OC Fair
23 & Event Center on Saturday, this Saturday. Joan is
24 going to tell you a little bit more about it in a few
25 minutes, but we're very happy to see many of the former

1 OC Marketplace merchants return to the property for this
2 new event. Our neighbors to the north at the LA County
3 Fairground are currently caring for about 2500
4 unaccompanied migrant children.

5 When we asked the staff there how we can help
6 they said, we need toys and games for these kids. So we
7 put a call out to the OC Fair employees and a whole
8 truckload of toys was delivered last week to Pomona. We
9 hope the kids enjoy a little fun while they are waiting
10 to be reunited with their families.

11 Heroes Hall is now accepting artwork created by
12 California military veterans and active duty service
13 members for a juried exhibition which will open in
14 Heroes Hall in October and run through January of 2022.
15 The show will feature artwork from a variety of fine art
16 mediums including paintings, sculpture, and photography.
17 The exhibit will offer a chance for veteran artists to
18 compete for three prizes. First place 500 dollars,
19 second place 400, and third place 300 dollars.

20 Prizes are being generously funded by the
21 Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation, and we thank them for
22 that. I was invited to Knott's Berry Farm preview event
23 last Thursday before they officially open to the public
24 on Friday. Knott's has done an excellent job of
25 preparing the park for the return of guests, and I have

1 to tell you it was such fun, such a fun and festive
2 atmosphere to be back again.

3 We took lots of photos of their signage, their
4 floor markers, and cleaning procedures. And I'm happy
5 to say that the OC Fair is well prepared. A group of us
6 will also attend a health and safety tour of Disneyland
7 tomorrow including Chair Rubalcava-Garcia and Director
8 Cervantes and Ruiz. We were -- oh, we have new babies
9 at Centennial Farm. These four adorable goat kids were
10 born just yesterday, all from the same Boer goat mother.

11 A typical birth of Boer goats is two to three
12 kids, so this mother really outdid herself with four,
13 and our Fair guests will get quite a treat when the Fair
14 opens. We were informed by the City of Costa Mesa on
15 Friday that construction would begin this week along
16 Fairview Drive between Baker and Adams.

17 Unfortunately, we didn't get very much notice
18 at all but the work will involve installing a raised
19 medium and laying down new asphalt. The good news is
20 that the work is not expected to take place on weekends,
21 and the plan is to have at least two traffic lanes open
22 on Fairview during construction. The project started
23 this past Monday and is expected to last 90 days.

24 And speaking of Fair, does anyone recognize
25 anything in this photo in the bottom right-hand corner?

1 Those are truckloads of RCS rides that have already
2 begun to arrive at the OC Fair & Event Center. Can you
3 make out the roller coaster track and pieces of La Grand
4 Wheel that have arrived? So it won't be long now, just
5 50 days and counting.

6 A quick review of financials, I know Director
7 Pham went over this very quickly. But for the period
8 ending April 30th, we are favorable to budget on revenue
9 by 2.58 million, and favorable to budget on expenses by
10 a little over two million. We anticipated a net deficit
11 to budget at this point in the year, but we're actually
12 doing much better than budget with a positive variance
13 of 4.6 million. So we are recovering very quickly.

14 Our cash and cash equivalents is 39.79 million
15 at the end of April. I just want to point out the
16 significance of that number. At this point last month,
17 we reported cash and cash equivalents of 39 million 50
18 thousand. So this is the first time that we've been
19 able to put money back into our late investment account
20 and it signals the start of our financial turnaround, so
21 we're very, very pleased to report those numbers.

22 We are now projecting a 1.57 million dollars in
23 net proceeds by the end of 2021 if we stay on track with
24 our reforecast, so happy news all around. So I'd like
25 to turn it over to Joan for a couple more updates.

1 Joan?

2 JOAN HAMILL: Hey, good afternoon. And I want
3 to start my report with some numbers about Imaginology
4 that 2021 Imaginology Goes Virtual By the Numbers. And
5 I want to provide you some stats. It was pretty
6 exciting. Our web stats for ocfair.com, April 25th --
7 excuse me -- April 19th through the 25th, there were
8 over 25,000 users and slightly over 73 thousand page
9 views. During the same period, OC Fair shared 82 feed
10 posts across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and 38
11 stories on Instagram related to Imaginology.

12 Just so you know, each feed post averages about
13 3,000 people reached and each story earned about 1,000
14 views. From our partners there were nine feed posts
15 featuring Esports, college and career pathways. Six
16 feed posts featuring Dia Del Nino Festival -- Dia Del
17 Nino Festival, and three feed posts featuring the
18 Virtual Fun Run.

19 And speaking of the Virtual Fun Run, the time
20 travel virtual run which last month I mentioned had sold
21 out at close to 1100 participants was a huge success,
22 again, with participation from all over the United
23 States as well as Puerto Rico, Guam, and
24 internationally. The most participation was from
25 California, of course. This was a partnership with OC

1 Marathon, which was a 50/50 split on net proceeds.

2 This came to 9,180 dollars paid to the district
3 by the marathon. The outdoor adventure hunt, I wanted
4 to highlight that this was a first ever event and,
5 again, a very big success. There were almost, again,
6 1100 registered players. There were 63 marker locations
7 throughout Orange County. So 1100 people really got out
8 and into the county to take a look at all the wonderful
9 things our county has to offer.

10 Seventeen partners provided QR code locations
11 throughout Orange County cities and local organizations
12 with two of them being sponsor locations. And the QR
13 codes were scanned over 2,000 times. And just for
14 your -- it's a little -- another point of interest was
15 the five most visited QR code locations were Laurel Glen
16 Park in Tustin, Tewinkle Park right across the street
17 here from the Fair in Costa Mesa off Arlington Drive,
18 Huntington Beach Central Library, Ellis Park in Fountain
19 Valley, and the Frida Cinema House in Santa Ana. And
20 many comments were that people didn't know about some of
21 these locations out in our communities. So again,
22 people learned a lot about Orange County.

23 You may also recall that last month I reported
24 that there were 1,275 virtual competitive entries
25 submitted that were judged, drawing and painting sell

1 the highest number of entries with 3D Creations,
2 Photography, and Digital Arts seeing very healthy
3 participation. And I want to give out one last shout
4 out and a huge thank you to our wonderful Imaginology
5 sponsors: Raising Cane's, Nova Academy, and YMCA.

6 And so this wraps up the 2021 Imaginology Goes
7 Virtual. And again, I want to thank staff for its
8 creativity and very, very hard work to present this
9 magnificent event with our wonderful partners. Next are
10 events.

11 Michele referenced the -- the new event, the
12 Original OC Swap Meet, this happens this Saturday, May
13 29th. And we have a brand new event and a brand new
14 promoter. This is not to be confused with the former
15 event on our site. It's a totally separate event so
16 we're really looking forward to it. It takes place from
17 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. And so far there are about 50
18 or so merchants participating. These are independent
19 merchants that are -- will be participating with this.

20 Crossroads of the West Gun Show returns once
21 again in an outdoor format June 4th through the 6th.
22 Flying Miz Daisy vintage market will be here on June 12
23 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and all of these events
24 will be taking place in Lot I off Arlington Drive
25 through Gate A and parking is 10 dollars for each.

1 There is also the TNT Fireworks stand, the
2 California School Education Foundation will be selling
3 TNT Fireworks at this annual fundraiser. The stand
4 opens June 30th, and it will be located in Lot E, which
5 is the corner of Fairview and Arlington. Of course,
6 Farmers Market is every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00
7 p.m., and as Michele mentioned the COVID vaccination
8 runs through June 5th. And this concludes my report.
9 If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

10 CEO RICHARDS: And Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, that
11 concludes my CEO update.

12 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you both for the
13 wonderful updates, some great work going on, especially
14 excited about the Original Swap Meet coming back on May
15 29th. Moving on to agenda Item 11, Board of Director's
16 Matters of Information. I'd like to start with Director
17 Cervantes, any updates?

18 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: No updates, just want to
19 go ahead and say thank you again to you, Chair
20 Rubalcava-Garcia, for a great meeting today. CEO
21 Richards and team for great work and a great
22 presentation.

23 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Director
24 Bagneris? I think we may have lost Director Bagneris.
25 Director Aitken?

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you. Great work. I
2 did the scavenger hunt with my girls, and it was so much
3 fun. It was such a creative idea. I hope we keep doing
4 that. Also wanted to comment, I took my girls on the
5 very first day of the opening of the vaccination clinic
6 for those that are 12 and up.

7 It could not have been easier, so I encourage
8 everyone, if you have somebody at home and you want to
9 get our schools open and our sports back, please make
10 use of this really wonderful community asset, and we can
11 get back to more fun. So everybody have a great rest of
12 your day.

13 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you. Director
14 Aitken. Director La Belle?

15 VICE CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. Thank you, Natalie.
16 I just want to, first of all, thank staff for all of
17 their diligence and hard work, preparatory to the Fair
18 and opening the Pac Amp this year. Thanks to you for
19 your leadership and conducting some very -- a very
20 efficient meeting.

21 I also wanted to -- a number of you have met my
22 grandson, Matthew, over the years, but I want to say
23 congratulations to the Corona Del Mar High School
24 varsity baseball team, the Sea Kings, who have won their
25 league. And they will be going to CIF yet to be

1 determined who they will be playing. And my grandson is
2 going to become a Dirt Bag at Long Beach State come this
3 fall. With that, thank you.

4 CHAIR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Thank you, Director La
5 Belle. Did I miss any directors on the call? I think
6 we covered everybody who is on the call. Miss anybody?
7 I would just like to thank the members of the public who
8 took time out of their day to contribute to our Board
9 meeting today, and thank you for all of your comments.

10 Thank you to staff and thank you to our Board
11 of Directors who does put a significant amount of time
12 and effort into their volunteer job here at the Orange
13 County Fair & Event Center. And also to our general
14 counsel. So thank you, everybody, for your time. Our
15 next Board meeting is June 24th, which is also my
16 grandmother's birthday, so it'll be a fun day. And with
17 that, I would like to adjourn this meeting. Have a
18 great day, everybody.

19 (Whereupon, the OCFEC Board of Directors
20 Meeting was hereby adjourned at 12:30 p.m.)
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23
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25

CERTIFICATE
OF
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

* * * *

The undersigned Certified Shorthand Reporter of the
State of California does hereby certify:

That the foregoing Proceeding was taken before me
at the time and place therein set forth.

That the statements made at the time of the
Proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and were
thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true and
correct copy of the proceedings thereof.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name, this
date: 06/05/2021

Patricia Garrido

Patricia Garrido, CSR No. 14364

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