



## **Board of Directors Agenda Report**

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 ITEM NUMBER: 8E

**SUBJECT:** Discuss and Vote on Communication to the Governor's Office Regarding Economic Impact of SB 264 on OC Fair & Event Center

**DATE:** September 17, 2021

**FROM:** Michele Richards, CEO

**PRESENTATION BY:** Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia, Chair

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

At the Board of Directors' discretion.

### **BACKGROUND**

On January 27, 2021 California State Senator Dave Min introduced SB264 prohibiting gun shows on any state or county property. Since the bill was introduced it was amended to exclude county property from the bill and include only state property. On June 1, 2021, the bill passed the State Senate by a vote of 29-9 and was ordered to the State Assembly.

While in committee with the Assembly, the bill was further amended to only impact the OC Fair & Event Center. SB264 was approved by the Assembly appropriations committee. The full Assembly approved the bill as amended 43-17 on September 2 and the bill was referred back to the Senate for approval.

The Senate passed the amended bill the following day on September 3 by a vote of 28-9. The bill is now on the Governor's desk for signature and he has until October 10 to sign. If he does not sign it or amend it by then, the bill will become California law and go into effect January 1, 2022.

The Board will discuss the status of SB264 and whether or not to send a letter to the Governor respectfully requesting he consider the economic impact of the bill on the OC Fair & Event Center in his decision about whether or not to sign the bill into law.

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Economic Impact of SB 264 (Min) on OC Fair & Event Center**

**The 32<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association Board of Directors writes to request your consideration of the economic impact SB 264 will have on the OC Fair & Event Center in your decision whether or not to sign the bill into law.**

As the Governor's appointees, the Directors of the 32<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association take our role seriously as stewards of this property. When SB 264 (Min) was first introduced, the Board understood this to be a statewide initiative. However, when the bill was changed in the State Assembly to just include the OC Fair & Event Center, we were surprised that it was approved so quickly by both the Assembly and then the Senate. No state officials, including Senator Dave Min, reached out to the Board or staff to inquire about the economic impact of the bill on the OC Fair & Event Center or discuss other alternative solutions.

Hundreds of small business owners come together to make up the gun shows, creating a source of income for many families who also support the local Orange County economy. The loss in annual revenue from these gun shows will have an immediate negative impact on the OC Fair & Event Center's financials and will not be easily replaced right away.

Crossroads of the West gun shows has been a client in good standing with the OC Fair & Event Center for over 30 years, generating millions of dollars of revenue for this California state agency. In a typical year, the OC Fair & Event Center hosts five gun shows, attracting over 70,000 guests annually to the property and generating up to \$1 million in revenue from rental fees, staffing and equipment fees, parking and food/beverage sales.

Crossroads of the West gun shows features exhibitors selling firearms and ammunition as well as clothing, jewelry and other consumer goods, all operating within California's strict gun laws. Guests can also attend gun safety classes while at the show.

We respectfully request that you take this economic impact and the possibility of other alternative solutions into consideration in your decision about whether or not to sign SB 264 into law.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors  
32<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association