
From: Sabrina Silver
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:17 PM
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Subject: Horse Boarding - the benefits of a public boarding facility

Via email 4/24/24

To:

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Dear Fair Board,

I am an equestrian. I rode as a child. After years away from horses, in 2014 as an adult, I began taking lessons at the Traditional Equitation School, located within a public boarding facility – the Los Angeles Equestrian Center (LAEC), which is a ten to fifteen minute drive from my residence. I purchased my horse in 2016 and continue to board and train in the discipline of dressage with a trainer at LAEC. My horse has saved my life.

Please know that having a boarding facility is a great public value. This is especially true when equine lessons and training are offered to the public, and for equine assisted therapy programs. A public facility provides local boarding, reducing the number of miles and gallons of gasoline that would otherwise be needed for individuals to enjoy their own horses or horses they lease or take lessons on. It also removes the barrier of distance.

Having a local place to ride is priceless. It enables local residents to board and ride their horses near where they live, provides infrastructure for public lessons and equine activities for all ages, inspires youth to investigate equine activities and careers, and may even spark the interest of a future Olympian.

Nationally, the equine industry drives the US economy, according to the 2023 American Horse Council (AHC) National Economic Impact Study.

Results indicated the equine industry contributed \$177 billion to the U.S. economy in 2023, up from \$122 billion in 2017. This shows the equine industry's reach from agriculture to tourism to veterinary science and how the equine sector influences the economy.

The equine industry also has a substantial impact on employment. The national horse survey revealed 2.2 million jobs are linked directly and indirectly to the industry. That includes breeders, trainers, veterinarians, and farriers, but the industry is also represented by truck drivers, nutritionists, chemists, police officers and journalists, according to the survey.

In this mechanized and alienated society, interactions with horses may save a life. It is critical to retain urban equestrian opportunities. Horses drive economics and equine careers. Public boarding/EQC facilities benefit the entire community as well as individual horse owners. It would be a huge loss if the boarding facility were to be taken away from the public.

As a side note, I had heard that this facility, under prior horse boarding management, ran profitably.

Please enact the following requests:

1. Immediate termination of Lopez Works contract via the 30-day termination clause.
2. Agendize a vote to cancel the 75% rate increase.
3. Establish an Equestrian Advisory Committee to meet & advise on financial and operational matters related to the Equestrian Center.
4. Issue an RFP for operation of the Equestrian Center, (with guidance from new Equestrian Advisory Committee) to secure experienced EQUINE facility operator & ensure profitability and longevity of the center.
5. Ensure preservation of all 7.5 acres in its entirety for Equestrian Center use.

Sabrina Silver

Los Angeles, CA

I serve on the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee as representative for Council District 15, but I am writing this to you as an individual.

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