



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: **MARCH 27, 2025** ITEM: **9B**

SUBJECT: **Review of Public Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan, Discussion Regarding Amendments and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve**

DATE: March 21, 2025

FROM: Michele Richards, CEO

PRESENTATION BY: Michele Richards, CEO

Action Item

BACKGROUND

At the January 2025 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the draft 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. The draft plan was posted on the ocfair.com web site along with a portal to collect direct feedback from visitors to the web site. In addition to a home page pop-up connecting web site visitors to the strategic plan and feedback form, an eblast was sent on February 13 to over 7,800 stakeholders inviting them to review the plan and offer feedback.

The deadline for submitting feedback was Thursday, March 13, giving the public a month to review the strategic plan and respond. The District received 505 responses. The responses are categorized as follows:

- Parking – 2 responses
- Centennial Farm/Agriculture – 9 responses
- Strategic Initiatives – 11 responses
- Fair/Concerts – 13 responses
- Miscellaneous – 23 responses
- Equestrian – 447 responses

Copies of all responses submitted by stakeholders and the public are attached for the Board's review and consideration. In addition, staff will present recommendations for any amendments to the strategic plan at the March Board of Directors meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board review all comments received from the public and provide direction for any agreed upon amendments to the draft strategic plan.

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 2/13/25 10:05 | P. Melanie | La Mirada | You gave me no information, so there's no way that I can give you feedback on it. |
| 2/13/25 10:18 | Alan | Orange | Parking stinks. I couldn't find a nearby spot, emailed the specified address asking for a ticket refund, and got no reply. Learn to reply to emails. Make parking better-maybe build a parking structure. |
| 2/13/25 10:19 | Deanne | Silverado | I am saddened by the diminishing agricultural support and the seemingly disregard for animal education programs. The barns were torn down, the horse are has been impacted, and even the support during emergencies for equestrian shelter is not being offered. I am very disappointed in OC fair for their response in emergencies when our communities need assistance. I am ashamed of the fairgrounds for not offering shelters during the recent wild fires both in LA and in OC. The 4H programs are basically being dismantled and the foundation of the fair is the animal and agricultural programs. Please promote animal programs and look into the horse boarding and programs. This is a county hub and instead it is being turned into a commercial business like the Spectrum or Fashion island and excluding communities. |
| 2/13/25 10:28 | Jon | Oceanside | Did I miss the link to read the draft? |
| 2/13/25 10:40 | Nancy | Long Beach | Although a focus of county fares is food, I believe the selection is so heavily in high calories, high fat and high sugars. With 40% of the American population, diagnosed as obese and close to 30% as morbidly obese I think a look at the foods being offered need to be re-examined. |
| 2/13/25 11:03 | alison | corona del mar | Have pick up drop off date for items have more flexibility |
| 2/13/25 11:11 | Sherry | Orange | The fairground stalls need to stay! It is one of the last equestrian facilities in the OC and has been a place for boarders and trainers for decades. Let's not mention the need as an evacuation site. The facility is Needed! |
| 2/13/25 11:12 | Ellen | Santa Ana | Please revitalize the equestrian center to make it up to standard with other facilities in the price range. Professional trainers need to be brought in. Stalls need a makeover. There need to be more turnout areas for horses to improve mental and physical wellbeing. Trees and shade need to be added. Better sound barriers for freeway noise. Many extreme danger items like metal workfare and storm drainage need to have barriers to prevent accents with horses that get loose. Accesss from property to local trails (possibly park across the street?) or even a true dirt path around the facilities would be an improvement. Full court dressage arena with mirrors is needed. Covered area for exercise in weather is also needed. It's critical this is revitalized for the community. OC is marketed as an equestrian community. Let's keep guiding for this, there is demand! |
| 2/13/25 11:13 | David | Bakersfield | Your Fair is amazing and I really appreciate all of the hard work you guys put forward to make it happen. When I go to your fair it is as an exhibitor for livestock. My family bring our animals from Bakersfield to show and share with the patrons that come to your fair. The ask I have is that on the last day of showing for Pygmy goats (Sunday) we be allowed to leave the ground at 6 PM instead of 10 PM or later. I completely understand the reason for the waiting, which is we do not want to mix patrons and animals. However, I believe that by using some barrier or other devices there might be an ability to close off the area from the public and allow your exhibitors it get on the road. That is a very hard drive when you're tired and you still have to unload when you get home. I believe you when you look into this issue you will find most of your exhibitors travel far distances to get to your fair. Once again, your fair is clean and a great experience, thank you for your consideration. |
| 2/13/25 11:20 | MICHAEL | SANTA ANA | Since my grandfather first took me the Fair I have been interested in Orange County agriculture and home arts part of the Fair and have supported those features for 70 years. I think that those items are important to educate the residents on Orange County history. |
| 2/13/25 11:24 | Ashley | Costa Mesa | Collaborate with other government entities through strategic partnerships and resource sharing. Treating each other as partners rather than clients enhances efficiency, reduces financial strain, and improves public services. |
| 2/13/25 11:47 | Allison | orange | What the heck OC fairground. getting rid of a community of equestrians and treating them awfully. you got ride of one of the biggest facilities in the area and provided so many animals a home. then what about fire evacuees from LA. if it was an open barn that was well maintained you could have helped so many in but by being selfish lost a large community and stoped helping other. you should all be ashamed. OC fairgrounds should provide a safe and well marinated equestrian center with reasonable board and lesson prices and bring back the community that once thrived. Allow these people to keep their animals there with safe equipment and access to the grounds at low costs being reasonable barn managers. |

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| 2/13/25 11:48 | Kelley J | Paris | I wasn't able to see the plan |
| 2/13/25 11:52 | Elizabeth | Huntington Beach | The Equestrian Center is so important for the community. There is no other place to ride and keep horses locally. Trainers and summer camps provide needed services to our local community |
| 2/13/25 12:00 | MaryAnne | Orange | The future of the Equestrian facilities needs to be secured. Not only does this public venue provide facilities to entertain and also provide educational, therapeutic services. The stable provides much needed housing for the horses of our community. Development of open space continues to crowd out private stables, and threatens our ability to keep horses. This is not an elitist goal, as the very wealthy have their own private ranchettes. Most patrons are working folks. Find a qualified stable manager and keep the Equestrian facilities. |
| 2/13/25 12:03 | Claudette | Costa Mesa | I'd like to receive a copy of the draft plan. Something quickly off the top of my head... I attend the fair frequently in the summer. I buy the summer pass. Parking is expensive. Offering a significant parking fee discount, perhaps on particular days, or in general, to Summer passholders would be a bonus. It may encourage attendees to carpool. Savings on parking fees could generate more revenue for the summer fair because more people may attend. The pass holder could be required to show their identification in the car while paying the parking fee with the attendant. Thank you |
| 2/13/25 12:05 | Clarence | Orange | Please keep the Equestrian facilities and stables at our Orange County Fairgrounds. It's becoming harder and harder for regular people to find horse boarding in Orange County. This is an important part of our heritage. Thank you. |
| 2/13/25 12:09 | Anne | Fountain Valley | I think it's a big mistake to eliminate the Equestrian Center. I spent almost 10 years there as a boarder and trainer. I watched young children learn how to ride, I watched horse shows open to the public to view, and it was truly a wonderful experience. My son got his first job with the fairgrounds as a security person in the Equestrian Center during the fair. It was an invaluable experience for him. People love horses and it was a booming business once upon a time. It can be again with correct management. We need horses in the community to expose people to something they would otherwise never get to see, participate in, and enjoy. I think it would be a huge mistake to eliminate it. |
| 2/13/25 12:27 | Laurel | Unincorporated Orange County | I would like to see: -horse boarding with costs and contracts similar to industry standards, horsemanship classes, special events etc - fee, low cost, and for free public lesson programs, - pony club, -low-cost vaulting programs, -summer camps, |
| 2/13/25 13:05 | Rory | Costa Mesa | Please revamp oversight and management of the equestrian center to make it more affordable and accessible for all. You could link a trail system to Tewinkle Park and provide public trail rides, pony rides, birthday parties, year round petting zoo, riding for special needs kids and veterans. |
| 2/13/25 13:12 | Emily | Orange | Please include the equestrian center for generations to come. It is one of the few public horse areas left in Orange County. When my barn burned down in the canyon fire in 2017, the fairgrounds equestrian center welcomed us with open arms. It's an important resource not only for emergencies but also for people who cannot usually access horses. Low cost lessons and summer camps as well as vaulting programs are valuable to the public. Access to horses has decreased significantly for most people as the costs of ownership have risen and it's valuable to have this space for horses and people! |
| 2/13/25 13:30 | Melissa | Orange | Instead of promoting Alcholic drinking events. Promote strong family values and family time and strong girlz and women . Please request for fee, low cost, and for free public lesson programs, pony club, low-cost vaulting programs, summer camps, horse boarding with costs and contracts similar to industry standards, horsemanship classes, special events etc the fair ground were fair ground and they should stay fair ground for events for family and promoting parks and rec not alcoholic drinking and fighting the fees have gotten too high where is the money going . Where is the Rodeo ? You kicked the elephants out fair . Follow up where are the elephants today. |

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| 2/13/25 14:24 | Philippe | MISSION VIEJO | Whatever the plans, I wish to stress the importance of Centennial farm to the community. I am a Docent there and lead tours of T-K through third grade. I can see the positive impact these tours have on the children. Perhaps the best example illustrating this is the time that I led a group of special education children. One of the children was speaking the name of each animal we came to: "Pig, goat, sheep," etc. I noticed the teacher looking astounded. She told me that she had never heard that child speak a single word before. I've seen so many children open up and become enthusiastic when visiting the farm, learning from where their food comes. It's more than just entertainment, it's enlightenment. If we can give children an idea of what healthy food looks like, we have done them an invaluable lifelong service. |
| 2/13/25 14:33 | Lisa | Los Angeles | I grew up in Irvine and attended Orange Coast Community College. I'm very familiar with the OC Fairgrounds and took a horse back riding class in the 1980s offered at OCCC. As the LAST remaining public equestrian facility, the OC Fairgrounds should be maintained as an equestrian boarding, riding, lesson facility. The Los Angeles Equestrian Center, under the new management of ASM Global, can be a model of excellence to follow. We just also successfully completed the equestrian fire evacuations with hundreds of horses at LAEC. One day, the OC Fairgrounds may need to become that SAFE PLACE for evacuated horses in the OC. Revenue expansion for the OC Fairgrounds can easily be done by creating simple cost effective equestrian programs like: 1. Expanding riding lessons at the OC Fairgrounds from both Orange Coast College and the high school across the street. There is a global interest for horseback riding. 22 different countries participated in the 2024 Paris Olympics equestrian events. The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will host the equestrian events close to the OC at Callaway Downs in Temecula. Further, the CA Legislative Analyst reports 11.6 BILLION is contributed annually to the California economy by the equestrian industry. The OC Fairgrounds IS THE PRIMARY STATE OWNED FACILITY to help EXPAND & PROMOTE the business and benefits of CA LIVESTOCK (HORSES) and the AG industries in Orange County. 2. Establishing an equestrian therapy program that supports autism (ORANGE COUNTY #1 in the nation for autistic youth 1:76 kids diagnosed); veterans with PTSD, and first responders, many who are suffering from mental health issues from the recent devastating January 2025 fires; 3. Establish year round pony camp, Horsemans 101 classes for youth. Especially the low income youth from surrounding cities: Stanton, Santa Ana and Tustin areas. This could be an intro class with basics. Also, the Girl Scouts of Orange County and Boys Scouts of Orange County can do their horsemanship badges at the OC Fairgrounds; 4. Establish a small rental string and do 1 hour trail rides. There are so many established open recreational trails surrounding the OC Fairgrounds. These are already identified on the OC County Parks maps. Linking these trails creates a permanent open recreational space for equestrians, hikers, and bicyclist to enjoy. It also brings added value to the State owned property as THE equestrian anchor for all statewide equestrians to visit the state owned OC Fairgrounds facility. It is easy to put up RV designated parking areas with horse trailers and pipe corral for a weekend getaway. This is similar to the various state parks that already provide overnight horse camping and the CA Coastal Commission's 30 mile equestrian trail with the public access point in the Del Monte Forest next to Pebble Beach golf course. 5. Add a small petting zoo with dwarf goats, sheep, pigs, mini horses, mini donkeys, a pony ride for toddler-preschool (ages 1-5) with a chicken coop, geese and ducks to introduce small children the love of farm animals. In conclusion, horses are part of California's history long before California became a state in 1850. It is a lifestyle embedded deep in the California Rancho system and is part of the folklore of the American West. If we as a society do not preserve and respect the equestrian lifestyle in 2025, when our kids and grand kids grow up, there will be no more horses to love and care for in 2040 and our historic lifestyle will be lost forever. Share the OC Fairgrounds with equestrians. Create an Advisory committee with knowledgeable equestrians to help the OC Fairground Board of Directors and staff (who are not equestrians or industry knowledgeable of best practices). Do a new plan in an efficient, cost effective manner that has built in risk management models for success and a diversity of programs to ensure success and new revenue streams. Thank you for your consideration. Lisa Baca Los Angeles County Equestrian Coalition |

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| 2/13/25 14:55 | Daniel | Carlsbad | <p>I have been doing fairs for 25 years. Over the last several years, the biggest complaints from all fairgoers is: Where are all the vendors? There used to be two buildings with vendors, parking and entrance cost is way too expensive, food cost is totally out of control, rides are too expensive. Fairs are no longer family friendly financially! When I first started LA County Fair, they had 8-9 buildings of vendors, this year they will probably be down to two!!! Booth are WAY TOO EXPENSIVE: \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00 for a 10x10 inline booth for 16 days! There for a month but down 3 days a week. So three days of no income! You might see the person in charge of vendors once! I stopped all fairs but close to home, LA, SD and OC. AZ State Fair went to 6 weeks! No one was there for the first two weeks because it was 114 degrees and they turned off the air! It took 4 weeks just to pay for booth! Never again. They don't give a damn!!! Last year at the Riverside County Fair, I got lied to and one of the employees copped an attitude twice. Opening day, no power, raised fees, down one aisle of vendors, It was the worst year in 25 years! Many vendors didn't make enough money to pay for their booth!!! The money people no longer go to the fair. This year they extended the dates of the fair and it now conflicts with Imperial Fair. HELLO!!!</p> <p>Fairs are down thousands of fairgoers because of restrictions and pricing. Smaller business' can no longer afford a booth so they are gone. When we have to pay \$4,500.00 for a booth, 2 -3 thousand for hotel expense, insurance, travel, food, how can so many be able to afford being vendors? I know this all doesn't have to do with OC Fair but this has been my and every other vendor's feelings. So many fairs have turned into pure greed and most don't give a damn about the vendors. Over the past 25 years the attitude of vendors with many fairs is that once they have our money, we can go blank ourselves! One of the reasons that the Fair Industry is dying!!! At the closing of the OC Fair, a few of us pack up and want to leave that night, but we have to wait until entrances have been taken down, sometimes waiting until 2AM before we can enter lot. Please open up the north entrance where the Sheriff's station is so when they clear the fairgrounds we can get in that night. Accolades to Brenda Keasberry. We do see her several times a day, checking on the vendors making sure everything is ok. If there is a problem she is right there to help, and appreciates when we give her a heads up about a problem child. Many other fairs you never see the people from the front office, if you do, they rarely engage or just walk by looking at the floor, no contact. This past year I became an "Approved Vendor" for L.A.P.D. Except for the 3 summer fairs in Southern Ca, my business is working in law enforcement agencies. LA Fair down numerous buildings, OC down one, my building at SD is down 1/4 of vendors, AZ State Fair, down probably 60-70%. They used to have 400 vendors in the building, with only 3 cross aisles where the doors are and I would do about 150 sales. Past several years, just about every 2-3 booths is a cross aisle. They advertise as the improved traffic flow because so many booths are now corner booths!!!. Do they think we are stupid?!?! They don't get it and don't care. I turned it over to my distributor this past year and in 6 weeks, he only did 27 sales!!! (no money crowd). They need to start thinking business since fairs are a business and not with a government mentality! We are the ones on the "Front Lines". Thank you for allowing more fairgoers into the fair but still has LTD entrance. Many of the seniors come early in the morning and are gone by 2 or 3. We may lose several thousand potential prospects for sales but how do you refill the people who left early because of LTD fairgoers amount has been met for the day? I hope that the information given here can help for a better experience for the vendors and fair goers. All the best for a prosperous 2025!!!</p> |
| 2/13/25 15:01 | Suzanne | North tustin | Would be nice to have a proper equestrian facility, run by knowledgeable equestrians that offers full equestrian services, including boarding, turnouts, arenas, round pens, trainers, and also provides large animal shelter for the fire evacuations that occur regularly in this area. Last month you were closed and unfortunately many horses in the area that needed your help had to find somewhere else to evacuate to during an emergency. |
| 2/13/25 16:00 | Nancy | Norco | Please keep the Equestrian center up and running! |
| 2/13/25 17:03 | marianne | Rolling Hills Estates | Please, please keep the equestrian center! I am a past boarder and current horse owner. The location, accessibility and culture of the OC Fairgrounds equestrian center is so beneficial for the public, especially for those of us who are not wealthy, but need the interaction, sport and spirituality of being near horses. |

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| 2/13/25 17:26 | Gayle | San Juan Capistrano CA 92675 | Overall, the plan looks good. Continue to honor the fair ground's history as agricultural and former airfield training facility. Keep the stables as that is unique to the area. Invest in technology so that emails intended for staff are delivered to staff and do not end up as undelivered due to "security" reasons. Spend less time concerned about diversity issues - all are welcome at all events and people know that. Open the grounds to the weekend swap meets again or craft fairs as a way to bring back income to the property. Parking is a nightmare during the fair times (perhaps work with someone from Disney - they know how to get cars in and parked efficiently). Great idea to invest in training your staff across the board - always beneficial. Parking fee is too high now, don't increase (families spend a lot of money when they attend the fair or a special event). Spend more on advertising events for the property. The Orange County Fair Grounds and Heroes Hall Museum are a great asset to our area and should be maintained for future generations. This is my two cents, thanks for reading! |
| 2/13/25 17:41 | Pietra | Santa Ana | The fairgrounds should be kept as it is to provide people with a place where they can experience outdoor as well as in door activities. It is a great showcase for younger people to experience farm animals that can't be seen now adays. The fairgrounds outdoor stage and the hanger provide good entertainment venues. The Veteran's Museum is an excellent addition our county's veteran's history. It helps to remind people what our young men went through in the past wars. The only thing I wish you would revamp is the ticketing system. Navigating Ticket Master's website is not the easiest way to buy tickets. Tickets for all events should still be able to be bought at the ticket booths. |
| 2/13/25 17:49 | Elaine | Yorba Linda | I like the idea of updating the fair's hardware and software infrastructure. The current system of ticket purchases is cumbersome and hard to understand. The fairgrounds are a great asset to Orange County and it would be nice to see them utilized more effectively to bring in more revenue. |
| 2/13/25 18:18 | Brian | Burbank, CA | I love everything the OC Fair stands for and everything you have laid our for your future. I especially appreciate that in the world we are in now that you still mention being an inclusive place for everyone, championing the diverse population and state that we are. OC and California are great because of all of us. My daughter and I both have entered numerous OC Fair competitions over the years and we look forward to many more. Thank you for all that you do! |
| 2/13/25 18:35 | Melodie | Los Alamitos | Please keep all things Agriculture, especially the horse boarding, centennial farm, and livestock exhibits during the fair. It's our OC heritage! |
| 2/13/25 18:55 | Mia | Costa Mesa | I would love to see horses back at the OCFairgrounds. -comparable cost of stalls. -Good footing in arenas, maintained and re fluffed every 6 months. One covered arena for rain and /or hot sun. - knowledgeable people cleaning stalls and feeding horses. -plenty of turn out space and round pens. - adequate lighting, maintenance and fly spray system. -twice daily water and drag of arenas. - city run programs for special needs, underprivileged, therapy of all kinds. |
| 2/13/25 19:21 | Elizabeth | Long beach | The board for horses is so high that regular middle class people cannot afford to experience horse ownership. It is really a shame. |
| 2/13/25 21:43 | Tiffany | Newport Beach | I think there is potential for a balance between continued use as a stable for boarders under new management and event hosting of both English and western events |
| 2/13/25 22:35 | Natalie | Irvine | I would like to see more space and better staging for the Culinary Arts building. |
| 2/13/25 22:38 | Peggy | Torrance, CA | As part of education and fun, please consider retaining equestrian enterprises at the fairgrounds. This could include basic riding instruction, therapeutic riding, vaulting, trail rides, cooperation with existing groups such as girl and boy scouts, integration with other agricultural education (for example, a camp that includes gardening, pet care, dairy industry, and horses. The OC fairgrounds is also vitally needed as an evacuation site for large animals, including horses. |

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| 2/14/25 7:38 | Bri | San Clemente | Please think about keeping the equestrian facility at a cost that is affordable. We do not have many areas that support the equestrian lifestyle and it is so vital to so many people in our community. I've had horses in Orange county my entire life and the Stables I grew up at, as so many others, are are now demolished. Equestrian lifestyle brings communities together and provides not just riding opportunities but also healing opportunities. |
| 2/14/25 8:09 | Jody | Lakewood | Please continue to operate the equestrian training and boarding facility at the fairgrounds. Horses are a valuable part of our history, and provide connection to nature, fitness, and emotional support. As our environment becomes in increasingly a concrete jungle, it becomes imperative that we preserve what little open space and ability we have to connect with nature. This is necessary for the well-being of humanity. Even if people only see the horses from afar,, it's still provides a connection to our natural environment in our pixelated world. |
| 2/14/25 15:31 | Darcy | Long Beach | Keep the equestrian center and boarding part of the fairgrounds. Horses are an essential part of California's history. When I was a faculty member at Chapman, OC fairgrounds is the most accessible facility for the students to go to. Further, my children are in 4-H and horse programming is an important part of youth development. OC fairgrounds equestrian trainers and boarders participate in community events. During the wildfires other equestrian centers ran out of capacity thus the center also serves as essential for fire response. Not long ago we faced devastating wildfires in Anaheim hills and Transco canyon. If the fairgrounds close where will those horses and community members find refuge? |
| 2/14/25 21:54 | Katie | Irvine | This equestrian facility has been a vivid part of the community for decades and it's closure has on hurt the community as a whole. The therapy and riding programs have been forced out by greedy plans that won't benefit anyone for years. |
| 2/14/25 21:56 | Jay | Irvine | I'd love to see a pony club and riding programs here! Maybe even a show venue! Equine therapy could also be an amazing addition! |
| 2/15/25 7:23 | Juliene | Long Beach | I work as a volunteer at Centennial Farm for the student field trips, Discovery Day and the Fair. At last year's fair a wildly looking fellow brought in his aggressive pit bull into the animal center. The dog was on a leash, however the dog was very aggressive which scared the goats and sheep. This created a commotion that unnerved the visitors and the volunteers. No one was addressing this problem so I decided to step in to diplomatically ask the fellow to please leave. I was working the pig pen at that time. He did finally leave but it took some cajoling. I did address the issue to a security person or someone who seemed to be in charge. I don't remember exactly who that was. I hear it is hard to keep animals out if they are service animals however this dog was not designated as a service animal. I hope there can be more stringent rules for animal entry for the upcoming fair. Thank you for you time in reading this narrative. Juliene |
| 2/15/25 10:07 | Roy | Newport Beach | Hi and as we begin our 15th year of Fight Club OC shows in The Hangar I would ask that you consider and budget some Hangar improvements. I would be happy to sit down with the committee or whomever and give my input. Thanks, Roy |
| 2/15/25 11:38 | Carolynn | Long Beach | Keep the Equestrian Center at the OC Fair Grounds. Southern Californians deserve to have various forms of outdoor activities and horse care and riding is one of them. Do not destroy this longstanding tradition and way of life. Keep the Equestrian Center for future generations |
| 2/16/25 16:16 | Gary | San Marcos, Ca | All good to me. Great fair! |
| 2/16/25 17:49 | Victoria | Newport Beach | Hire an Feb good original artists and cut back on cover bands. Tired of Bee Gees, Abba, and Beetles wannabes. Try to keep the equestrian and 4H animals. One price ticket for ALL rides that can be purchased online. Family discount packages. Love the Home Arts building. Redesign back gate entrance on Newport Blvd to accommodate entry. Provide healthier food vendors. |
| 2/18/25 12:49 | amanda | San Clemente | Keep horses affordable at the oc fair! i grew up going to almost all my horse shows at the OC fairgrounds, there was OC IEL, there was OCHSA championship show... thanks to those experiences, im an equine professional as an adult. I now am own a horse facility in Lake Elsinore and we had to evacuate in September 2024, we used the OC fair grounds for some of our animals. i visit oc fair annually and i enjoyed a concert at pacific amphitheater in july 2024. |

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| 2/18/25 16:08 | Ed | Newport Beach | Absolutely hollow with the information provided. Real plan has already been designed. Public feedback is irrelevant. People on the board are beyond disgraceful. And what occurred at the Equestrian Center with their acts and lies is beyond sinful. Harming equines and those board members want pats on their backs. And where is any Emergency Preparedness Plan in the "marketing brochure" given to the public to comment on? All board members should resign. Lawsuit for rigged bidding, black to red, intentionally harming animals, ... and while being allowed to do such with a blind eye by other public officials. Very sad plan. Their "vision" is the complete takeover of our fairgrounds and remaking the grounds in their image. Prove me wrong. |
| 2/19/25 15:53 | Amelia | Costa Mesa | It seems like the governing board is going to turn the OC Fairgrounds, which is supposed to serve local families, into a playground for the wealthy. I'm opposed. |
| 2/19/25 21:22 | Frank | Irvine, CA | <p>AI Enabled OC Fair & Event Center to drive more visitors to visit and interact with the events and artifacts presented at museums, to bring back "interesting", "exciting" and more "interaction" to the events in 2025-2029. Enable AI Docent at Heroes Hall Museum so that visitors can video chat with any artifacts at the museum to understand them in a much efficient and effective way. Easier to understand an artifact/artwork, More interesting experience for a visitor, hence more visitors to the museum, and more social/society value the museum will create.</p> <p>****AI Docent is ready. I have been working with Carol Singleton, Johanna Svensson, etc. on it voluntarily. Below are two demo examples.</p> <p>Examples: Heroes Hall Museum presented Ed Bowen Combat Artist's artworks in 2024. Ed was passed away in Dec. 2023. However with AI Docent for Ed Bowen, people can chat with our hero Ed Bowen in 2024 when they visited Heroes Hall Museum via their phones or laptops, like the following two examples shows (the video was created in real time when a visitor chatted with "Ed Bowen" in 2024)</p> <p>1) AI Docent for Ed Bowen in 2022 answer: what do you think about art and war? https://drive.google.com/file/d/14pk8Uv_qBFnRbHO7rV97N_MzSdFpJDRN/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>2) AI Docent for Ed Bowen in 1969 answer: who are you? https://drive.google.com/file/d/13R-NL3GILNErClm-KhFOdp3s1xn3pwX7/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Similarly, OC Fair & Event can offer/implement AI Docent service for any venue event so that visitors can video chat with, say, Event Host, for any questions they have at a same time but with different questions, or just for fun. And more...</p> <p>AI Docent innovative/transformative solution for Event & Museum will bring "interesting" and 'exciting' back to OC Fair & Event Center, add more visitors' "interactions", and significantly improve visitors experience in digital era, We are in AI Digital Era. It is strategically important for OC Fair & Event Center to think about "Digital Generation" who is the Future of OC Fair & Event Center, and 2025-2025 Strategic Plan is the right exercise to start the "Plan" & "Execution". (AI Docent is ready. Please check it with Mrs. Johanna Svensson at Heroes Hall Museum, with whom I voluntarily have been working with.)</p> <p>Wish the Best to OC Fair & Event Center Best Regards, Frank</p> |
| 2/19/25 22:04 | Frank | Irvine, CA | Overall, the plan is well written and structured. I'd like to add: AI Enabled Innovative/Transformative solution for Event and Museum to the initiatives in Technology and Understand Guests to Offer New and Innovative Programming. It will be aligned with and support Strategic Direction: Innovation and Visitor Experience. It will meaningfully impact: "find value" in Vision, "educational experience" in Mission, and "Excellence, Fun" in Values. We are in AI Digital Era. It will be strategically important for OC Fair & Event Center to think of "Digital Generation" with meaningful AI innovation supporting it strategy, vision, mission and values in Digital Era, because "Digital Generation" is the Future of OC Fair & Event Center. (Extra Note: AI Enabled Innovative/Transformative solution for Event and Museum is ready, like AI Docent. If need more information, please feel free to contact me.) |
| 2/20/25 10:45 | Faye | Anaheim | I feel keep Orange County Faith in community should stay here. |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 2/20/25 12:17 | Camilla | Long Beach | We would like to lease the Costa Mesa building in August or September if you have any openings. When will the fairgrounds have their own trams for transporting customers to parking lots |
| 2/20/25 13:21 | Mark | Orange | The school visits to Centennial Farm give all children a chance to touch, smell, and commune with nature. The chance to hold a chick, touch a growing vegetable, and leave the confines of their school, makes for a memory for a life time. To watch a child with communicative and learning issues, hold a baby chick and interrupt his or her usually disruptive behavior is an amazing event. The farm is a special place and the kids absorb it and grow. My experiences from almost 10 years of being a farmer/docent has been an activity that continues to amaze and enlighten. The current administration of Centennial farms has continued to maintain a year round beauty and warmth that welcomes all children, from all kinds of backgrounds. |
| 2/20/25 13:41 | Laura | Huntington beach | Last year 2024 I entered in the horticulture department for the fair several of my exhibits are hanging plants all the exhibits were shown in the barn there is no way to hang the plants in the barn I can understand they don't want nails and hooks attached to the barn I think that there should be another location or some type of system a canopy or something so people can submit their entries that hang I know I'm not the only one a lot of plants are hanging such a stag horns ferns etc I tried to device my own hanging system they tried to say that it fell but they moved it and it fell and then I was disqualified then when I went to pick up my plant it was in pieces all over the place most of it that I have worked so hard to grow for years was stuffed in bags and the plants were broken I think that if you're going to display these types of exhibits that you should have a way for the people to display their items properly and they don't get damaged and are returned the same way they were brought in thank you very much Laura |
| 2/20/25 13:50 | Joseph | Upland | Love going to your concerts, seems like the concerts haven't been as good lately. Need bigger names. |
| 2/20/25 18:16 | Janis | Costa Mesa | Please do all you can to secure and enhance the presence of Centennial Farm at the Fairground. It is a unique gem and provides many children(and adults) with valuable lessons about the role of agriculture in California in the Nation and in our lives. |
| 2/20/25 18:35 | Eric | Newport Beach | Will the OC Swapmeet still be there? |
| 2/21/25 8:00 | Verenice | Costa Mesa | I like having the events ahead of time as it allows for planning with my busy schedule |
| 2/22/25 8:32 | Victor | Monterey Park | You also need to bring back the weekend swap meets. |
| 2/22/25 17:45 | Katrina | Glendale | I think to mix food and shopping together. Every few food vendors should be few booths. Keep large commercial vendors indoors. That way the food traffic should help the smaller businesses |
| 2/23/25 14:07 | Stacy | Costa Mesa | Please install air conditioning in the building where baked goods are displayed. Cakes are no longer a category due to lack of air conditioning. Thanks, Stacy |
| 2/25/25 14:22 | Kathleen | Newport Beach | First, Thank you for requesting feedback from the community. I have lived in Costa Mesa (attended Davis and CMHS, as did my son, who also participated in the ranch program, when he was at Davis) and surrounding areas since 1975, and have always loved having the fairgrounds in my back yard. By far my favorite part is the horses, I grew up coming to see the horses, and just feeling better knowing they were there. Myself, and both of my children enjoyed riding lessons at the fairgrounds, and I would be completely devastated if they were to no longer be here. Now for the feedback you have requested - from what I am seeing in your plan, the grounds are moving forward while retaining the nostalgic past which is such an important part of Orange County and more specifically Costa Mesa's history. The parking situation at the fairgrounds continues to be an issue, and the buses that run back and forth with the fair employees, (most making on minimum wage) situation desperately needs to be addressed, as employees who get off work close to midnight and later, should not have to then wait another hour before making their way back to their vehicles. There are people who literally will not work there, for distaste for the 2 extra hours you must endure getting to and from your car on busier fair/concert nights. I saw that the parking is continued to be looked at, but seriously a parking garage, or underground, may be your only option now. The events you hold, from Speedway, to Heroes hall to cooking events, garden events, the Scottish Festival and concerts are well loved by the community, as for Speedway - if you could help to keep the cost lower- the community would embrace attending more often. Speedway should not have such a large entry price, and additionally have to pay so much to park. You've got to keep these long running and cherished events more affordable. Most of the people who attend these types of events are not millionaires, they are hard working tax paying long-time citizens of the surrounding communities. |

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| 2/25/25 17:51 | Grant | Costa Mesa | As a volunteer at Centennial Farm and during the Fair I work to teach patrons about the workings of Centennial Farm, the animals and crops. I think the Strategic Plan is well written and explains the needs of the OCFEC and Centennial Farm. |
| 2/27/25 10:27 | Artie | Costa Mesa | ANYTHING related to Agriculture is a very much appreciated aspect of the Fair operations. Centennial Farms, Jr Livestock show and auction, Open competitions. The kids that I see regularly are wide-eyed and excited to learn about our big fellas we call our Oxen Team. To relay an experience last week, a class with special needs came through and listened to our talk. As one boy walked up to leave and came closer to the oxen's faces, he broke out into a big smile and gave them the "heart" hand sign. It was so joyful! |
| 2/28/25 9:21 | Philip | Costa Mesa | The centennial farm is an amazing asset for the community... Not only does it inform and instruct the youth of our area, but it enables a rare opportunity to place children and young learners with the understanding that animals need love to... And what animals do... And how important animals are for our existence... Please continue to respect this incredible bond ...coming from a very affluent area to those that might have less of an opportunity to get close and personal with living creatures... The knowledge and sensitivity learned from this opportunity is immeasurable. Thank you |
| 2/28/25 19:46 | Shonda | Lynwood | More unusual fair foods other than corn dogs, hot cheeto covered fried foods, fried pickles, have more foods like on the food network carnival eats. More r and band goapel concerts, more multi cultural arts and craft and cooking exibits. |
| 3/1/25 21:50 | Diana | Ladera Ranch | Having educational opportunities without hands on experience, ACTUAL Horses and trainers is absolutely ludicrous. Robbing the public of a much needed sanctuary to connect and learn from horses is an abomination. For an elected board preaching the history of agriculture and farming and yet obliterate the community access to FREE equine programs is an embarrassment. |
| 3/2/25 6:33 | Tracey | Buena park | Horses are needed! |
| 3/2/25 6:43 | Janette | Huntington Beach | Please restore the equestrian center and horse programs. |
| 3/2/25 6:56 | Lisa | Huntington Beach | The stables needs to be restored back to it intended purpose. To allow people and horses to live in harmony and contribute to the community through learning a new hobby, skills, etc. our world needs outdoor activities for adults and kids and not to be overstimulated with choas and concrete |
| 3/2/25 7:13 | Michelle | Costa Mesa | I am saddened to see the plan for the OC equestrian center. I spent most of my teenage years at the fairgrounds riding horses and then my twenties teaching lessons. I can't imagine what my teenage years would have looked like without horses. I did not have a lot of friends at school, but the barn was different. Everyone was a friend at the barn. The horses and their owners were everything to me. I rode at the fairground before over half of it was taken away. Back when it used to get voted "best show grounds" by the AQHA year after year. Then it was slowly taken away and turned into concrete. Memories were paved over without a second thought. Now you want to completely eliminate any horses from the property altogether. How can you teach about horses without actual horses. That's like trying to learn how to swim without a pool. While I realize horseback riding isn't as popular as baseball, basketball, tennis, or swimming, but kids who want to ride horses deserve a place to ride just as much as kids who want to play baseball deserve a field. There are countless places for kids to play other sports in the city and here you are eliminating the one place kids can ride horses. Classrooms to learn about horses is not a fair trade off to actual horsemanship. If your kids or grandkids loved the equestrian center as much as we do, I don't think you'd be trying to get rid of it. Just because something doesn't serve you personally, doesn't mean it's valueless to others. Please reconsider your current plan and bring horses back to the fairgrounds. |
| 3/2/25 7:37 | Alexandra | Costa Mesa | Keep the horse program. I participated when I was a kid. It is a great learning experience and nothing else like it around. It was a highlight of my childhood. Having to care for a horse on a regular basis, opening my eyes to a whole different world. Not only is it a landmark for Costa Mesa it provides unusual opportunities for the city of Costa Mesa's residents and surrounding communities. |
| 3/2/25 7:46 | Joshua | Costa Mesa | Would like to see the equestrian facilities stat at the fairgrounds. There are therapy programs that are a vital asset to the community. There are trainings that are vital to our our youth and community in general. |

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| 3/25 7:53 | Pamela | Albion | The culture of equestrian training has been a major tradition in southern California forever. Please restore the facilities there and bring this back to its glory. Consider leasing it to members that enjoy the same events offered at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center and the Thermal Equestrian Park. |
| 3/25 7:57 | Michelle | | I wonder like to see the original structure of the equestrian center reinstated. Activities such as horseback riding lessons, horse camps, horse vaulting, and horse education clinics should all have a place at the OC Equestrian Center. |
| 3/25 7:59 | Devon | Costa Mesa | There are enough walk-throughs we need the horses! |
| 3/25 8:10 | Mindy | Costa Mesa | Keep the equestrian alive bring back the horses |
| 3/25 8:17 | Kelly | Costa Mesa | We want riding lessons and equestrian classss/activities. We would like the courses to remain on the property for kids and family activities. |
| 3/25 8:19 | Kristen | Huntington Beach | Keep equestrian activities. |
| 3/25 8:32 | Julianne | Costa Mesa | I would like the horse program to be restored at the Fairgrounds. I have lived here all my life. My older sister got her start riding horses at the Fairgrounds. 35 years later she still rides and works as a horse trainer. Now that I have my own children, I was excited to take them to the Fairgrounds for lessons. The horse program at the Fairgrounds gave my sister direction and purpose. It would be devastating to our community to lose that. Please restore the program. |
| 3/25 8:41 | Ashley | Huntington Beach | Bring it back to what it was. Equestrian Center with trainers and boarders. Only acceptable option. |
| 3/25 8:59 | Sara | Huntington Beach | Bring AG back to the fairs. Bring back the horses and animals to the forefront. |
| 3/25 9:02 | Colette | Newport Beach | Please include live horses as part of the equestrian program. Please do not remove these animals from this area. |
| 3/25 9:21 | Suzanne | Huntington Beach | Return of a vibrant equestrian center with horses, trainers, community outreach programs for at risk youth, veterans and equestrian activities for the community at large with appropriate equine management of the facilities |
| 3/25 10:39 | Vanessa | Laguna Hills | I would love to see a return of the horses to the fairgrounds with lessons, vaulting and boarding available! |
| 3/25 10:42 | Katie | Santa Ynez/ Huntington Beach | Keep your horse facilities, not only keep them, but EXPAND them!! Create show grounds so others can come and experience the magic of horses! It is entirely possible to keep a private boarding facility as well as maintain the grounds to be educational for all. |
| 3/25 10:58 | EJ | Huntington Beach | Please restore the previous equestrian center activities, including boarding, programs, lessons, and camps |
| 3/25 11:35 | Salem | Orange | I want to keep the equestrian center- bring back trainers, lessons, camps. No classrooms- that's stupid |
| 3/25 11:38 | Madison | Newport Beach / Costa Mesa | I believe the OC fair has a duty to preserve the historical equestrian community here in Costa Mesa- that has been around longer than most residents. This new plan should include reasonable boarding for the local public to board their horses at a well kept facility (with improved facilities), and equestrian trainers who maintain lesson programs. Without the knowledge and life long experience of local horse trainers you cannot be successful- they are a key part of running a clean, safe, and enjoyable equestrian facility. There is not a single equestrian center in all of Southern California that does not have horse trainers as a part of their program. They are needed by the public for access to SAFE lessons, and they are needed by public boarders for standard care services for their horses. It saddens me to see how the center has absolutely been abandoned since moving in 2024. What was once a nice facility with great trees and personality is no more. I'll always have hope that maybe this special place can return! |
| 3/25 12:17 | Marcie | Costa mesa | We need the horses back for our community and children's futures. Speaking from experience growing up in Costa Mesa and attending CM high school. The programs available through the fairgrounds (horses, lessons, hands on responsibility of boarding and caring for horses, showing at the fair) are what helped me stay in school and become successful. To remove these from the community will cause families, children and adults who need this type of outlet/education to suffer. |

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| 3/25 12:18 | Alexis | Yorba Linda | Would like to see more Equestrian/Horse events. Bring the horses back and host horse shows & rodeo. |
| 3/25 12:24 | stone | CDM | The Stable It is virtually empty now trainers, horse owners and the non profit community programing moved because of rate hikes and fear of closer. The stable may not have been the most lucrative part of the fair ground but it was making money for the fair grounds for many years and was the only venue open and use 365 days a year. Women and minority businesses thrived. Lessons, summer camps, Equine therapy and community out reach provided programing to public. Save the Stable I was 50 years old when I learned to ride at this stable. In the last 21 years, I've watched horses change children and adults lives for the better. |
| 3/25 12:27 | Christina | Placenta | It is Horrible to have removed horses from the fair grounds. A fair is all about the animals - knowing where our food comes from, care taking of the land and animals, having a respect for nature and animals because it shows us how to better respect people. Now the fairgrounds are all about contributing to a raging obesity epidemic . |
| 3/25 12:44 | Kerry | Huntington Beach | This facility SHOULD be serving the residents of ORANGE COUNTY! This is the answer to wayward youth, homeless, drug addicts, unemployment etc. teach these kids early to take responsibility, work hard build self esteem and GET OFF COMPUTERS! Please make it clear how yours improve the quality of lives for surrounding families???? It is not as if these boarders are not paying top dollar to keep the horses boarded there!!! |
| 3/25 12:57 | Nikki | Laguna Beach | Needs horses! |
| 3/25 13:07 | alexis | Costa Mesa | No equestrian center mentioned in the Strategic Plan? WHY? Put it back in there You board members are ruining a once vibrant community of people where 12 year olds rode with 70 year olds and friendships developed over a common interest -horses Thousands of people have enjoyed their time out there over the years Please support it and include it in your strategic plan |
| 3/25 13:16 | Estella | buena park ca | Ian the horses back!!! This is where I rode for years and look forward to all the events they had. |
| 3/25 13:16 | Sherry | Orange | We need horse programs for youth and adults. The benefits are for not only physical but mental growth as well. The fairgrounds as well is a place to house horses and animals in times of disaster. Not to mention the history of the property for its equestrian heritage. If the management would listen to the public the place would thrive again. |
| 3/25 13:32 | Christa | Costa Mesa | I would like hands on classes, workshops , horses, etc. I would like to learn to ride horses. |
| 3/25 13:34 | Christophe r | Lake Forest | Horses and the OC Fair Grounds go hand and hand! My family and I have enjoyed watching my cousins grow up, hand and hand with the equine program there! We have all learned about taking care of horses, rising them, feeding them, cleaning them, cleaning up after them, & in their case not just riding them BUT LITERALLY DO GYMNASTICS ON THEM!!! We need MORE activities like this in Orange County, NOT LESS!!! These horses and the programs associated with them have taught us all LIFE LESSONS, on top of learning to take care of something that is more important than us!! |
| 3/25 13:35 | Julie | Orange | Don't remove horses or livestock from this facilities |
| 3/25 13:42 | Mary | Lake Forest | How can you be doing this to us? How can you be doing this to the tax paying residence of Orange County and all those who come to ride or visit?? We all talk about wanting kids to get off their phones, and get outside and do something physical. But then we take important programs like this away? That's insane! As a resident of Orange County for 52 years, this really pisses me off! These are the Orange County Fairgrounds! Which equals horses, (and their programs) the fair, and the amphitheater! And every weekend, the swap meet! Stop the insanity now! We demand that we be able to keep our horses, their equipment and round ranks and turnouts, and everything else associated with them! Let our kids have options to do amazing things like learn how to take care of something that depends on them! That depends on consistency! That demands They schedule their time accordingly to be there to learn and care for the horses! I really can't believe we're even having this discussion! You know what? It's NOT!!! KEEP OUR HORSES!! KEEP OUR PROGRAMS for allllll of us! |
| 3/25 13:51 | Kim | Tustin | Please keep the equine facility at OC Fairgrounds |

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| 3/25 13:54 | E | Orange | There is nothing detailing the future for the equine industry in your plan. I have always loved having the stalls as a safety net in case my barn caught on fire and needed an evacuation area for my horses. I am so let down that the city has decided that pickleball and money are more important than horses' lives. I wish I could say that I am surprised by these actions but after witnessing the cruelty that many horses endured to force equestrians out of the facility, I have no respect for my city anymore. I am embarrassed by this proposed plan and hope that maybe there will be good changes, but I'm not hopeful anymore. |
| 3/25 13:54 | Diana | Ladera ranch | I want to reinstate the community supportive horse ammenities. There is a huge need and desire for equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning, experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events, etc., (not just "exhibits" & "tours") |
| 3/25 13:55 | Molly | Orange | Would love to see the pre existing activity's back! Lessons boarding training! We need it in Orange County |
| 3/25 13:57 | STEPHANIE | Ex Costa Mesa resident. Currently in Nipomo. | Shame on you all for removing the equestrian facility from the fairgrounds. I grew up riding and working there and have dear friends that (until last December) had their horses and equine programs there. To destroy this extremely important public facility is absolutely horrible. Kids NEED these programs and opportunities. |
| 3/25 13:58 | Valerie | Orange | Since horses and equine activities are slowly but surely being eradicated from this area, my input is to ask that equines and equine activities be brought back into the Fairground plan where they have traditionally been. |
| 3/25 14:01 | Trisha | Orange | We want HORSES, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, & not just "exhibits" & tours" |
| 3/25 14:05 | Marissa | Mission Viejo | Where are the horse activities? Equine programs have been a huge part of the fairgrounds for decades. Please Don't take the horses away. Your board will be long gone and the horses will remain as your legacy that you fought hard to keep. Otherwise you are THOSE people that systematically tricked the public and removed horses for a state fairgrounds. That would be a shame. Your response or therefore lack of, to the most recent fires has already been shameful to the OC horse community as a whole. Do the right thing. Leave the horses for our children |
| 3/25 14:08 | Jillian | Yoruba linda | INCLUDE EQUESTRIANS AND EQUESTRIAN EVENTS |
| 3/25 14:10 | Susan | riverside | I want equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events, etc., you want equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events, etc., (not just "exhibits" & "tours"), |
| 3/25 14:19 | Kelly | San Clemente | I want to see equestrian events and facilities. Keep our history and roots, don't forget our past and where we came from. |
| 3/25 14:29 | Grace | Irvine | I would like to see horses included in the future of the fair grounds. That might include stalls, normal equipment that would be in a stable. The ability of people teaching horseback riding. Sponsoring horse shows, both English and western. |
| 3/25 14:51 | Mochele | San diego | I feel that retaining the horse programs and access at the fair grounds is important. Please reconsider your choices to remove everything. |
| 3/25 15:01 | Claudia | Huntington Beach | The OCFEC is a valuable resource for our entire community. It provided a safe and affordable place for non horse owners to ride and interact with horses and knowledgeable horse people. |
| 3/25 15:11 | Madison | Burbank | Please bring back equine activities and showing to the fairgrounds! |
| 3/25 15:12 | Jelena | Los Angeles | Horses are a critical part of the OC Fair facility and community. Contrary to stereotypes, most horse owners are hard working middle and working class folks like myself- I make \$21/hr and work extra jobs + forgo other expenses to keep my horse. I buy almost everything used, don't drink alcohol, and shop at discount grocery stores to be able to put money towards my horse who is a beloved family member and the best thing I've ever done for my mental health. Please restore equestrian facilities to the OC fair. Horses are good for communities and for people, and should not be ejected on the whims of politicians. |

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| 3/25 15:16 | Gillian | Irvine | I would very much like for equestrian boarding, training, and shows to be available. The facility needs to be updated, the management needs to be more hospitable. They made the center completely unpleasant to be at when they were trying to remove all the existing horses. It was such a community before they came in and took over management. |
| 3/25 15:22 | Cynthia | San Juan Capistrano | For years I have been supportive of the Orange County fairgrounds. I have shown horses and ridden there for years. It is disappointing to me that OC fairgrounds is wanting to delete all equestrian activities, month to month, training and lessons. It's so important for youths and adults to learn how to care for and love these horses. I, when I was a teenager, was positively affected by horses. I feel it is important to be able to offer that opportunity to the public |
| 3/25 15:27 | Rose | | Equestrian activities: A riding school where anyone can go and take lessons, a boarding facility, pony rides. |
| 3/25 15:29 | Brooke | Ladera ranch | Equestrians need a place |
| 3/25 15:34 | Beth | Lake Forest | Please keep the OC Fairgrounds an equestrian facility |
| 3/25 15:35 | Katie | Orange | Keep the equestrian programs at the fair grounds! Some of my best childhood memories were showing and riding horses there. It's what makes and keeps it special. |
| 3/25 15:35 | Kathryn | San Clemente | Horses should be integral to this property. Bring back the roots! Equestrian center for the county is only fair. There are enough sports parks, skate parks, etc. |
| 3/25 15:52 | Cassandra c | Fullerton ca | We would like to have the equestrian center up and going, my kids used to take lessons at the fair ground and then she had to move her horses so no more lessons |
| 3/25 15:52 | Reese | Laguna Woods | We want to keep horses at the OC Fair grounds. The history of us taking our kids and now grandkids should be preserved. |
| 3/25 15:57 | Kim | Santa Clarita | I want HORSES, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, (& not just "exhibits" & "tours") |
| 3/25 15:59 | Sarah | Costa Mesa | Would like to see the equestrian center included and boarding and training available as it was provided before for decades successfully enriching the public and community |
| 3/25 16:08 | Suzanne | 93561 | Where did the horses go? We attended so many equestrian events at the OC Fairgrounds and I had several friends who kept their horses there for years and years... it was a great and much-needed place for horse folks to gather, learn, and have fun! |
| 3/25 16:17 | Vikki | Orange | A reasonably priced horse boarding facility with public programs. A lack of public equestrian programs is really a detriment to the community. Without public equestrian programs, my daughter would have not had access to horses in her childhood and could very easily have fallen victim to the downfalls of growing up in such an urban area such as drugs, alcohol, partying and other mischief. She has now been an avid equestrian for over 25 years. I did not have money for private lessons let alone buying a horse, and these public programs were the only way she could have access to horses. The new pricing for the boarding facility is completely out of touch with current local industry standards. |
| 3/25 16:21 | Leslie | Phelan | As a long term supporter of equestrian activities, and someone who has seen first hand what horses can do for children, I say bring back horse facilities and events. We talk all day about how children are overweight, unhealthy, have no sense of responsibility, yet we are constantly removing outdoor activities. Horses have a place on the OC Fairgrounds. Find a true, legitimate horse person to operate and manage the facilities. These facilities are needed for wildfire evacuation as well. Removing horses from this venue was a terrible lapse in judgement that was made without consulting the public at large. |

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| 3/25 16:24 | Ann | Santa Clarita | Please re-include equine programs in your planning. Fairgrounds should first and foremost be a place for an increasingly urban population to have reliable access to rural experiences, most importantly horse lessons as they provide ongoing interactions instead of one off events that are quickly deemed novelty and forgotten about. Urban populations are quickly forgetting the importance of our natural environment and most have lost their ability to navigate a world without pavement and road signs, and heaven forbid there's no cell service. Conservation of our environment cannot happen without understanding of our environment and equine programs act as an important gateway into the natural world. |
| 3/25 16:25 | Mike | Newport Beach | I want to see horses back at the OC fair grounds. I want to see Rodeo events and equine shows. Flat track motor cycle racing and more concerts. Not having horses at the fair grounds is horrible for the local residents. |
| 3/25 16:29 | Jennifer | Valley Village | Why no mention of horses and horse activities in the Strategic Plan? We are quickly losing space for our beloved equine companions and the ability to continue keeping horses at the fairgrounds is important for people's physical and mental health but also it has a large economic impact with the jobs and small businesses that provide supporting systems. |
| 3/25 16:30 | AnneMarie | Huntington Beach | Please resume equestrian services and activities at the EQUESTRIAN CENTER at the fairgrounds as the community and youth need access to therapeutic and athletic activities involving equines!!! |
| 3/25 16:34 | Chris | Costa Mesa | Please keep the Orange County Fairgrounds alive for all their amazing horse shows. All my international horse friends come over for that. What a disgrace if you remove that |
| 3/25 16:35 | Ashlee | Leona Valley | Lessons for low income families Access to therapeutic riding services |
| 3/25 16:37 | Christina | Burbank | Please include horses in your program! And not just demos. We need kids to see and experience real live horses |
| 3/25 16:37 | Wendy | Lake Forest | Please include equestrian facilities! We need a Fairground with full facilities including boarding a shows for horses |
| 3/25 16:39 | Michelle | Simi Valley | Would recommend horse shows, boarding, riding lessons or pony rides. |
| 3/25 16:42 | Jo | Thousand Oaks | Please keep all horse events at the O C Fair. The fair is a part of history and horses are definitely a huge part of that. No horses no fair!! |
| 3/25 16:43 | Jordan | Leona Valley | Equine industry is an important addition to community and society, even for a technological city. Please consider including our involvement in your strategic planning. |
| 3/25 16:45 | Kim | Fountain Valley | As a resident of Orange County I would like to see the OC Fairgrounds Equestrian Center be returned back to the establishment and have the actual real equestrian activities that the facility had been previously providing for the community to experience for the past multiple decades. It's a historical facility. Prior to the recent sabotage plan that the CEO had continuously provided incorrect information to the board that the center did not serve the public; it was a fully functioning equestrian center that had all the right entities on site to help the public enjoy many activities that involved horses. Such as, individuals could stable their horses near where they lived, have the proper experienced professionals help them with their riding and care of their horses, all ages could come and learn about, how to ride, receive education of what horses provide to people. Real hands on experiences, with fully experienced individuals in the equestrian field. I would like to see that the equestrian center is listed back into the master plan for many years in the future. Around 1980 the OC fairboard voted to preserve the facility for all to enjoy, but during the past 2 CEO duration of leadership this has been purposely destroyed. There was once a plaque mentioning this pledge and has been removed by the orders of one of these past members. |
| 3/25 16:51 | Kristen | San Luis Obispo | Equestrian stabling, Equestrian Shows and Arenas, Riding paths, Therapeutic Riding facilities, emergency livestock holding for natural disasters. |
| 3/25 17:02 | Kristy | Riverside | Leave the horses alone. Facilities are needed during evacuations |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
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| 3/25 17:10 | Jessica | Simi Valley | <p>The OC Fair & Event Center has long been a vital hub for equestrian events, offering an invaluable space for horse shows, competitions, and community gatherings. As a Simi Valley resident with direct experience showcasing at this renowned venue, our barn has seen firsthand the positive impact that these events have not only on participants but also on the local community. These horse events bring together people from diverse backgrounds, fostering a shared appreciation for equestrian sports and animals.</p> <p>The OC Fair & Event Center is a well-established location that provides facilities for equestrian activities, offering a space for competitors, exhibitors, and spectators. The center's role in promoting the equestrian community is crucial, as it serves as a platform for local riders, trainers, and equine enthusiasts to showcase their talents, build connections, and further the appreciation for these important sports. Additionally, the fairgrounds attract visitors from all over, contributing to the local economy by supporting nearby businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and shops.</p> <p>Maintaining horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center also provides valuable exposure for young riders and aspiring equestrians. It is an opportunity for them to learn from experienced professionals, develop skills, and potentially pursue careers in the equine industry. These events also create a sense of pride and accomplishment for local participants who are able to share their hard work with a larger audience.</p> <p>As a barn that has participated in these events, we can attest to the value they bring to the equestrian community, fostering camaraderie, skill-building, and a deep sense of tradition. Continuing to host horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center is not just beneficial for competitors, but it is also a service to the broader community, ensuring that equestrian culture remains a vital part of the local and state equestrian community.</p> |
| 3/25 17:14 | kimberly | Palmdale | <p>As residents of CA please include horses in all future planning. The fairgrounds is a STATE OWNED property.</p> <p>HORSES, are great equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning etc. Please preserve the Orange County fairgrounds.</p> |
| 3/25 17:22 | Lisa | Glendale | <p>Please bring the horses back. Lessons, therapy, events with horses, boarding, - that is what the OC fairgrounds are designed for.</p> <p>The new plans are ridiculous and a complete waste of California taxpayers dollars!!!</p> <p>Please bring back horses.</p> |
| 3/25 17:27 | Taylor | | <p>Please include any and everything horse related in oc since there is nothing in orange county for children and adults to enjoy equestrian life. Open the boarding back up.</p> <p>Make it affordable. Summer camps. Hands on lessons. Any and all equestrian experiences. Exhibitions. Clinics. Mustang make overs.</p> <p>Open a section up to the public like you do the barn.</p> |
| 3/25 17:27 | Megan | San Juan Capistrano | <p>Removing the horses and riding programs from the OC Fairgrounds is a detriment to the county. The OC Fairgrounds can provide housing for horses, act as an emergency evacuation center in times of crisis - hundreds of Los Angeles horses evacuated to the Del Mar Fairgrounds in the January fires, generates jobs, and provides a safe haven to promote positive mental health. Bring back horses, bring back horse shows, generate income with an educated equestrian management team. Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter.</p> |
| 3/25 17:29 | Danielle | Garden Grove | <p>Love the centennial farm and garden. Wish there were more actual classes there where people could do a gardening activity and take something home. Need more classes and lessons. The horse stable and lessons are invaluable. Horsemanship classes and other classes for girls scouts and Boy Scouts to earn merit badges!</p> |
| 3/25 17:35 | Sherrie | Stevenson Ranch | Would like to see all kinds of equestrian events... lessons ..trail ytrials..shows with jumping dressage..boarding etc. |
| 3/25 17:45 | Schawna | Riverside | Where are all the equine activities? We need to keep these kids engaged in farming and animals. This is sad to see. |
| 3/25 17:55 | Tara | Burbank | Where are the equestrian facilities? In addition to being a vital center for the equestrian community, this public facility needs to be able to continue providing a much needed year round evacuation center in fire country. There are so few remaining horse facilities. It's absolutely absurd that there is no mention of permanent equestrian use. |
| 3/25 17:58 | Veronica | Burbank | KEEP THE HORSES, EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES, AND HORSE-RELATED ACTIVITIES. Thank you. |
| 3/25 18:06 | erica | Burbank | It's imperative to maintain all things equine in Southern California for the enrichment and the culture for generations to come |

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| 3/25 18:06 | Jeanne | Costa Mesa | Dear board of directors, Bring back the equestrian center with all the horse activities & programs that were previously in place! Riding lessons, camps, equine sports & activities, recreation & therapeutic riding. Hands on learning experiential .learning with horses. Horse boarding, trainers, community events. |
| 3/25 18:18 | Caroline | Lake Elsinore | Equine events are important. Bring them back! |
| 3/25 18:28 | Kelly | Tustin | Please include riding lessons available to the public for my grandkids. There needs to private trainers with their lesson horses to ensure safety for everyone. . Also need a cost efficient horses boarding facility available to the public for private horses. |
| 3/25 18:29 | Nancy | Norco | Please continue to allow equestrian boarding at the Fairgrounds! There is a great need! |
| 3/25 18:34 | Alexandra | Huntington Beach | Bring back the horses. Everyone enjoys them. Equine sports are growing in popularity with Snoop Dogg and Mark Walberg participating. There are fewer and fewer places for people to experience equine sports and equine therapies in So California. The western culture is on the rise and the city of Costa Mesa is setting itself against that very large very diverse group of people. Take a look at Washington fairgrounds in St George Utah. They are trying to do same thing as Costa Mesa except St. George is doubling down on horses not removing them. |
| 3/25 18:36 | Carolyn | Irvine | Please keep the equestrian facility!!! We visited regularly and are distressed to see the only public access to horses now unavailable - please, my daughters love horses so much!! |
| 3/25 18:41 | Catherine | Burbank | As a horse owner looking to move to Orange County I thought I would be able to board at the fairgrounds an obvious choice seeing it was founded as an agricultural center to applaud and support all things agricultural...but now you've decided animals have nothing to do with agricultural? This property is owned by the State of California, therefore its residents, and you should be serving residents with true agricultural wants and needs. Retore the horse activities including lessons and boarding facilities. By removing them you are wiping out some of the best history of not only Orange County but the State. |
| 3/25 18:42 | Constance | Laguna Beach | We are so lucky to have the fairgrounds in our backyard, but the horses are very important part of that. I'm now 65 and when I was a kid, I rode horses at the fairgrounds. And then when my daughter was five years old in 2008, we moved one of our horses to the fairgrounds because it was convenient and we enjoyed the Hansen's that were our management staff. Being able to do pony club have a lesson once or twice a week or just hang out at the barn with such a healthy thing for my daughter and kept her out of trouble, drugs, alcohol, and boys for quite a long time.. |
| 3/25 19:06 | Caitlin | Anaheim | Keep the horses there not as an attraction only. Let the boarders stay with fair board, trainers do their job, and host equestrian events. Income could be generated. Host rodeos, barrel races, jumping events, etc. |
| 3/25 19:25 | Kathryn | Newport Beach | We are requesting that we keep the equestrian center, all of the riding programs and the trainers at the Orange County Fairgrounds. |
| 3/25 19:27 | rob | Norco | As a long time resident of Costa Mesa now residing in Norco. I cannot stress how important equestrian boarding, lessons and arena access at the Orange County fairgrounds is for Costa Mesa, Newport and the surrounding Orange County cities. Boarding of hoses and lessons are invaluable to both the youth and community who do not have the luxury to keep horses on their property. Please hear us in our plea to keep the facility and access to boarding available for both the local and traveling California equestrian community. Thank you for your considerations, Rob |
| 3/25 19:36 | Lisa | Thousand oaks | Please reinstate equine activities! Southern California loves their equines and they are a main draw for many people yo come from further away to participate! |
| 3/25 19:43 | Suzanne | Orange | I'd like to see equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events, etc., (not just "exhibits" & "tours". Bring back the equine community. |
| 3/25 19:47 | Erin | Garden Grove | The biggest problem with this plan is the LIE that it started with. The guarantee that was made that the removal of the fairgrounds was not on the plan from the very beginning, while strategy and changes to weed out as many programs and PUBLIC INDIVIDUALS as possible was the ongoing plan. This is a disgusting move by the fair board and state. When you talk about programming for all, apparently you are really talking about programming to those we agree with or deem fit our plan. This takes away entirely the public ability to enjoy equestrian sports in Costa Mesa and Orange County. |
| 3/25 19:51 | Brogan | Newport Beach | Horses, equine recreation, equine lessons and camps. Equine boarding, trainers and community events |

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| 3/2/25 19:55 | Lindsay | San Marcos | I would like to see equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with horses, boarding, trainers, community events, etc. |
| 3/2/25 20:06 | Jillian | Huntington Beach | Why have you removed all ability for people to be successful in equine? The equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with horses, boarding, trainers, community events, etc. needs to be returned. This is a valuable resource in an area that's becoming impossible to grow because of the restrictions brought on by recent events. We need these abilities returned... |
| 3/2/25 20:12 | Heather | Orange | Horse boarding, training and riding lessons are VITAL to OC. |
| 3/2/25 20:16 | Van | Rosemead | Please add equestrian even and equestrian facilities. |
| 3/2/25 20:19 | Flavia | Norco California | ❤️ |
| 3/2/25 20:26 | Kim | Escondido | Please keep equestrian facilities here! It is very important for emergency evacuations as well as boarding for local equestrians |
| 3/2/25 20:26 | Stephanie | Huntington Beach | Please leave the old equestrian programs intact, they are a cherished memory, and I was hoping to have my daughters join these programs. The very best learning is hands on, horses can teach us so much. |
| 3/2/25 20:36 | Jaime | Shadow hills ca | We must save our country life with our Horses ! |
| 3/2/25 20:40 | Kayla | Alhambra | The idea of not having horses at the OC Fairground is a nightmare to me. This facility has been a huge staple in the community and the equestrians within. First time riders, casual riders, and seasoned pros alike all value this facility and I believe it would be truly shameful to lose such an asset to the community. |
| 3/2/25 20:49 | Wallace | COSTA MESA | Please bring back an area for horses, equestrians, and support programs with the equine. |
| 3/2/25 21:02 | Erika | Irvine | To promote and educate the community about agricultural farming, equestrian sports and large animal husbandry. To keep and restore the equestrian center, as a public boarding facility without further threat of closure. To host horse shows on all competitive levels and to allow the public the ability to experience the unique environment that a well run, affordable equestrian facility can provide. |
| 3/2/25 21:08 | Karin | Glendale | I think horses need to stay at the fairgrounds. I kept my horse there in the 60's. We are losing to many equestrian facilities. This is ridiculous. You have other events to subsidize the barns. Quit building condos. |
| 3/2/25 21:24 | Laurel | Temecula | Please include equestrian! |
| 3/2/25 21:36 | Amy Summer | Huntington Beach | Bring back the horses! I was so fortunate to grow up a horse girl. I went to riding lessons three times a week, community horse shows on the weekends (yes, many at OC Fairgrounds!), and spent all my free time at the barn learning valuable life lessons. |
| | | | I learned dedication, the value of setting goals and achieving them through hard work. I learned to be responsible, accountable for my actions, and respect. I made friends I still have today, and wouldn't be the person I am now if I did not spend my childhood outdoors doing something I loved. It is so much a part of my life, my personality, my core values. Removing a community barn that has been so impactful to myself and so many others is wrong, and it's robbing our future generations of hobbies that will change their lives for the better. Not to mention the therapy programs that COULD be available to struggling youth, victims of abuse, people with disabilities, and our veterans. There is absolutely zero better use for that land than a barn. It is such a disservice to remove a facility that is so loved by many and could be loved by many more. Barns in California are dying left and right in the name of greed, of real estate developers, of organizations prioritizing profit over wellbeing. Don't be one of those. Protect what is left, and open it up to those who will undoubtedly enjoy it and make memories that last a lifetime. Please, I urge you...reopen the stables. |
| 3/2/25 21:36 | Allison | Orange | Horses and boarding at the OC Fairgrounds as well as education opportunities surrounding horses. |
| 3/2/25 21:37 | Flade | Los Angeles | Not sure |
| 3/2/25 21:41 | Melodie | Los Alamitos | Need to keep all animals in fair and horses at the equestrian center. |
| 3/2/25 21:50 | Cassidy | Los osos | Equestrian lessons and events to be planned and scheduled again please! |

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| 3/25 21:54 | Shana | | We need more horse programs. Riding lessons, therapeutic riding programs, riding programs for kids/adults/Vets. My daughter went to "see the horsies running" here at the fairgrounds all the time when she was little, and it instilled a passion and love of horses in her. Horses make kids responsible and keep them out of trouble. She's had horses now for years and she's taken care of them every day twice a day since she was 11 years old. Please bring back more horse programs especially for kids. But adults can definitely benefit from them also! |
| 3/25 22:08 | Katie | Hemet | Bring back all the equestrian events |
| 3/25 22:10 | Stephanie | Los Angeles | Please restore and protect equine sports and activities in Southern California. They provide healthy outlets for youth and are a heritage sport that is important to many cultures. Keep the heritage of equestrianism alive. It supports mental health and job creation. |
| 3/25 22:11 | Mylene | Yorba Linda | Equestrian related facilities and support organizations are greatly needed to support the community. The equine industry is a multi-million dollar industry that when operated correctly provides beneficial services for those suffering from PTSD, ADHD, MS, and several other rehabilitative conditions and can be profitable economically as well. |
| 3/25 22:12 | Kristina | Anaheim | Need to include facilities for horses, equestrian events, and specifically boarding. The boarding should be at a reasonable price, not most expensive in Orange county as it is currently. You do not have the resources to charge anything close to current rates it is possible, with massive renovations. Either way, consistent with the purpose of the public good of the fairgrounds and the agricultural roots of orange county, it is appropriate that horses are given a prime spot in your future plans for the OC fairgrounds |
| 3/25 22:14 | Robin | Norco | I bought my first Horse as an adult in 1990 and kept him at OC Fairgrounds & Diane McCauley was my Trainer many years and it's a wonderful facility to keep a Horse when Living in the OC as I was back then. If you get rid of the Horses all the Horse Lovers will have no place to go to fuel their passion!! So many places in California are getting rid of Stables etc... Pomona got rid of their Show facilities and I showed there for years and what a blow it was to lose it. We need these patches of equestrian paradise, as California is becoming a concrete Jungle and who wants that??? I moved to Norco to continue my Horse Lifestyle and I don't want to see it end for so many others now and in the future!!! |
| 3/25 22:33 | Jacqueline | Aguanga | Please include equestrian facilities and programs in your strategic plan. Equestrians are losing places to house and ride their horses. Equestrians will travel from long distances to attend events at your facility! Please help keep a piece of American history alive! |
| 3/25 22:33 | Karen | Burbank | Equestrian is a must at Orange County fairgrounds. The equestrian community brings millions in revenue from horse shows, western, English, rodeos, fairs, and more, it's the only sport in the Olympics with animals and has three disciplines. Horses are therapeutic to disabled children, adults and veterans. They save lives!! My father produced horse shows at the OC fairgrounds and they were amazing events for the community. There are so many reasons that benefit orange country to continue the equestrian facility and keep the legacy alive! |
| 3/25 22:39 | Valerie | Murrieta | Keep everything open to equine activities! ☺ |
| 3/25 22:42 | Holly | Newport Beach | I am very interested to learn about the plan for the equestrian center going forward. What is the plan for the center? How do you envision providing equine opportunities for the community and youth? What about the availability as a emergency evacuation site for Orange County? I am concerned that I didn't see equestrian activities or programs mentioned. Were they in the plan and I didn't see them? With the history of Orange County and the great need for equestrian activities, experiences, riding opportunities, and also boarding, I don't understand the removal of this facility. |
| 3/25 22:46 | Darlene | San Juan Capistrano | Horses hold a vital part of supporting human health physically, mentally emotionally and spiritually. Benefits have been provided over hundreds of years to mankind through the relationship of horses. It is imperative to keep horses in urban area for communities well being. |
| 3/25 22:49 | Shelly | Anaheim | I want horses, an Equestrian Center, equine sport, recreation, equine programs, equine community events, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds- not just exhibits & tours! |

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| 3/2/25 23:10 | Tiffaney | Norco | <p>Taking away horse-related programs from kids could be a very bad idea for several important reasons: Life Skills and Responsibility: Horse programs teach children valuable life skills such as responsibility, patience, and empathy. Caring for a horse requires commitment and understanding of the animal's needs, which can help kids develop a strong sense of discipline and responsibility. Physical Activity and Health: Riding and interacting with horses promotes physical activity and helps improve coordination, balance, and motor skills. These activities are especially beneficial for children in today's world, where sedentary activities, like screen time, have become more prevalent. Emotional Development: Horses provide a unique opportunity for emotional growth. Many kids, especially those with emotional or behavioral challenges, find comfort and connection with horses, which can help build self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and improve emotional regulation. Connection with Nature: Horse programs often take place in natural settings, giving children an opportunity to spend time outdoors and develop a deeper connection with nature. This is important for fostering environmental awareness and encouraging a healthier lifestyle. Increased Confidence and Social Skills: Horseback riding can help kids build confidence as they learn new skills and achieve goals. Working with horses also promotes social interaction with peers and adults, helping children develop strong communication and teamwork skills. Opportunities for Career Exploration: Equine programs introduce kids to potential career paths in agriculture, animal care, veterinary science, and even competitive sports like polo and show jumping. Cutting these programs could limit a child's exposure to a broad range of career options. Sense of Community and Belonging: Horse programs often foster a strong sense of community, where children work together, share experiences, and form lasting friendships. This sense of belonging is important for mental and social well-being. Cultural and Historical Significance: For many communities, horseback riding and equine programs have cultural or historical importance. Taking these programs away could erase a valuable part of local heritage and traditions that children could learn about and appreciate. In short, horse-related programs provide kids with a multifaceted learning experience that can contribute positively to their physical, emotional, and social development. Removing these programs could deprive children of unique opportunities for personal growth and lifelong skills.</p> |
| 3/2/25 23:56 | Terri | Lakewood | <p>I would like to see horse boarding and equine lessons programs for children and adults at the fairgrounds. I think having kids involved with horses and other livestock teaches them so many valuable life lessons. Also we have seen with the wildfires in California that we need a facility that can house horses and other livestock that need to be evacuated. Unfortunately equestrian centers are disappearing in many cities in California. Therefore innercity kids and are not able to get exposure to equine activities. Therapeutic equine programs for the disabled, veterans, and first responders are also very important. Please keep horses at the Orange County Fairgrounds.</p> |
| 3/2/25 23:59 | Nicole | Costa mesa | We want equestrian amenities, boarding, horse shows! |
| 3/3/25 0:21 | Marion | Encinitas | <p>As a trainer and instructor for adults, teenagers, and- at another center - combat veterans I know first hand how important horses can be fit mental health and to have a healthy outdoor activity, not to mention the invaluable skills acquired such as compassion, responsibility, and camaraderie. It is incredibly hard to watch the development of horses being driven out of our living spaces more and more and the history laden horse facilities are falling victim to poor management and rapid price increases, making horse ownership impossible for many enthusiasts and trainers alike why provide riding lessons and enrichment with their lesson horses. Please consider a spot for equine activities, boarding, and lessons by supporting our equine facilities with knowledgeable planning and management decisions! With sincere thanks, Marion</p> |
| 3/3/25 0:39 | Candice | Montbello | I definitely would like to see equine activities returned to the OC Fairgrounds. It's terrible that the equine activities were removed. It's state property and the public should have access to recreational activities with horses. |
| 3/3/25 0:58 | Gina | Moorpark | Return the equestrian facilities! |
| 3/3/25 1:13 | Armida | Norco | Bring horses back to the O.C. Fairgrounds. |

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| 3/25 1:48 | Pam | Silverado | <p>It's really shocking a "Fairgrounds" has tried to destroy equestrian and animal activities. Shame on all of you. I want a broader fair program including calves again. I want to see the kids getting to experience the barns like they used to. I want to see the stable AKA Equestrian Center, horses, equine sports, equine recreation programs, even horse events. The "Fairgrounds" has strayed far away from our agricultural, agricultural animal and horse roots. This must change. This is a STATE OWNED property. The fairgrounds suffers from lack of community input, lack of vision, and trying to change the base function of a fair ground. Do you realize in our many fires YOU are the evacuation site for horses and large animals? I find the past lack of understanding of the basic functions of a fair ground shocking. I want to see hands on horse and agricultural animal opportunities for our kids and community. Stables. Horse camps. Lessons. Experiential learning for horses and animals. Not just "exhibits" & "tours" that's ridiculous. If you don't want to manage a fair ground please step aside and let people who do manage it. You are driving it into the ground. If that's your intent move aside. Meanwhile this is what I would like to see. More hands on animals not less. You should even host a 4H group and their animals year round. We need more agricultural in OC not less.</p> |
| 3/25 2:00 | Toni R | Burbank | <p>Horse equestrian activities need to remain in the County. Do not take away the horse needs of its city. Including boarding, horse designated park trails, pony rides, community events, lessons for people, horse camps, handicap riding events...any horse oriented activity is vital to offer/have at The OC FAirGrounds. The community in this area deserves to have this available to them. The council making these decisions needs to think thru this. It is a need and desire to have for adults and children too.</p> |
| 3/25 2:17 | Beverly | Rancho Santa Fe | <p>As a CA resident & equestrian, I demand the inclusion of equines in state owned programs.</p> |
| 3/25 3:19 | Jamie | Huntington Beach | <p>I want HORSES, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, & not just "exhibits" & tours. Our youth deserve this opportunity year round and at a fair and reasonable cost</p> |
| 3/25 4:14 | Sheila | Grand Junction | <p>Done: The OC Fair & Event Center has long been a vital hub for equestrian events, offering an invaluable space for horse shows, competitions, and community gatherings. As a Simi Valley resident with direct experience showcasing at this renowned venue, our barn has seen firsthand the positive impact that these events have not only on participants but also on the local community. These horse events bring together people from diverse backgrounds, fostering a shared appreciation for equestrian sports and animals.</p> <p>The OC Fair & Event Center is a well-established location that provides facilities for equestrian activities, offering a space for competitors, exhibitors, and spectators. The center's role in promoting the equestrian community is crucial, as it serves as a platform for local riders, trainers, and equine enthusiasts to showcase their talents, build connections, and further the appreciation for these important sports. Additionally, the fairgrounds attract visitors from all over, contributing to the local economy by supporting nearby businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and shops.</p> <p>Maintaining horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center also provides valuable exposure for young riders and aspiring equestrians. It is an opportunity for them to learn from experienced professionals, develop skills, and potentially pursue careers in the equine industry. These events also create a sense of pride and accomplishment for local participants who are able to share their hard work with a larger audience.</p> <p>As a barn that has participated in these events, we can attest to the value they bring to the equestrian community, fostering camaraderie, skill-building, and a deep sense of tradition. Continuing to host horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center is not just beneficial for competitors, but it is also a service to the broader community, ensuring that equestrian culture remains a vital part of the local and state equestrian community.</p> |
| 3/25 4:19 | melissa | Wrightwood | <p>Equestrian access and programming is vital for getting people outside and connecting with the earth and animals. Get them off screens</p> |
| 3/25 4:40 | Tamara | Oceanside | <p>This should remain an equine park to ensure the longevity of horses in the community.</p> |
| 3/25 5:01 | Candy | Nuevo | <p>We need horse accommodations</p> |
| 3/25 5:35 | Kandiss | Burbank | <p>Equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers.</p> |
| 3/25 5:45 | Arlene | Murrieta | <p>WE want HORSES, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, (& not just "exhibits" & "tours") This is a very important part for those who live in areas that are unable to have horses or can't afford them but want to have interaction and learn from horses. Such wonderful creatures with so much to offer. Please make sure these things are a part of the OC fairgrounds for generations to come. Thank you, Arlene</p> |

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| 3/3/25 5:51 | Lorraine | | Having horses in the community is very educational |
| 3/3/25 6:19 | Wendy | Temecula, CA | Bring back the horses |
| 3/3/25 6:22 | Heather | Fountain Valley | It is important to the community to maintain the Equestrian Center, including boarding, training, riding lessons, camps and therapy programs. OC Fairgrounds is one of the few locations in this part of the county with hands on experiences with horses. Maintaining access for the local community to this type of facility is important for both youth and adults to have an option to engage in outdoor natural experiences with horses. This is a rare gift that is impactful to the lives of those in the community. |
| 3/3/25 6:24 | Jeanette | Shadow Hills, CA | Bring back horses and horse events! |
| 3/3/25 6:33 | Sheri | Nuevo | There seems to be a concerted effort by the State of California to ban equestrian events and horse ownership in general. There are fewer venues hosting equestrian events, as well. Couple that with the fact that in times of crisis, such as the recent wildfires, fairgrounds, including Orange County, become essential evacuation centers for horses and other livestock. There is an additional benefit to equestrian and agricultural events that is difficult to ignore. These are family friendly events that give children an opportunity to see animals in person they might not otherwise have an opportunity to see. Children who are exposed to animals, and who learn to care for them, are less likely to be involved in either drugs or gangs. Please do not take away our equestrian venues. |
| 3/3/25 6:33 | maria | L.A. | The fairgrounds has a long history of equestrian activities reflecting the importance of horse keeping to so many in Southern California. Horses serve a diverse variety of cultures, ages and abilities in our communities and it would be a shame to exclude horses and equestrian programs from the property's future. Thank you for consideration |
| 3/3/25 6:33 | Nicole | San Diego | Horse activities are so important to generations & must not loose support |
| 3/3/25 6:44 | Marilyn | Trabuco Canyon | Please keep horses and the agriculture programs. |
| 3/3/25 6:47 | Emma | Trabuco Canyon | We need this facility for horse boarding, training as well as a horse show venue for all riding disciplines. |
| 3/3/25 7:15 | Beth | Long Beach | Please keep the equestrian center!! |
| 3/3/25 7:27 | Kathy | Santa Barbara | Any planning for state showgrounds needs to include a healthy representation of equestrians and equestrian uses. They are the historic and remain a valid use in the hands of someone with the experience to run and improve shows and showgrounds for equestrians. Under such guidance, the shows and events would be revenue generators for the State and this facility. Please include equestrian uses, equestrian shows, consider other equestrian activities, such as daily or hourly use of the facilities for training and recreation and consider horse boarding facilities as an option. |
| 3/3/25 7:37 | Michele | Eastvale | Horse programs and therapies involving horses are so great for the community. It teaches a work ethic and encourages kindness to animals. Horses are beautiful animals and just their presence was calming. |
| 3/3/25 7:45 | Shayne | Bonsall | I am saddened that you have eliminated horses from the OC Fairgrounds. As a long time resident and participant at equestrian events at the fairgrounds, we are losing access for children and adults to have exposure to animals and a place to learn to ride and have therapy opportunities related to horses. Please consider bringing horses back to the fairgrounds year round. We are losing touch with nature and creating a world where all kids know is social media on their phones and shopping malls. It's a sad world without horses and nature. |
| 3/3/25 7:45 | Charlene | Santa Barbara | Our community needs a place for the horse industry! We love our horses and need this to stay! |
| 3/3/25 7:47 | Piper | Newport Beach | I would like equestrian activities to be held at the facility including trainers and barns so that our community can learn the sport of riding |
| 3/3/25 7:50 | Carrington | Los Angeles | Please include Equine and equine related activies at the state owned fairgrounds. Fairgrounds can be the first and only way to introduce horses to people young and old. |
| 3/3/25 7:56 | KRISTIN | Vista | This effects so many people on business level and employees |
| 3/3/25 7:58 | Sara | Newport Beach | Would love to have more equine opportunities with boarding training and community events such as horse shows and training clinics available in the Newport Beach Costa Mesa area |

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| 3/3/25 8:02 | Lura | Huntington Beach | I am a 4th generation native Southern Californian. My grandmother was born in what became Buena Park. She told us about the all day trips to Newport Beach to buy fish from the Dory fishermen. The family would have a cookout on the beach. To and from this family outing was in a horse and buggy when she was young. There are a number of equine related activities and programs. Including, but not limited to therapeutic riding, shows, riding lessons and many other programs and equine assisted activities. To think that there won't be a fire in the future, is ignorant and naive. Orange County needs to be prepared for every situation. I have sadly watched the agricultural heritage of Orange County erased, eroded and destroyed by small minded, business minded people and greedy developers. I can't think of any reason that horses shouldn't be at our county fairgrounds. Other than your pockets. Why say "or" when you can say "and"? |
| 3/3/25 8:02 | Kathe | Riverside | The Equestrian Center and Community is a valuable asset to the entire Orange County Community. Please rethink eliminating these programs |
| 3/3/25 8:04 | Roni | Los Angeles | Please include equestrian center and care. |
| 3/3/25 8:08 | Mylessa | Acton | You must keep horses in the strategic plan. Horseback riding has so many benefits that other activities don't. Participants are outside. They learn empathy for a living being--something which is in short supply these days. They learn the value of hard work. They develop life long friends with other horse people. This is a physical activity so it gets kids and adults off the couch and off their phones. It makes money if managed correctly. It connects us with our past. It REQUIRES people to learn patience, again something which is in short supply these days. It is fun, challenging and rewarding. I showed at the OC Fairgrounds in the 90's with my 4H group, which I volunteered led, and with my students. My State Champion won her division there. You will regret losing the horses. Once they are gone, they never seem to come back. They are a cultural treasure. |
| 3/3/25 8:12 | Sheri | Glendale | I feel the equine community is getting pushed out. Let's remember the benefits and effects future generations need from equine. They are important in so many ways. Don't take that away from them. |
| 3/3/25 8:22 | Renata | Oceanside | I am a professional horse trainer of over 35 years. I have also participated in economic impact studies regarding the equine industry in several states and Canadian provinces. The "hidden" economic benefits of a healthy equine community cannot be underestimated. Restaurants, hotels, car rentals, local shops, and other local businesses all benefit, along with traditional businesses such as vets, farriers, feed stores, hay suppliers and tack stores. Please reconsider closing the OC fairgrounds to equestrians and losing these vital assets. |
| 3/3/25 8:47 | Kari | Ladera Ranch | What happened to the planning around the equestrian events and programming ? I used to board my three horses at the fairgrounds and moved out when it was clear that the fairgrounds was pushing us out . This is so sad to see that the fairgrounds doesn't have any planning to keep their equestrian community alive . |
| 3/3/25 8:52 | Isais | Santa Ana | What is the plan for keeping horses a part of the OC fairgrounds? With fewer and fewer options for public horse spaces, we need to protect the ones available. |
| 3/3/25 8:52 | Andrea | Huntington Beach | Horse back riding lessons Horse training Horse boarding Horse camps |
| 3/3/25 8:55 | Jeanne | Fallbrook | I am concerned there are no facilities for equestrian use mentioned in the planning. On top of horses being a wonderful sport, they teach responsibility and respect. Additionally, in wildfire, or other catastrophic events, this facility/ area would be an excellent evacuation area. Additionally, horse shows create revenue. I would appreciate not forgetting the equestrians in this community and add horses facilities into the planning. Thank you. |
| 3/3/25 8:57 | Kelly | Costa Mesa | Equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning, experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers, community events, etc... |
| 3/3/25 9:02 | Nancy | Los Angeles | BRING BACK HORSES AND EQUESTRIAN EVENTS AND BUSINESSES TO THE FAIR GROUNDS!!! |
| 3/3/25 9:06 | Laura | Santa Barbara | Where are the horse events |
| 3/3/25 9:16 | Ciara | | Equine programs! |

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| 3/25 9:24 | Kari | Huntington Beach | We strongly advocate for the continued support and development of equine initiatives and programs at the OC Fairgrounds. Horses have incredible therapeutic benefits, and witnessing how they positively impact children and adults alike would be truly inspiring. We urge the reinstatement of all horse-related programs and emphasize the importance of supporting initiatives that provide underprivileged children access to these valuable experiences. These programs can set them on a path of responsibility, empathy, and care while fostering lifelong lessons in discipline and respect. Let's work together to ensure that horses are a key part of shaping a brighter future for the community. |
| 3/25 9:25 | Nora | Anaheim Hills | We should make sure we have horse programs with stables for the OC population. Horses are therapeutic animals and children as well as adults can greatly benefit from them. Horses can help with PTSD, depression, anxiety, Isolation by just being around them. We need the OC to keep the joy of horses in our community. |
| 3/25 9:29 | Nikki | Paso Robles | We'd like to see what plans you have to maintain the equestrian culture at the OC Fairgrounds. Horses are at the very base of any historic fairgrounds, and it would have an adverse impact on the California horse community (which plays a far larger role in our state's economy than you may realize.) to lose yet another venue. Not to mention, there are less and less places for our youth to experience livestock and agriculture. The Fair should always be that place for generations of intercity parents to expose their children to more than just endless concrete and screen time. |
| 3/25 10:01 | Sandra | North Hollywood | The Orange County Event Center is an important and vital part of equestrian community. As we "modernize" and change things, what is always forgotten is the connection to communities with our history, our importance in keeping alive simple yet valuable access to County Fairs, animals of all kinds and the horse. So many of us ride our horses in neighborhoods where kids and adults alike get excited and scream with delight when they see a horse. They see history, they see cowboys and mustangs, war horses and hunter jumpers in their minds eye. They see themselves riding and flying with the wings of a jumping horse. Taking even one venue away deprives countless children of our history so intertwined with the horse and all they have contributed to humanity. Please, keep the Equestrian Events ongoing. We are a community that supports so many small businesses, people and the comraderies that horses build. We teach, we contribute to a child's mind and are always willing to share our love of the sport. Please don't shut us out. |
| 3/25 10:18 | Claire | Long Beach | Please keep horse riding and training opportunities at the OC fair! |
| 3/25 10:24 | Tracy | San Clemente | Horses are CRITICAL to the OC Fairgrounds!!! The jobs that are associated with an equestrian facility are important and needed. Please bring the horses back! |
| 3/25 10:27 | Julie | | Please keep horses and equestrian activities part of what happens at the OC Fair and Event Center! I've been to horse shows there over many years and always appreciate having such a nice venue to compete in. Thank you |
| 3/25 10:42 | Brianna | | Horses and training programs create jobs and many educational opportunities for children Bring horses back |
| 3/25 11:09 | Ashley | Costa Mesa | We desperately need access to life, and equestrian activities in the Costa Mesa/Newport Beach area. I would like to preserve the equestrian center at the fairgrounds for lessons, boarding and equestrian events. |
| 3/25 11:10 | Linda | Rpv | Please keep the facility open for horses and riders . It is so important ! |
| 3/25 11:13 | Sharon | Santa Ana | I was shocked to read that you have no plan to include horses and agriculture. How can that be true? Agriculture is ESPECIALLY important....unless the plan is to keep people from growing their own food, and various entities will be destroying our ability to buy food. We NEED to see produce growing, need to learn how to grow it, need to learn about bees, etc. |
| 3/25 11:26 | Scott | Santa Barbara | Equestrian use of the fairgrounds |
| 3/25 11:45 | Tracey | Corona | Please have horse events, activities, boarding and shows. Please make horse boarding at COMPETITIVE with pricing so that it is accessible for the public. I grew up doing 4-H and boarded my horse at the fair grounds. Currently the prices are far out of reach for anyone I know and much higher than anywhere else in Orange County. We need events and horse opportunities for all citizens. |
| 3/25 11:47 | Doug | Huntington Beach | I would like the equestrian area turned into more of a farming experience. Increase the areas to plant, have more farm animals, and support 4 h programs |

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| 3/3/25 12:11 | Virginia | Irvine, right on the Costa Mesa boarder | Why are you pushing horses out of Orange County? Horses are part of our history and instead of embracing and honoring our history, you're pushing them out of OC. The price increases are ridiculous. You've kicked out all of the amazing trainers. I love 3 minutes from the fairgrounds, but had my horse in Lake Forest due to tiny stalls and crazy prices. The equestrian center used to bring in money with all the shows that were held there, but you've taken that away from us. Please bring the equestrian center back to it's glory days. |
| 3/3/25 12:25 | Kim | Menifee | Horses are an integral part of learning so many life lessons that are not taught in school or even by parents especially for this generation and upcoming ones. Technology doesn't bring life skills. It isolates! Bring in real horseman who can manage properly and with dignity. It saves money in the long run. |
| 3/3/25 12:35 | Miss | Santa Ana | Keep up the good work at Centennial Farm and continue to promote agriculture opportunities for all community members. |
| 3/3/25 13:01 | Patricia | Sunland | I really miss having equine events, trainers and all that the equestrian lifestyle brings to life in socal. I am sorry to see this removed from our califonia traditions. |
| 3/3/25 13:02 | Katharina | Norco | I would like to have horses included in the future of Southern California! |
| 3/3/25 13:18 | Catherine | Encinitas | I grew up in Orange County and distinctly. Remember writing and showing at the Orange County fairgrounds. There are few places where children can get exposure to horses these days in Orange County and that makes the Orange County fairgrounds an especially valuable asset. |
| 3/3/25 13:21 | Regina | Los Angeles | Please preserve the equestrian centers and activities at the OC Fair & Event Center. I'm getting ready to retire and move to Orange County , and the equestrian tradition is one of the most compelling reasons for deciding to buy property there. |
| 3/3/25 13:35 | Emily | Whittier | I grew up in Orange County and the equine facilities and programs throughout orange county and especially at the fairgrounds helped me to thrive as a child. Children and adults deserve to have access to these amazing animals - we benefit each other. They have so much power to heal and create joy. Please reinstate these programs. |
| 3/3/25 14:23 | Susan | Whittier | Please include equestrian events and classes as you have in the past. Horses and our relationship with them are important. |
| 3/3/25 14:35 | Debbie | Murrieta | Bring back the old managers and have it run properly. The horses are such a draw for the public. Shame shame on the current people |
| 3/3/25 14:49 | Marie | Costa Mesa | Please restore and preserve the existing programs, lessons and camps. We, the citizens, want to maintain the programs that we have now. The horses, the Equestrian Center, equine sports, recreation, equine programs, recreation and therapies. Please restore and include the Equestrian Center. |
| 3/3/25 14:54 | Bethany | Glendale | I want all things equine! |
| 3/3/25 14:59 | Michele | Costa Mesa | Please restore the equestrian facilities to what they have been for decades. It is an integral part of the Fairgrounds history. It is a priceless teaching & boarding facility. |
| 3/3/25 15:00 | Wiebke | Laguna Hills | Thank you for sharing the strategic plan with the community. Unfortunately, the plan does not include any information about the future of the equestrian center. My kids used to take equestrian vaulting lessons at the OC Fair and Equestrian Center for over 5 years. They showed their sport for many years at the Imaginology Fair and the OC Fair and even won an Award for „Best exhibition". This clearly shows that there is a public interest in the equestrian programs at the OC Fairgrounds. Now there seems to be no plan to revive the Equestrian Center. Please bring the horses and their trainers back! |
| 3/3/25 15:04 | Natasha | Carpinteria | please do not remove equestrian events from both facilities. there are many people who rely on having a place to show and a place to evacuate to during a fire. Earle Waren show grounds were donated with a stipulation that equestrian events would continue in perpetuity. please do not shut the door on so many people, and so many kids. |
| 3/3/25 15:08 | Jeiran | | As a California resident, I find it very upsetting that spaces for equestrians are being eliminated. As a child, horses helped me tremendously. As an adult they are imperative to my mental health and have had a huge impact on my child's ADHD. Please bring back horses to the OC Fairgrounds. It was always a joy for me to see them there and it was an important access point to horses for many residents. |
| 3/3/25 15:19 | Jamie | Cardiff By The Sea | I urge the OC Fair & Events Center to return equestrians and equestrian related events to the premises. Horses are a valuable part of American heritage and culture as well as California's past. They are good for the soul. |
| 3/3/25 15:21 | Sharon | Rancho Santa Fe | We need horses to be a part of any county planning. Horses heal humans they are an important part of mental health which is a major crises in the US right now. |

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| 3/3/25 16:28 | Lance | Orange | Please continue equine facility we need to stay open and alive for our people |
| 3/3/25 16:34 | jennifer | los angeles | Would like to keep horses and horse culture available to all and accessible to all by keeping horses locally within city limits |
| 3/3/25 16:35 | Jennifer | Costa Mesa | The equestrian center was a part of my family as a child and my daughter's learning experience with ADHD, Dyslexia and extreme anxiety. The lessons at the center were the outlet for her and her friends. It was a disgrace what happened and how the OC Fair staff handled the Equestrian Center closing. Unprofessional and an extremely poor reflection of the State and Governor. Please bring the lessons and camps and horse shows back to the Fairgrounds. |
| 3/3/25 17:08 | Amanda | Los Angeles | Please bring back equine centered events and facilities!!! |
| 3/3/25 18:39 | Patti | CDM | There is no mention of Equestrian Programs. The OC Equestrian Center is now The Ranch. The new plan has children planting veggies on the small patches of lawn in between the empty barns and bringing animals across the parking lot from Centennial Farms, it doesn't constitute new programing It's the same Centennial Farms program but now it's just taking place at The Ranch. Ghost Ranch Why? Have these redundant programs. |
| 3/3/25 18:44 | Angela | CostaMesa | Bring back the stables and restore it. Our city deserves to have a program available to all and all pens available to riders |
| 3/3/25 19:02 | Joel | Newport Beach | I would like to keep the trainers and the programs for the kids. |
| 3/3/25 20:16 | Jodi | Fallbrook | I want horses to be allowed at that facility! |
| 3/3/25 20:39 | Griffyn | Newport beach | Bring back the original OCF Equestrian Center. 'The Ranch' has no plans for community outreach or accessibility for the public. |
| 3/3/25 21:35 | Shelli | | As a horse person and SOCAL resident I find it unnerving how City Councils and residents only interested in pickleball and hiking go to extremes to extract equestrians from the community. I imagine there lies some stigma , some privileged connotation surrounding the equestrian community but that could not be further from the truth for most of us. Examples prevalent such as the Compton Cowboys or those who have horses or can't afford them but yearn to learn to ride. . You must hear everyone. The West was built on cowboys and horses. Do not degrade the history. Listen to everyone. |
| 3/3/25 21:40 | Shelli | Los Angeles | Simply put, it's a state owned fair ground. Equestrian events bring people into the community. Community prospers. |
| 3/3/25 22:11 | Lauren | San Juan Capistrano | The OC Fairgrounds has long been a location where children in the surrounding city area could come and experience opportunities not typically made available to city children. One of those opportunities is equestrian sports. From hunting/jumping, dressage, western, vaulting, polo, horsemanship, pony club, and 4-H, the opportunities are endless! Equestrian sports offer a wide range of benefits that are physical, mental, emotional, social, and cognitive in nature. Riding a horse improves balance, coordination, strength, posture, proprioception, and can help improve fine and gross motor skills like no other sport can! Riding builds confidence, encourages patience, teaches perseverance, reduces stress and anxiety, and teaches responsibility. Riding is a hard sport that as a result improves focus and problem solving, while also teaching discipline and responsibility. Socially, riding encourages teamwork, builds friendships, and those in turn enhance communication skills, not just with people, but understanding the nonverbal communication of animals as well. It would be a shame to take away the opportunities and benefits that equestrian sports have to offer. I found my future career path as a physical therapist through equestrian sports. Who knows what the next generation will be inspired to do! They won't have an opportunity to be inspired though if equestrian sports are not allowed to continue at the OC fairgrounds! |
| 3/3/25 22:14 | Mary Anne | Ojai, Ca | This has been a community resource since I was a child innthe OC! Please keep the Equestrian Community alive! |
| 3/3/25 23:20 | Ed | Newport Beach | The plan is HOLLOW. Just words with no real details. Restore the equestrian center. What I saw particular board members do during meetings concerning the equestrian center is beyond belief. Time for new blood as board members. Ensure Emergency Preparedness use of the OC Fairgrounds is implemented since it is an IMPORTANT necessity. Swap Meets and similar should be restored including shows that were banned for no reason and offered all kinds benefits for the people. Do NOT touch the Pacific Ampitheater. It is wonderful as is. And you do NOT need more parking. That is just an excuse to rebuild the fairgrounds in the eyes of those who it should not be. Stop banning people who make comments about the fairgrounds on social media. Cowardly act to not let people express their opinions about the fairgrounds. |
| 3/3/25 23:27 | Kelly | San Clemente | I want to see equestrian events and facilities. Keep our history and roots, don't forget our past and where we came from. |

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| 3/3/25 23:28 | Ellen | Hemet | <p>Having the return of equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning, boarding, trainers, clinics and other equine community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds is an essential tie to the community. The majority of the public are horse enthusiasts if not horse owners.</p> <p>Speaking on the financial merits of the horse industry, in 2023, the horse industry in California was worth \$11.6 billion to the state's economy, according to the American Horse Council. This includes \$6.5 billion in direct contributions to the state's GDP. The industry also supported over 132,000 jobs in California. The horse industry has grown over the last 5 years, no doubt in part to our time in the pandemic where we as a country refound our love for all things outdoors. It's a reconnection long awaited and now thriving. Please note the recent article by The Santa Anita Park. https://www.santaanita.com/news/horse-industry-drives-huge-economic-gains-across-california/?cookies=yes</p> <p>Bringing back The Horse is listening to the community and enriching the lives of countless numbers. With horses, one learns more about confidence, leadership, compassion, caretaking, emotional bonds, and it gives joy to everyone. Who doesn't smile when they see a horse? Interacting with horses increases improved core strength, coordination, posture, and flexibility and it can also help with cardiovascular health while burning calories. Horses are the legs and wings for children and adults of various mental illness/physical needs and even just basic interaction of petting the horse can stimulate the brain to engage and focus. In my opinion, one of the best things that interacting with horses can do is bring us back to being outside and enjoying the outdoors on a heartfelt level. While the world moves forwards in technology, we cannot forget our connections to the real world, and throughout history, wherever man was; there was the horse as integral part of daily life. We owe it to ourselves and to the generations to come to keep this authentic way of life available to all. I am a horse owner and would love to support this endeavor with my voice and my dollars. :)</p> |
| 3/4/25 0:06 | Marcia | Santa Barbara | Horse programs are an important part of our society. I have sponsored Clinics for all ages. What children learn in horse programs are foundational to their lives. They learn critical thinking, problem solving, important care and respect for animals, partnerships with horses and more. Please continue to offer these grounds for events. And when disasters hit it is imperative to have a safe place to evacuate horses to. In Santa Barbara County and in Orange County. |
| 3/4/25 0:07 | Andrea | Costa Mesa | I would like the horses back at the equestrian center. I would like to be able to do lessons here. I would like to attend horse shows and Gymkanna events. I would like the option of boarding my horses here as it is close to my house. I would like to see therapeutic horses available to kids struggling with mental health. I would like to see Costa Mesa police using the horses like Huntington does. Please bring back the horses to the OC Fairgrounds. |
| 3/4/25 0:26 | Kimberly | Burbank CA | I look forward to many more years of exceptional equestrian programs and events. |
| 3/4/25 6:07 | Kathy | Temecula | Horses teach |
| 3/4/25 6:34 | Ed | Corona | Having horses in the lives of all people is therapeutic. Also a great outdoor program for children |
| 3/4/25 7:28 | MARI | Burbank | Allow equestrian events including Dressage. Allow to overnight stays for those who travel distances. OC is important to all of Southern California equestrians. |
| 3/4/25 7:32 | Kameron | Brea | We just need to feel like us equestrians have our space to ride and we deserve to be safe doing so. |
| 3/4/25 8:20 | Lisa | Chatsworth | Keep the HORSES! We need horse boarding, public arena. HORSES, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, |
| 3/4/25 8:34 | Leticia | Brea California, Lake Mary, Florida. | Instead of removing the current programs, consider promoting greater awareness of their availability in Orange County Fair grounds. Riding and caring for horses is an activity that pairs excitement with serenity, hard work and responsibility, offering advantages for individuals of all ages. |
| 3/4/25 8:49 | Leslie | Long Beach | I miss our horse camp and our lessons at the OC fair. Removing all horse and equestrian activities from the grounds is a HUGE missed opportunity and one our family has been taking part in for years. Our daughter's school is in Costa Mesa and a lot of the families at her school had enjoyed taking part and will no longer have this opportunity. Bring back horses to the grounds |
| 3/4/25 8:57 | Heather | Newport Coast | Please restore the Equestrian center - this was amazing for my daughter with adhd. There is nothing similar in the area for children and now we have to leave Newport Costa Mesa to enjoy these activities. Horses are a key part of Costa Mesa's history |

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| 3/4/25 8:57 | Greg | OJAI | In the 1960's rental and lesson stables were very common throughout California. Now rentals are rare and lesson facilities are missing in many major urban areas. It is critically important to keep equestrian facilities and programs that we currently have or the opportunity for equestrian activities will be gone forever. Human interactions with horses bring a serious dose of reality to people, especially kids. And horses offer a unique opportunity to break our dependence on technology and get real feedback from mother nature. Greg 50 years professional horseman Past Regional Supervisor United States Pony Club Inc. |
| 3/4/25 9:06 | Linda | Studio City | I am shocked that OC has removed all of the equestrian activities from their Fair grounds. Not only are horses a part of our heritage and history, but they provide a therapeutic outlet for children and adults alike. It's been well documented that people with physical and mental handicaps are enriched by just being around these majestic animals. Why would you deprive your constituents or the people who visit the fair grounds for the experience of what used to be? |
| 3/4/25 9:08 | IRINA | COSTA MESA | I am very saddened by the proposed removal of equine activities. All horse-related activities are invaluable assets to the community, increasing the value for the homeowners and creating a great draw for people visiting Costa Mesa. As a resident of Costa Mesa my sincere wish is that the existing equestrian centers are restored & preserved. The horse-related activities like riding lessons, boarding, training, camps, all equine related programs and community events that have been part of our community must be restored and supported. As an Integrative therapist I can attest that the Equine assisted programs that were offered through the center provided an invaluable support to the betterment of the mental health of our community. Equine therapy offers a range of benefits including improved emotional regulation, increased confidence, better social skills, enhanced communication, development of trust, stress management, and physical benefits through movement and coordination, all stemming from the unique relationship formed with a horse which acts as a sensitive mirror to a person's emotions and behaviors. At the time when the individual and collective mental health of our community is threatened by economic and political uncertainties, to remove the programs that support our community's wellbeing is akin to destroying a life raft after a boat crash. OC Fair & Event Center and the city of Costa Mesa can and need to do better in investing, supporting and promoting the programs that not only "entertain", but truly benefit the people of not only our community, but all. They must not only see the immediate financial benefits, but, first and foremost, the lasting impact on the health, wellbeing and betterment of our community. |
| 3/4/25 9:16 | Barbara | Newport Beach, CA | Please return the horses, trainers, recreational riding, therapy horses to the original format. You are creating an unfair situation for Orange County and the State of California. |
| 3/4/25 9:17 | Laura | Granada Hills, CA | To Whom It May Concern: I have frequented your county fair for many years, mostly for the equestrian events. County fairs originated in the 18th century as a way for farmers to showcase their ag products and livestock, to continue their education, and to educate the public. Equestrian events have been a longstanding tradition at county fairs. Removing these events is wrong and robs the public and future generations of learning about the history of the horse and the importance of the horse today. |
| 3/4/25 9:19 | Teri | Burbank | I would love to see horses brought back to the Orange County Fair Grounds. I have attended horse shows there years ago and saw the thriving businesses. Contact with horses offers so much to individuals: relief from anxiety, building trust, developing courage, empathy, and understanding nonverbal communication. This facility could offer a bit of "country life" in the heart of a large city. Something that is desperately needed these days. |
| 3/4/25 9:27 | Jayne | Newport Beach | I would like to see more advertisement and support of the Equestrian Programs at the Fair Grounds Equestrian Center. The programs there are beneficial to youth, Veterans and people seeking therapeutic programs. I enjoy going there for horse events and wonder why you don't advertise them and support them. This is a valuable asset to our community. I am sad to hear that some equestrian businesses and individuals have left there because of unfair practices toward them. Overcharging of fees and mismanagement on the part of the board concerns me as well. Please look into correcting this so we can enjoy the equestrian center for many years to come. If you would like my help in this matter I would make myself available to you. Thanks you Jayne Jones |
| 3/4/25 9:33 | Anita | Littlerock | More horses people love to see them |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| 3/4/25 9:41 | Katherine | Rancho Santa Margarita | <p>Subject: Concern Regarding Removal of Public Equestrian Center from Master Site Plan</p> <p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent decision to remove the public equestrian center from the [Location] Master Site Plan. This facility has long been an invaluable resource for our community, providing opportunities for equestrian activities, therapeutic riding programs, and public engagement with horses. The removal of this essential feature not only diminishes recreational and educational opportunities but also impacts the local equestrian community and related industries. Equestrian facilities serve a diverse range of individuals, including youth, families, seniors, and those with special needs who benefit from equine-assisted therapy. Additionally, they foster outdoor engagement, physical activity, and community involvement. Without a designated public equestrian space, these benefits may be lost, leaving many residents without access to an important cultural and recreational resource. I urge the board to reconsider this decision and explore alternative solutions that preserve the public equestrian center as part of the Master Site Plan. Whether through modified designs, public-private partnerships, or alternative funding strategies, I believe there are viable paths forward that balance development goals with the preservation of equestrian access. I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and explore possible solutions that serve the best interests of our community. Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank You Katherine LMFT</p> |
| 3/4/25 10:36 | Katherine | Newport Beach | I want the existing Equestrian Center restored & preserved. We need it. The community needs it. People need it. Children need it. Please do not destroy the Equestrian Center!!!! |
| 3/4/25 10:45 | Dena | Costa Mesa | The Ranch is wonderful! Also bring back horses, affordable horse boarding and horse riding lessons back to the OC Fairgrounds! The equestrian center has been an OC staple for years, why change that now? |
| 3/4/25 10:46 | Karen | Costa Mesa | I was absolutely appalled at the OC Fairgrounds plans of eliminating the Equestrian Center. This center is part of our history and should remain. Also, the programs benefit so many children and adults. I will be contacting the board on this disastrous decision. They should not be able to just go ahead without hearing our voices! |
| 3/4/25 11:30 | John | Costa Mesa | The OC event space has always had horses, hands on learning and transparent intent. Please include horse events, equestrian housing/boarding and community focused transparency in the strategic planning. |
| 3/4/25 11:49 | Hannah | | Bring back equestrian sports. Riding school, lessons, boarding and training programs. |
| 3/4/25 11:58 | Aileen | Irvine | There is insufficient detail on programming in the plan presented to provide feedback. The community should be given the opportunity to review a specific proposal |
| 3/4/25 12:21 | R | Huntington Beach | <p>Continue supporting Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall which are great community programs. I like the direction of The Ranch Community Center. With Centennial Farm tour programs fully booked, additional offerings at The Ranch would be wonderful for the community that take advantage of the free programs offered. I do not agree that equestrians should be treated differently and provided with advantages that other constituents, organizations or members of the public are not afforded and they should be treated the same as any other person doing business at OC Fair. In fact, I do not believe training should be offered at all unless trained for specialized jobs like police work, crowd control, or as therapy horses, in which case those types of horse training programs should be prioritized. Trainers for disciplines i.e. Hunter, Jumper, etc. would not contribute to any public benefit except for the individual rider who is paying for the training. Continue to be a large animal evacuation site for the County. I suggest offering concerts year-round or have a Christmas concert season. Irvine's plan to build out their outdoor concert venue will take years and Pacific Amphitheatre is a great location that should be activated more which could increase revenue for the OC Fair. Grow local, community artisans and vendors. With limited space available, having local, community artisans and vendor businesses would mean less trailers from outside vendors. I agree that processes should be streamlined. With AI and wide availability of automated features, the OC Fair should invest in programs that will provide for a better customer service experience. Website can be confusing to navigate with too many clicks to get to something, consider simplifying.</p> |
| 3/4/25 12:37 | Melody | Littlerock | I am opposing the elimination of any and all equine activities at the Fair and Event Center. Horses are a wonderful part of our families and bring on responsibilities and many life lessons. It is with a saddened heart I send this in response to no mention of equine activities for the fair grounds. |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
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| 3/4/25 12:44 | Nancy | Escondido | The updated Strategic Plan must have a section that includes agricultural and equestrian facilities. The massive January wildfires in LA put a spotlight on the huge equine and livestock evacuation stabling deficiencies. To eliminate the equestrian facilities from a county that has hundreds of equestrian facilities in high and very fire risk areas would be completely negligent and a failure on the part of leadership in this county and part of the state. |
| 3/4/25 12:53 | Lisa | Burbank, CA | Please keep horses and horse training/keeping at the Orange County Fairgrounds. There are not many public places where horses can be boarded - horse boarding adds to the economy with purchases and employment. |
| 3/4/25 14:44 | Marianne | Mission viejo | Please keep live horses at the fairgrounds. My daughter went there for 7 years and the experiences are utterly priceless |
| 3/4/25 14:51 | Kirstin | Long Beach | I believe that taking away the experience of live horse interactions is detrimental to our society. Giving the experience of seeing and interacting with any animal makes for a better empathetic society. It's a proven fact that animals help with mental illness and calm demeanors. Taking more away from our society will be taking away a much need therapy in a broken world. Keep the equestrian facilities so that people's over all wellbeing and health will flourish. |
| 3/4/25 14:57 | Donna | Valley Center | Please do not forget to include the Equestrian Community when planning for the OC Fair & Event Center. Many children would never have a chance to see a horse if it would not be for Fair's and Events. Horses are good for the economy and the community. Please include horse actives in your planning, make room for us. Support equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers, community events, etc., you want equine recreation, activities, programs, camps, lessons, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, boarding, trainers, community events, etc., (not just "exhibits" & "tours"). Horses are part of our history and need to be part of our future. Thank you! |
| 3/4/25 15:50 | Zola | Costa Mesa | I'm strongly against removing all of the equine infrastructure as well as the animals. Please reconsider keeping it as it is. If it's not making money higher a private contractor. |
| 3/4/25 16:46 | Gary | Costa Mesa | Save the equestrians! |
| 3/4/25 16:51 | Theresa | Yorba Linda | I would like to see equestrian programs at the fairgrounds. My daughter enjoys vaulting at the fairgrounds for over five years and it's an amazing opportunity for urban kids to learn about animal care. |
| 3/4/25 19:13 | Heidi | Lake Forest | Bring back horse activities to the fairgrounds. |
| 3/4/25 19:21 | Emma | Lake Forest | KEEP OUR EQUINE CENTER. |
| 3/4/25 19:21 | CURT | San Pedro | I've heard that you intend to do away with the equestrian facilities at the OC fair facilities. Huge mistake. We need more Equestrian facilities... not less. The world is a better place with horses in it. We should embrace the good parts of our history not destroy it.... Not minimize or otherwise do away with it. Horses and equestrian facilities are a great community asset. They bring people together. |
| 3/4/25 19:54 | Madelyn | Irvine | Keep the equestrian programs (such as vaulting, therapy, etc.) alive and well at the OC fairgrounds! The public deserves access to these programs! |
| 3/4/25 20:04 | Kristin | Newport Beach | As a tax payer for 50 years I am insulted by your lack of concern for the equestrian programs and facilities. You are the reason for the loss as you mismanaged the facility and now everyone loses handicap, veterans and young children who learn and grow with responsibility and no idle time for trouble. You should be ashamed with yourselves as I am. |
| 3/4/25 20:24 | Emily | Orange | It's important to me that the fairgrounds includes equestrian recreation, programming and activities. Such as horse camps, lessons, community events, and even horse shows! The fairgrounds has historically been important to the horse community and should continue to represent Orange County's equine heritage in real tangible ways. |
| 3/4/25 21:43 | Michelle | Milford | I want HORSES, equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES, riding lessons, boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds |
| 3/4/25 22:03 | Lisa | Beaumont | I do not want to see equestrian events removed from the fair. Horses are such an integral part of America's history and showing them is such a great activity, teaching responsibility, nurturing and responsibility to their owners. Please keep equestrian events at your fair! |

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| 3/4/25 22:15 | Amy | Los Angeles | Horses are a vital part of our community. So many children are enriched through their experiences with horses. Learning leadership, independence, emotional awareness, critical thinking, relationship and communication skills, discipline, determination, resilience, physical skills, and gain wonderful physical and mental health benefits. People who interact with horses have less depression, better mental health, and become contributing members of society. We need horses and horses need us. |
| 3/5/25 5:12 | Cierra | | The OC Fair & Event Center has long been a vital hub for equestrian events, offering an invaluable space for horse shows, competitions, and community gatherings. As a Simi Valley resident with direct experience showcasing at this renowned venue, our barn has seen firsthand the positive impact that these events have not only on participants but also on the local community. These horse events bring together people from diverse backgrounds, fostering a shared appreciation for equestrian sports and animals. The OC Fair & Event Center is a well-established location that provides facilities for equestrian activities, offering a space for competitors, exhibitors, and spectators. The center's role in promoting the equestrian community is crucial, as it serves as a platform for local riders, trainers, and equine enthusiasts to showcase their talents, build connections, and further the appreciation for these important sports. Additionally, the fairgrounds attract visitors from all over, contributing to the local economy by supporting nearby businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and shops. Maintaining horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center also provides valuable exposure for young riders and aspiring equestrians. It is an opportunity for them to learn from experienced professionals, develop skills, and potentially pursue careers in the equine industry. These events also create a sense of pride and accomplishment for local participants who are able to share their hard work with a larger audience. As a barn that has participated in these events, we can attest to the value they bring to the equestrian community, fostering camaraderie, skill-building, and a deep sense of tradition. Continuing to host horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center is not just beneficial for competitors, but it is also a service to the broader community, ensuring that equestrian culture remains a vital part of the local and state equestrian community. |
| 3/5/25 6:20 | Stacey | Long Beach and Seal Beach | WHERE is the Equestrian Center in your plans? We visited on a constant weekly basis until the facility was closed! You are state run affiliated yet you waste our tax dollars by not opening, maintaining, and offering community based horse interest activities that would benefit everyone. You should have at least two non profits for rehabilitation, at least 50 stalls for emergency disasters, programs for kids throughout the year, host emergency medical rescue groups, mounted police training... BRING THIS BACK. PS Your other activities such as the Fair are a complete joke. Bring back the horses that was a worthwhile commitment. |
| 3/5/25 6:33 | Bri | Irvine | Please keep the horses for the public, so the community can enjoy and experience the beauty of horses and have access to riding lessons. |
| 3/5/25 8:14 | Kari | Ventura | Horses heal humans & deserve a safe place |
| 3/5/25 8:16 | Christa | Irvine | The fair grounds needs to include equestrian uses in its plan. Over the years due to housing etc Southern California has lost so much property that was devoted to horses. The horse industry needs equestrian facilities to host shows and events. |
| 3/5/25 8:53 | Lisa | Tustin | The Rose Parade is a perfect example of the equestrian interest and history of the southern California people. How about a nice history of California experience with horses, Spanish riders vaqueros, and their crafts.. The missions were established with burros . It's a no brainer that this should be included for general public. |
| 3/5/25 9:18 | Karen | Anaheim | I think they should continue to leave the fair as it.. it brings a lot of family fun and good entertainment here. . The Pomona fair is too far to go far. I have been going to o.c. fair every year for many years with my family, and it is always a highlight of summer. |
| 3/5/25 10:56 | Michelle | Santa Ana | Please, you must keep equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, (& not just "exhibits" & "tours"). These are vital programs/options that not only enrich the lives of orange county residents but their youth by educating them about these amazing animals. Teaching them empathy kindness and responsibility. All vital to being a good citizen for orange county. |
| 3/5/25 12:49 | Mary Anne | Ojai | Reinstate horse activities @ OC Fairgrounds, please!!! |

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| 3/25 14:05 | Aileen | Irvine | There is insufficient detail on programming in the plan presented to provide feedback. The community should be given the opportunity to review a specific proposal |
| 3/25 14:10 | Robin | Solvang | You must keep places open for families with horses or accesss to pre-existing horse programs, riding lessons, camps, equine activities, recreation & therapies It is proven that therapy horses can help not only children but Veterans. There are places everywhere for hikers and now they are letting bikers in most places. We don't need E-bikes on trails anywhere and bike riders need to understand the rules. Please keep the facilities open for the "horses families and programs" |
| 3/25 14:57 | Joyce | Perris | Horses are wonderful beings that help people from being therapeutic riding animals to the tiny version of mini horses that visit people in hospitals. We need places for horses in Orange County!! |
| 3/25 16:02 | Katherine | | Having ridden at the orange county equestrian center for many years, quite some time ago, it would be "tragic" to lose this facility that provides so much to the community. Horses and events are a vital part of Orange County and the surrounding areas. The center's role in promoting the equestrian community is crucial, as it serves as a platform for local riders, trainers, and equine enthusiasts to showcase their talents, build connections, and further the appreciation for these important sports. Additionally, the fairgrounds attract visitors from all over, contributing to the local economy by supporting nearby businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and shops. Maintaining horse events at the OC Fair & Event Center also provides valuable exposure for young riders and aspiring equestrians. It is an opportunity for them to learn from experienced professionals, develop skills, and potentially pursue careers in the equine industry. These events also create a sense of pride and accomplishment for local participants who are able to share their hard work with a larger audience. Thank you for the consideration in putting the horses back in the planning as they have been at the facility for well over 60 years. |
| 3/25 16:17 | Natalie | | Please include the equestrian community, and include, update and improve the horse facilities with your development plan!! These are essential to our community activities! |
| 3/25 16:59 | Abby | San Marcos (formerly Aliso Viejo) | Restore the current equestrian center for boarding, training, and lessons. Add some shows and clinics. Perhaps allot some space for a therapeutic program. Choose experienced qualified management. Use it as intended and desired by the community. |
| 3/25 18:31 | Erna | Ramona | Should include equestrian activities such as: - training clinics & seminars - shows / competitions - lessons - camps - boarding |
| 3/25 19:10 | Michele | Sylmar | Equine activities please!!!! |
| 3/25 19:56 | Michelle | Los Angeles | A strategic Plan needs to have a footprint that includes agricultural and equestrian facilities. Recent wildfires in Southern California include the Eaton fire and the Palisades Fire has made forefront the deficiencies the state and counties have for equine emergency response evacuation centers. To eliminate the equestrian facilities from a county that has so many equestrian residencies in high fire danger areas would be completely negligent and a failure on the part of leadership in this county and part of the state. |
| 3/25 20:27 | Sara | Irvine | I think equestrian activities should be a cornerstone of the OC Fair and Event Centers strategy. This is an important and unique aspect of OC history and I for one would love to be able to tell people that OC Fair was committed to maintaining support for equine programming and businesses. Horses are good for people's souls, and well-managed equestrian facilities can be extremely lucrative. |
| 3/25 21:02 | Carol | Orange | Hope some type of stable with opportunities for equestrian activities will be included. There are so many people who don't get exposure to animals and especially horses which offer so much companionship to humans. |
| 3/25 21:06 | Susan | Costa Mesa | Please restore the stables and all its life back to the way it was when I grew up. It had saved countless lives that could have easily gone in a different direction. I went to Costa Mesa High School in the 70s. I spent my time at the fairgrounds after school when others were doing drugs. Not a great outcome for them. I later went back to the fairgrounds with my own horse and was there several years. This is a very special place and it would be a sin to let it go. The community needs the horses and it's healing therapy and educational values in so many ways. Please save this hidden gem. Please |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
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| 3/25 21:26 | Monica | Costa Mesa | For the 5th time responding to these inquires, yes, I believe that all Orange County deserves to have a top level educational/community outreach equine program to teach how horses are connected to our rich agricultural history and that therapeutic support animals are so valuable to healing people and our neighbors in need. I do NOT support repurposing the equine rental space for RV rentals. |
| 3/25 22:06 | Diane | Tustin | Bring back the EQUESTRIAN area within the fairgrounds. My daughter grew up riding horses at the OC FAIRGROUNDS and you are ruining the intent of the FAIRGROUNDS!! Animals and children! |
| 3/25 22:31 | Marylouise | Huntington Beach | We desperately need to have horses...horse sports....pony rides...petting events... Fun days....gym kana type events. Horse Shows...Western and English...4H clubs...Equine therapy..Art with Equines...Lessons...Clinics...fun clubs...kids and adults..Vaulting..Vet clinics... |
| 3/25 23:33 | Maria | San Diego CA | Equine events are essential for the community as well as overall community events. We are loosing the opportunity for families to come together and support each other and their children in activities such as horseback riding!! |
| 3/25 23:44 | Melissa | Tustin | The OC fairgrounds needs an equestrian presence! I grew up doing 4H and the animal projects are the best part of the fair! They deserve to stay! |
| 3/25 23:56 | Myrna | Coto De Caza | Definitely have horses, boarding and training at the facility. Horses help all humans at any stage of their life. We do not have enough Horse facilities in Orange County. If the equestrian center is managed properly, it would make the city money. |
| 3/26 7:31 | Stephanie | La Mirada | I would like to see the Equestrian Center at OC Fairgrounds remain. It's a good place for the community to experience a fun, safe, and rewarding outdoor activity. This facility should also serve as a place for evacuations when there are wild fires. I have two horses of my own. This facility would be the easiest to get to should there be a fire in my area. |
| 3/26 8:06 | Aspasia | Orange | This is a property that has been devoted to building community and offering agriculture and animal resources to the public for decades. I want it to stay that way. The equestrian center has been an important community in Orange County for decades. This must remain an equestrian facility. It should not be a facility where it's just show and tell. Rather, the Equestrian Center should be a working facility with true horsemanship and education, including the physicality of riding and training. It should be open to the public and available for private boarding so that professionally trained horse people and nonprofits can offer their services to the public to ensure safety and humane care for the animals. It also needs to be offered at a cost that is fair. Beyond just the cost of boarding and shavings and hay, there are many other expenses related to large animals. There are numerous public golf courses that offer a fair rate for the public to use the facility and store their clubs/gear. It is at a rate that people can actually afford. Given the cost of maintenance for a golf course and the high cost of water for the grass, the public golf course is offered at a reduced rate that the public can actually afford and the state/county subsidizes. That same mentality should apply to the equestrian center at the OC Fairgrounds. The OC Fairgrounds is a state run property and subsidized by the state. It is for the citizens of the state, and especially of Orange County. Let's keep the equestrian center open and available to the public at a rate that is affordable. Let's keep it open and available for physical activity and animal large experiences. Let's designate the land as a large animal evacuation center. Support a great sport for the citizens of Orange County. It is good for people's physical health and mental health. |
| 3/26 8:07 | Laura | Newport Beach | Bring back the equine center!!! This was an invaluable place for local youth and adults. It is a huge shame that it was removed. |
| 3/26 8:17 | Jillian | LAKWOOD | Equestrian sports are Olympic events. Future Olympians get their start in horseback riding programs. If you do not include equestrian programs at this facility you will deprive young people and our country of potential Olympic competitors. You are also depriving young people of a wholesome outdoor activity. Sports activities of all kinds should be supported equestrian sports included. It would be terrible to have the space to offer this program and not develop it in your plan |
| 3/26 11:08 | Cynthia | Orange | I am in favor of keeping the Equestrian Center at the fair grounds. This center is historical in the equestrian community. I want the previous equine activities, riding lessons and trainers restored. This has also been an evacuation center for Orange County horses during fires and floods. It should be added back into the Master Site Plan. |
| 3/26 11:44 | mary | Silverado | PLEASE work to find a solution that benefits the equine community. There needs to be healthy hobbies that involve getting out and enjoying nature and animals. When we loose this type of activities they are gone forever. New generations need to be able to experience what it's like to care for horses. THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL BENIFETS THAT GO ALONG WITH HORSES. please help save the facility. |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
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| 3/6/25 13:33 | Pamela | Fallbrook | More availability to riding trails |
| 3/6/25 14:32 | Tammy | Paradise CA | Horses and horse activities a vital to the state. Not only do they teach responsibility, respect, nurturing-they provide rider's with confidence. |
| 3/6/25 14:58 | stacie | yucca valley | I think it is not ok to take away all the horse stuff. I know it has been home to a lot of horses/people for a lot of years and still should be, All equine recreation, programs, lessons, camps, hands-on learning experiential learning with HORSES , boarding, trainers, community events preserved at the OC Fairgrounds, (& not just "exhibits" & "tours") |
| 3/6/25 16:05 | Patti | Lake Forest | Thank you for encouraging feedback! I am honored to be included in the strategic planning feedback. |
| 3/6/25 17:51 | jane | LOS ANGELES | Put the horse facilities back. These animals are a vital link to human animal interaction, and by removing another facility, you are contributing to the decline of humanity. I only want to receive information on the equestrian events. |
| 3/6/25 19:26 | Maryanne | Temecula | As a science teacher and English Equitation instructor/therapy instructor, I see the need for allowing horse programs as a choice for children and adults in Orange County. Today's society has so much focus on technology. Truly, we need more activities that are unplugged and positive. As many world leaders have stated, " the best thing for the inside of man is the outside of a horse". Sincerely, Maryanne |
| 3/7/25 10:23 | Debra | San Diego | I would like to see horse programs in the strategic plan! |
| 3/7/25 10:55 | Bill | Brea | The only public equestrian center at Orange County Fairgrounds is a necessary facility The many years of services provided to the citizens of Orange County needs to continue to serve the equestrian communities Please do the right thing, and keep the equestrian center open |
| 3/7/25 14:17 | Amy | Costa Mesa | I want the existing Equestrian Center restored & preserved and improved. I'd love to see some horse programs that help with mental health as well as a strong hunter/jumper program, a great western program that reaches out to the community to participate and learn. Activities to bring in more cash would be to have a fundraiser for the barn- a country western night under the stars. Make this place more about community than exclusion. I grew up with a local barn where everyone was invited and all were welcome. This is a state run facility and an amazing asset to this community. We need new management and breath of fresh air. I want to see this in the New Master Plan and strategic plan for the OC Fairgrounds. Everything is there to make this place amazing. I'll gladly help Stuard the revitalization! Polo would be amazing here as well!!! |
| 3/7/25 16:37 | Daniella | Seal Beach | KEEP THE HORSES |
| 3/7/25 18:44 | Mayte | Lakewood | Bring back the Equestrian Center! It was and always have been a staple known by so many people. I was introduced to it around a year ago, and loved every minute I was there. |
| 3/7/25 19:19 | Sarag | Costa Mesa | The OC Fairgrounds is state property designated to serve the community and public. Restore the equestrian center to the master site and strategic plan. Including all public programs, lessons, camps, therapy and return all of the items removed from the property. What is being done to remove lessons, responsibility, therapy and so much more from kids, youth and adults is unacceptable. The OC Fairgrounds should be investing in helping to make these programs and others like it thrive, not suffer. |
| 3/7/25 19:19 | Sarah | Huntington Beach | The OC Fairgrounds is state property designated to serve the community and public. Restore the equestrian center to the master site and strategic plan. Including all public programs, lessons, camps, therapy and return all of the items removed from the property. What is being done to remove lessons, responsibility, therapy and so much more from kids, youth and adults is unacceptable. The OC Fairgrounds should be investing in helping to make these programs and others like it thrive, not suffer. |
| 3/7/25 19:21 | Sarah | Costa Mesa | Restore the equestrian center and all programs that were running in Costa Mesa!!! |
| 3/7/25 19:28 | Tamara | Newport Beach | Restore the equestrian center to the high end facility it used to be! |
| 3/7/25 19:52 | Kim | Newport Beach | Horses |
| 3/7/25 20:22 | Denise | Costa Mesa | Protect and revitalize the Equestrian center. |
| 3/7/25 21:44 | Kristen | Costa mesa | We would like to see the equestrian center restored and horseback riding available again |
| 3/7/25 22:01 | Megan | Lake Elsinore | I showed my horse at the fairgrounds. One of my fondest memories. My students have shown at the fairgrounds. It is so important for the kids. |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
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| 3/7/25 23:07 | Tania | Irvine | Please restore the equestrian center to its former glory. It's a shame that you closed it down and made accessing equestrian activities that much more difficult. Horses are natures way of healing humans and are needed in this world and you are depriving the next generation of equestrians a place to go. Do the right thing. |
| 3/8/25 5:43 | Jaclyn | San Diego | Programs need to be restored. Access to equestrian sports in the city is needed and what you have done is wrong |
| 3/8/25 6:09 | Ashley | Newport Beach | Public programs, riding lessons, camps for kids and therapy |
| 3/8/25 7:05 | Veronica | Tustin, CA | KEEP THE HORSES AT THE FAIRGROUNDS. This is a CRUCIAL mandatory evacuation site and having a public stable and lesson programs available keeps the equestrian sport available for the average person. There is a huge public benefit. If anything, equestrian programs should be EXPANDED at this fairground, or I will be calling for a boycott of the fair and all other events at this facility. |
| 3/8/25 7:09 | Jennifer | Yorba Linda | Please restore the equestrian center. So many memories using this facility with friends over the years. Tragic to lose such an amazing space where everyone can experience riding horses at every level. |
| 3/8/25 7:55 | Stephanie Root | Newport Brach | The equestrian center needs to be brought back to the residence of Orange County. This land was a gift to us as a community years ago and we would like it back. Restore this back to its formal glory where we had all the amenities an equestrian center and horses needs and a place the community can host events and enjoy the outdoors and the sport. |
| 3/8/25 8:12 | Sara | Aliso Viejo | Would like to see the equestrian center activities back for my kids. |
| 3/8/25 8:45 | Carissa | Costa Mesa | You all have wrecked and ruined the equestrian center. This has been a staple of the community for 20+ years and it is tragic that the mismanagement has led us to this point. So many displaced business, horses, and community services. You need to put someone in to manage who knows what they are doing and will work with the trainers and listen to the community to bring this back. |
| 3/8/25 11:22 | Layla | Mission Viejo | We would really appreciate it if you allowed the equine center to be fully operational like it was prior to its closure. Having homes for the horses and opportunities for our community to utilize the facilities so close to home is needed now more than ever. Please bring the equine center back into operation we love being able to access the facilities there with our family Thank you for making this happen for us and all of OC who want to visit |
| 3/8/25 11:26 | Seth | Mission viejo | My family would love it if you please allow the equestrian center to be fully operational again They provided our family and friends so much opportunity and hope for a better future They allowed us to grow and learn with the best animals and people who want to serve our community Please allow them to come back and reopen the equestrian center and make it fully operational again |
| 3/8/25 11:57 | Brandie | Huntington Beach | We need more places where people in Orange County can board horses, have trainers, ride their horses, have horses available for lessons so that people can learn to ride with minimal investment on their part. That requires an accessible facility in central OC, ie Costa Mesa is the perfect location to provide access for people of all income levels. Many people do not have the ability to go to south county, or north county, or outside of Orange County, to have access to horses. We need the programs we had, and to have even more programs to provide more access. Equine therapy is useful, but just the chance to connect with horses and ride horses is itself therapeutic for so many. |
| 3/8/25 18:01 | Ann | Huntington Beach | Requesting to keep the equestrian center open for Horse Boarding, Trainers and all Equestrian Programs. This enriches the community with generations to come. |
| 3/8/25 18:08 | Joel | Newport Beach | Keep the Equestrian Center open at the OC Fairgrounds. Horse Boarding, trainers, and children's programs. This is a attribute to our community. |
| 3/8/25 19:50 | Melissa | Indio | Please give our kids a healthy activity back |

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| 3/8/25 22:45 | Bill | La Mesa | The Fairgrounds represent many things to a diverse population, as a source of entertainment and good times it generates revenue that can best serve those that can benefit in time of crisis. With Stables and Barns it is a logical place to be a resource during wild fires and other inclement weather event's. After all without the horses and other animals during the good times, a fair is not a fair, please support those who raise and care for those requiring humane refuge. It's not too much to ask in giving back to those who provide the enjoyment and opportunity for your visitors to interface with those they would not have an opportunity to do otherwise Thank You for your consideration on this important request it means so much to those who provide for a major draw annually to your fairgrounds. |
| 3/9/25 5:12 | Kelly | Salinas | Restore the equestrian program. So many members and public want it back. What you are doing is wrong. |
| 3/9/25 7:40 | Emily | Anaheim | Please continue to maintain the equestrian centers and events!! many horse owners rely on you for evacuations from fires, and many kids are losing places where they can learn about farm life |
| 3/9/25 8:37 | Susan | Newport Beach | I would like an Equine facility as before! The equine programs that were there before were so valuable to me and the entire community. The dispensing of those programs was short-sighted and unnecessary. Not only did those programs serve underserved populations - like youth-at-risk and veterans- they served me - the individual, who simply benefitted from the experience of riding and connecting with horses. |
| 3/9/25 10:13 | Perrine | La Quinta | You must have an equestrian outlook for the future. Equestrian people are a community and the sport requires facilities. Development is reducing places that support the equestrian lifestyle. People working together create great communities and the equestrian community must survive. |
| 3/9/25 15:30 | Brandice | Corona del mar | Just keep it - the positive impact it has had over the past 40+ years justifies this amenity to the the community and surrounds. There is park space allocated, there are dog parks, skate parks, community centers, teen spaces... . This is all of those wrapped into one that actually has some income... do the other "amenities" break even? |
| 3/9/25 16:38 | Carolanne | Newport Beach | I don't think you should turn the equestrian center into a museum that has little or no activities. Kids don't need pretty things to look at they need fun activities that are outside (and sometimes can be messy). Even adults would benefit from hands on activities involving horses. Keep this public asset available to the public. |
| 3/9/25 22:25 | Cherilyn | Vista | How sad that that horses in Orange County have become so inaccessible to all but the most wealthy. I grew up there and rode horses my whole life. I moved to San Diego county a dozen years ago because it was clear that the options for equestrians were getting slimmer as stables have continued to close. Although I never had my horse at the fair grounds, I've had many friends who did. It is a mistake to remove riding programs from the community. I have run a boarding facility as well and I understand the upkeep and operating costs, there are ways to run these facilities as profitable businesses with the right management. |
| 3/9/25 23:05 | Victoria | Burbank | Should include a year round riding school, multiple horse training barns, riding lessons, equestrian camps and horse shows. |
| 3/9/25 23:20 | Joseph | Orange | It vital to preserve and maintain the equestrian facility at the Orange County Fairgrounds. It is an invaluable asset. Please do whatever is needed to preserve this irreplaceable asset! |
| 3/10/25 0:34 | Rachelle | | Please keep horses and equestrian events as part of the faire and community. |
| 3/10/25 1:32 | Jessica | California | Removing equestrian activities from this state owned property violates your Agricultural District mandate to provide this facility for agricultural purposes. You are breaking the law. Your intentional lack of support for ag is a direct conflict of interest for the office to which you were appointed by the Governor. Clandestinely attempting to develop this Ag District property into any other purpose than supporting agriculture is not only fraudulent, it is morally corrupt. Resign now or lawyer up. |
| 3/10/25 10:02 | Hillary | Newport Beach | I am very upset that there is no mention of recreation, equines, anything that was promised before the closing of the equestrian center. |
| 3/11/25 7:08 | Karen | Torrance | Please keep this facility open and operating with access to all in the community. |
| 3/11/25 7:31 | Karen | Torrance | Please keep this facility open and operating with access to all in the community. |
| 3/11/25 7:35 | Esther | Irvine | Please keep the equestrian center open! It is some of the last remaining centers in southern ca and plays an important role in our community! |
| 3/11/25 7:39 | Mahtty | Orange | With all the devastation that's happened around us, with fires, an evacuation area for large animals is crucial. I know I'm not telling you something you don't already know so please help in supporting and keeping the equestrian center open. |

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| 3/11/25 7:46 | Kate | Orange | Please keep the Equestrian Center open to the public. There are so few areas left to keep and learn about horses. It's such a special and priceless asset for the community. Turning into buildings would be such a tragedy. It is a crucial emergency evacuation center for many horses coming from fire prone areas. Please keep it equestrian!! |
| 3/11/25 7:49 | Emilia | Orange | Save the OC Fairgrounds. Many organizations need this land for horse use. |
| 3/11/25 7:50 | Jodi | Santa ana | This equestrian facility offers immense value for the community. I fully support my tax dollars going to this. Please do not shut this down !!!! |
| 3/11/25 8:30 | Kelly | San Juan Capistrano | I have been a resident of Orange County since 1971 and have shown horses at OC Fairgrounds. I feel it is important that the fairgrounds remains an equestrian venue. The Fairgrounds would not be the same without horses. I hope you will consider keeping the equestrian center active at the OC Fairgrounds in the future! Please feel free to reach out to me for further feedback. Thank you, Kelly |
| 3/11/25 8:41 | Stephanie | Boston, MA | I want the equestrian center, its horses, programs and recreation RESTORED and INCLUDED in the Strategic Plan & Master Site Plan. |
| 3/11/25 8:43 | Melissa | San Juan Capistrano | The loss of affordable housing for horses owned by working class members of our community is devastating. Getting young people involved in horsemanship helps to build good citizens as well as helps to keep young people busy & therefore less likely to get into trouble. Having these opportunities available at a reasonable price is crucial. These opportunities should not just be available for the wealthy. I hope that all of this is taken into consideration before voting. It would be devastating to the young people if they are forced to give up their horses in the name of profit for big time investors. Please do the right thing. |
| 3/11/25 8:50 | Nargis | Villa park | I would like for the equestrian center to stay open because it's a priceless resource for the people in Orange County. I would like to see my tax dollars go towards keeping the center open. |
| 3/11/25 8:54 | Faith | Orange | The entire fiasco over the last year should never have been allowed to happen it is absolutely shameful. . Now the board rates are ridiculous for a facility that has been allowed (encouraged by the fair board) to deteriorate. Successful trainers, which are the reasons come to a facility, have been forced out. Some "pie in the sky" program suggested. Get the Fairgrounds back to serving the equestrian community- encourage successful trainers to run programs there with reduced board for lesson horses. Rebuild the stalls to remove rust and damage. Most important, get horse people running it and give up on making it parking lots or whatever other reason the Board wants the Equestrian Center gone. |
| 3/11/25 8:55 | Tracie | Costa Mesa | I'm disgusted by this obvious land grab to convert the equestrian center into anything other than what it's been for all of these years. This is a blatant land grab. Use for animals and nature vs more condos? How is this even being considered??? It should stay open to the public for boarding horses and allowing people that love to ride them the opportunity to do so. Thank you for listening. |
| 3/11/25 9:00 | Ramunda | Irvine | Please keep the equestrian center open. Animals, especially horses are a great help for mental health. Also, the center is a safe haven for large animals in times of need. |
| 3/11/25 9:08 | Cynthia | Costa Mesa | I've lived in Costa Mesa for 27 years and Orange County my entire life and I have brought my daughters to the Equestrian Center for riding lessons when they were young. I've seen many young children blossom with the help of horses and this center helps non profit groups provide a place for this. The Equestrian Center should STAY an Equestrian Center for the Public and it's an important facility for Orange County. The ENTIRE OC Fairgrounds are here for the public and should stay as is. Closing the equestrian center would be a horrible mistake. We need more nature not less. |
| 3/11/25 9:17 | Martina | Santa Monica | Please keep the EQUESTRIAN CENTER OPEN. It's a great benefit to the community |
| 3/11/25 9:19 | Alisha | Encinitas | To Orange County equestrian center board and all. The equestrian center is a public facility which is available to the community. The public should have the right to continue utilizing that facility which offers public horse boarding and gives the ability to horse trainers to offer horse training and non profit also offer their service as well. This is the purpose which the fairgrounds were built. A public use. It is of the utmost importance to continue it as such. The community has a right to it. I suggest that this program continue to be utilized properly. Thank you Alisha |

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| 3/11/25 9:28 | Diane | Irvine | We have enough building going . Maybe accommodate both storage and the animals. Many children who don't socialize well with kids their own age find a lot of comfort in the animal that they can be with everyday. Plus it keeps them off social media for a few hours which is a whole other problem for young kids. |
| 3/11/25 9:56 | David | Orange | UC Fairgrounds and equestrian center should definitely remain open. It serves many purposes for boarding, training, nonprofit organizations, but most importantly, as one of the only large animal evacuation sites for buyers and flooding. |
| 3/11/25 10:07 | Amber | Long beach | the equestrian center at the Orange County Fairgrounds should stay open and continue to be an equestrian center where it offers education and availability for the public to board their horses and for trainers to educate and train people on riding |
| 3/11/25 11:27 | Karen | Torrance | Please keep this facility open and operating with access to all in the community. |
| 3/11/25 12:25 | Chris | Orange | The equestrian center should remain an equestrian center and available to the public as a riding facility which offers public horse boarding and the ability for horse trainers and non-profits to offer their services. This is a critical things for kids and people of all ages to be outdoors with nature and doing an activity that promotes mental well being which is desperately needed in the world we live in today. |
| 3/11/25 12:27 | Carolyn | Corona del Mar | <p>The strategic plan does not include any details about plans for The Ranch programs. On page 10, expansion of public programs is mentioned last, behind parking and storage. The Ranch is mentioned but without any specifics. Meaningful public programs are needed at The Ranch to provide the equine experience which is now completely missing from the Fairgrounds. Page 13 should include initiatives to attract public boarding and trainers who can provide public programs enabling the public to learn about and experience horses "hands on", including riding horses in lesson and camp programs. People need the opportunity to learn about the joy and connection with horses, and that does not happen in stalls converted to classrooms, it happens by seeing, touching, grooming and riding horses. It is the experience with horses that is so important and is now missing for so many people.</p> <p>Other comments on the strategic plan: Page 5 - purpose - under the code, item 2, the purpose includes "recreational & cultural" facilities of general public interest, but the "mission" stated below does not include "recreational" - it should. Page 6 - you state that you prioritize safety, which you should. However the actions of management and the Board in 2024 have NOT prioritized safety when it came to the safety of horses and riders. Similarly, you have not lived up to the standards noted in the headings of People, Integrity or Stewardship, in the actions taken in 2024 with respect to the Equestrian Center and its users.. Page 8 - the first emphasis is technology, however the first priority should be the needs of the public. How can technology be used to benefit the public? How can technology be used to improve customer experience and the ability to do business with the OCFEC? Page 9 - How will you go about understanding community and guest preferences for The Ranch? It is vital that equestrian programs be added back to the OCFEC. There are countless people who no longer have access to equestrian programs do to the relocation of many of the horses and programs to other locations where some are not able to drive due to the distance. Some people had to sell their horses due to the lack of affordability. As a fairgrounds on state-owned land, affordable equestrian programs should be available.</p> |
| 3/11/25 13:28 | Barbara | Huntington Beach | <p>I have been informed that the board is looking to remove the ONLY local PUBLIC Equestrian Center. I am requesting that it be RESTORED and ADDED BACK into the Master Site Plan AND included in the Strategic Plan. This sure seems like a land grab! I know that historically there have been other attempts to acquire this land and push the horses out with plans to build condos or storage units. This is a state run property and the citizens of California pay for the entire Orange County Fairgrounds with our tax dollars.</p> <p>Why are we pushing out opportunities for people to connect with large animals and be out in nature? Why are we taking away one of the few equestrian centers located in the entire area? I believe the equestrian center at the Orange County Fairgrounds is worth fighting for! I believe that Orange County benefits from having this wonderful center available to the public and to all socioeconomic backgrounds.</p> |
| 3/11/25 13:52 | Amy | Costa Mesa | Don't see any mention of the equestrian center staying. Would like to see the current Equestrian Center restored and preserved. It was wonderful to walk and visit the horses. I took lessons there when I was growing up and it taught me about discipline and teamwork. I walk the loop of the OCFEC often and loved the smell of the horses and seeing kids learn about them. I would like to see OCFEC like Costa Mesa's Great Park. Open spaces, trees, paths, community center and events, but still have the PacAmp and Centennial Farm to experience as well. |

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| 3/11/25 14:45 | Jane | Orange | Please keep the stables and all equestrian activities at the O.C. Fairgrounds |
| 3/11/25 16:06 | Rebecca | Costa Mesa | PLEASE include in your planning the return of the horses to our stables. Both for private citizen owned horses and community horses. We're loosing more and more of our open green spaces and our children are loosing the ability and accessibility to animals. Loosing the opportunity to engage with horses and to touch, learn about up close, to touch and ride. Horses offer so much to children and adults of all ages, especially all of us who can benefit from the intuitive understanding horses have of children, and adults, who feel alone, bullied, in need of unconditional love and understanding. Please do not deny our community access to these crucial horses and programs. |
| 3/11/25 16:53 | Michael | Orange | Hello, The OC Fairground equestrian center is a valuable and much needed resource for Orange County residents. It is one of the last few remaining large facilities that can handle large numbers of horses and livestock in the event of a natural disaster, think fires and earthquakes. Please do not close this much needed facility! Warm regards, Michael |
| 3/11/25 19:14 | Rob | Costa Mesa | Bring back the Equestrian Center. We want the Horse Boarding and the Trainers to come back. |
| 3/11/25 19:17 | Ed | Costa Mesa | We want the training programs with the Horses for the children. Need to return the horse trainers |
| 3/11/25 19:20 | Carol | Costa Mesa | Please bring back the horse trainers, boarding and horse programs for our community. |
| 3/11/25 19:23 | Mike | Newport Beach | Requesting the return of all the trainers and horse boarding. |
| 3/11/25 20:08 | Gabriela | Santa Barbara | Please please please include equestrian activities. This is part of the cultural heritage of the state for people of all backgrounds. |
| 3/12/25 7:43 | Mari | LAKE FOREST | We need to bring back riding and vaulting lessons. My kids have vendors grateful by equestrian programs at the OC Fair. |
| 3/12/25 9:18 | Julian | Orange | I am in favor of keeping the equestrian center at the fairgrounds and not changing it to serve other purposes. |
| 3/12/25 11:50 | Rita | Orange | The plan overall looks great. I would caution against any technology plan that does not have in it the means to not only put new technology into place, but also to maintain/upgrade as needed (many plans forget about the cost and manpower burden to keep a system working). In addition, I really like the intention to gather feedback from visitors on a regular basis - I think this has been an important part of decision-making around visitor experience, at least since COVID, and some interesting data has been presented at Board meetings that has shaped the post-COVID Fair experience in a positive way. As the 4-H Program Coordinator I am always excited for the opportunity to partner with the OC Fair & Event Center through a variety of established activities and, hopefully, new ventures in the future. Keep up the great work! |
| 3/12/25 12:32 | Lena | Covina | Horse boarding, equine programs and workshops would be valuable. |
| 3/12/25 12:33 | Christine | corona del mar | I am writing to express my strong support for restoring and preserving the existing Equestrian Center at the OC Fairgrounds. The Equestrian Center is a valuable asset to our community, offering unique opportunities for people of all ages to engage with horses, learn valuable skills, and participate in equine-focused recreation. As a resident who values the rich heritage and community benefits provided by the Equestrian Center, I urge you to prioritize its restoration and enhancement. I would love to see a thriving facility that offers a wide range of equine activities and programs, including but not limited to: Riding lessons for all skill levels, from beginners to advanced riders. Professional trainers and instructors providing high-quality education. Horseback riding camps for children and adults, promoting both fun and learning. Therapeutic riding programs for individuals with disabilities, offering healing and growth through horse interaction. Educational workshops and clinics focused on horsemanship, care, and riding techniques. Community events such as horse shows, exhibitions, and equestrian competitions that bring people together. Opportunities for trail riding and safe outdoor recreation. The Equestrian Center serves as a cherished gathering place and a gateway for many to experience the joy of working with horses. It also provides essential services to the equestrian community that are increasingly difficult to find in urban areas. Please consider the importance of preserving this incredible resource for current and future generations. I respectfully ask that you commit to investing in the restoration of the Equestrian Center and ensuring it remains accessible and welcoming to all members of our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your positive response. |

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| 3/12/25 12:46 | Carol | Newport Beach | We were assured by Michele Richards that there was no intention of getting rid of the Equestrian Center (aka The Ranch). If what she said is true, it should be on the master site plan. Generations of kids, families and community members have enjoyed the hands on programs created by various trainers at no cost to you. The trainers built "Rome" for you over the decades for the benefit of everyone and it ran as a PROFIT of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the OC Fairgrounds. Hundreds of people came every year for camps, lessons and other activities that were all open to the public. The EQC was always a place of activity for many members of the public and anyone was allowed to come in and join in on the fun that the trainers created. Please keep the EQC on the Master Site Plan and please bring in trainers and people who know how to use horses to help vulnerable members of our community as well as all the other programs that were previously available to kids, families and other members of the public. You have a duty to work in the best interest of the public who are the owners of the OC Fairgrounds. You are not the owners and only stewards of this property. You have a duty to ensure that the equestrian history of this historic property be preserved and fostered for future generations. That begins by putting it on the Master Site Plan and working with the equestrian community to restore what was once there. |
| 3/12/25 12:46 | Dorothy | Rancho Cucamonga | My grandson loved learning to ride horses there! He lives in Costa Mesa. He is only 8, but has been taking lessons for two years there. So very sad that the state would take this away!! He's not into other sports and this was where he bloomed. Shame on California, and with all the taxes we pay! |
| 3/12/25 13:13 | Lisa | Rancho Santa Margarita | Please restore and include the Equestrian Center, its horses, recreation and programs in the Strategic Plan . It is the only Public Equestrian Center and is an important part of the OC Fairgrounds. |
| 3/12/25 13:27 | KIMBERLY | Newport Beach | Horses! Bring back the horses! They help so many and are so therapeutic |
| 3/12/25 13:37 | Margie | Newport Beach | I am disappointed that the current equestrian facilities that are open to the public, including riding lessons, therapy and equine education are being removed from the strategic plan. These are vital programs that will be severely missed if taken away. There's nothing else available or like it in our area. I believe they should be restored to the strategic plan! |
| 3/12/25 13:49 | Sharon | Costa Mesa | I would love for the Equestrian center to continue to offer lessons to the public. I love taking kids and look forward to taking my grandkids. |
| 3/12/25 14:17 | Lara | Costa mesa | You should restore the amazing, valuable hands on equestrian programs which you had before you kicked them out. Learning in a walk through museum like exhibit about what a horse eats or horses in history is not the same experience as living and feeling what it's like to love and be loved by a horse for yourself. Pony rides are not the same as quality riding lesson provided by a trainer. Petting a horse or holding the end of a lead rope is not the same as learning how to manage a 1000lb energetic animal for yourself, and discovering the self confidence it builds. Half dead rescue horses are not the same as young thriving equine athletes. Bring back the real equestrians and restore what was once beautiful. |
| 3/12/25 14:30 | Bailey | Santa Ana | KEEP THE EQUESTRIAN CENTER! Save the horses! Horses are disappearing from Orange County at an alarming pace. Don't let this one go too :(Riders need space for arenas and horses need space to be animals. No exhibit! |
| 3/12/25 14:32 | kristin | Costa Mesa | Hey there, We are residents in walking distance of the fairgrounds. We moved here in 2019, specifically wanting to be close to the fairgrounds, as it offered us a chance to be in the city but feel like we had local access to a more rural feeling. We love walking and riding bikes by and seeing people taking lessons on their horses. My youngest daughter took recreational "vaulting" classes after we saw the company at Imaginology. Being with the horses there sparked a LOVE of horses and she's been to several summer horse camps at the fairgrounds! Recently we tried to re-enroll with the vaulting company only to have them suddenly move out of the fairgrounds. We tried to enroll in other riding lessons, but realized they were all gone! Please bring the horses back!! |
| 3/12/25 15:13 | Christine | Corona Del Mar, CA | I would like to see the existing Equestrian Center restored and preserved. I feel it's an important part of our community and allows those that require a public equestrian center access to programs such as riding lessons, trainers, camps and community events for people passionate about horses. |
| 3/12/25 16:05 | Diane | Orange County | The OC equestrian center at the fairgrounds should stay!!! |
| 3/12/25 16:21 | Claire | Irvine | Please bring back the programs that were already there just a couple months ago. Negotiate a fair contract with boarders that fairly accesses horses needs. Making sure the horses safety is priority. |

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| 3/12/25 16:31 | Aimee | Foothill Ranch | Please bring back trainers and horse birding and lessons to the Fairgrounds. You have driven them all away! How are people supposed to know and experience horses? This was the place that in central OC, you could come and give your children the experience of learning how to ride, teach them lifelong skills of hard work, empathy etc. By not having this, we are teaching people that horses are not accessible, rare like zoo animals and to be afraid of them. Further, all of the programs for Orangewood and the Vets are gone. They need to come back! You are for the community, supported by tax payers for the community. |
| 3/12/25 17:29 | Madeline | Brea | Good evening I reviewed the Master Plan, and failed to see any information regarding the Equestrian Center. I would like to see the equestrian center, its horses, programs and recreation restored and included in the Strategic Master Plan (& Master Site Plan). The horses and its community have made a huge impact on the outreach they have made throughout the decades to its local community and beyond. I have seen it firsthand as a volunteer for multiple therapy programs with at-risk youth and active-duty first responders as well as veterans. Access to these programs are vital to the surrounding community and our current mental-health epidemic. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. |
| 3/12/25 17:29 | Virginia | Carlsbad | Please keep actual, real life, in person equestrian riding opportunities and programs at the site. These should be real horses, for real people and children. As a parent, the opportunities for my child to interact with horses, take lessons, grow and develop as a rider, meet challenges head on, and learn about-as well as actively participate in-the work it takes to care for horses have been invaluable. We are not an equestrian family, and do not have significant means. Having accessible, community-based programs such as these opened the doors for my child's participation and helped develop a strong work ethic, compassion, and confidence. We would not otherwise have had the means or access to horses. |
| 3/12/25 18:23 | Elizabeth | Murrieta | Keep the equestrian center!!! |
| 3/12/25 18:41 | Anne | Fountain Valley | I think it's imperative to continue to offer a full service equestrian Center to Orange County residents. How better can children learn to ride, compete, learn sportsmanship, learn horse care which leads to learning responsibility, arriving on time to lessons, learning what work is, and how to follow directions. Riding a horse is not easy and not everyone can do it, but they should at least be able to try. Paving it over for more parking does nothing to help attract people to the fairgrounds. I spent 10 years of my life at the Equestrian Center and it's the happiest time ever in my life.. To be able to showcase different breeds and uses of the animals, to give children an idea of what life was like before automobiles, just like giving families knowledge about cows and chickens and other animals during the fair. City kids don't get a chance to be around horses as a rule and taking away the Equestrian Center is just adding to that deficit. Please don't eliminate the Equestrian Center. |
| 3/12/25 18:58 | Terry | Rolling Hills Estates | Please restore the Equestrian Center and continue all equestrian events at the fairgrounds. I have shown there for years. We need this to remain open. |
| 3/12/25 19:00 | Gibran | Costa Mesa | RESTORE PUBLIC Equine boarding, recreation, riding, lessons, camps, horsemanship, husbandry. Recreation = DOING, (not "watching" exhibits or displays). Failing to do so deprives the local community of HANDS ON LEARNING of LIFE SKILLS and recreation. |
| 3/12/25 19:06 | Michele | Costa Mesa | Restore public riding, training, boarding, lessons, camps, city classes, horsemanship, community equine events, onsite (as has existed for over 100 years) |
| 3/12/25 19:21 | Lisa | Huntington Beach | Please do not remove the Equestrian stables and horse training from the Fairgrounds. As Orange County continues to develop, pave over more and more of the landscape I believe it is critical to provide a sense of nature and connection to horses. Thank you, Lisa |
| 3/12/25 19:46 | Jim | Newport Beach | Leave a place on the Fairgrounds for equestrian lovers to enjoy the space allocated to them now. Have a heart. Don't be greedy. We are residents / voters / taxpayers. Leave a place for the stables and the equine residents. Thanks for your time, attention and consideration to this important matter. |
| 3/12/25 19:56 | Taylor | HB | We need the equestrian center!! I want to bring my horse back here and I love this!! Please keep it in your plans!!! |
| 3/12/25 20:16 | Debbie | Rancho Cucamonga | The OC Fair should have equine events and keep their equine facilities. I've lived here for five plus decades and I've watched the land and horses disappear. Horses are a great activity for youth to get involved in. It keeps them out of trouble. They are great for adults too. |
| 3/12/25 20:40 | April | Newport Beach | It is imperative that the existing Equestrian Center be restored and preserved. Ensure that the public has access to trainers, camps, riding lessons, equine therapy, etc.!! |

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| 3/12/25 20:52 | Jody | Cypresd | Orange County has very few public equestrian facilities, making it essential to preserve equestrian activities at the Orange County Fairgrounds. This includes boarding, training, lessons, and community programs that allow people-many for the first time-to experience being around horses. For equestrians, horses are more than a hobby; they're a way of life. The OC Fairgrounds is a valuable and functional facility that has hosted numerous equestrian events and has the potential to support even more, benefiting both the equestrian community and the public. I urge you to restore the once-thriving equestrian community at the fairgrounds. The stalls and arenas are already in place-please incorporate the continued use of this facility into your master plan so that future generations can enjoy it. |
| 3/12/25 21:06 | Joe | Costa Mesa | While I like the strategic plan, I feel that the current board of directors does not support a key pillar (community and neighbors). This is based upon over 10 years of requesting that OC Fair board make an initiative to work with leaders of the local neighborhoods that immediately surround the fairgrounds. Not once, has the board attempted to address or prioritize issues raised by community neighbor associations such as the residents of Mesa Del Mar (where I am a resident). Not a single board member resides in the immediate vicinity of the fairgrounds. While the above is frustrating enough, the OC fair board will then make public statements that operational decisions are being made with input from the neighbors that is 100% not true and quite the opposite sentiment of the surrounding neighbors. For instance, the board restricts musical entertainers from playing past certain hours and above certain decibel levels at the Pacific Amp for the sake of the neighbors. Not one neighbor minds this issue and would love to see more acts regularly despite perceived "noise" or etc. This is because the board does not engage with the actual local neighbors and instead make assumptions based upon their misconception as "if it were them" instead of simply working with the associations/groups. As a leader within the Mesa Del Mar Community association, I would hope to see this new strategic plan as a fresh start to actively ENGAGE in on-going conversations and simply LISTEN to neighbors input. Frankly, the neighbors have tremendous revenue generating ideas for the grounds and can be the biggest support ally. |
| 3/12/25 21:13 | Sofia | Rolling Hills | Completely disappointed to see no strategic planning that includes your equestrian community and horse enthusiasts. Shameful behavior, yet I am still not surprised, just like I am not surprised Michelle never responded back to my last email... May you all step in dog feces every time you walk outside!!- Sofia |
| 3/12/25 21:28 | Cynthia | Mission viejo | Orange County. Keep the stables open to the public |
| 3/12/25 21:33 | John | Villa Park | It serves the public interest to have all types of recreation: hiking, swimming, skateparks, dog parks, etc. And it should not be necessary for each type of recreation on public land (such as the OC Fairgrounds). And one city or facility doesn't need to provide all the types of recreation. But each has a role in the regional provision of recreation. It makes sense to have horses at the OC Fairgrounds. First, because the land is for agriculture-related things. Second, because there are no other alternative facilities in the area. The specific sport that OC Fairgrounds used to provide is Equestrian Vaulting. Now, due to the closure of the horse stables, the closest place is Anaheim Hills. Although this sport is small, it is important to those who participate. Effectively, persons interested in this sport who live in coastal Orange County are denied a practical venue for this sport. But, more broadly, all equestrian sports are now difficult or unavailable in coastal Orange County. |
| 3/12/25 21:33 | Claire | Torrance | Please keep the equestrian center on the grounds. It is an essential part of the community. |
| 3/12/25 21:35 | Macki | Costa Mesa | The equestrian center needs to be part of the strategic plan. As well as included in the master sight plan. There needs to be a real and genuine plan to fill the equestrian center. One that includes lessons, programs, therapies, and actual daily hands on horse experiences. In over a year there has been one group with 2 horses brought on to the facility. With minimal community contact. There need to be hard dead lines set with actual accountability to create the "vision" the board and Michele brag about. Make your actions actually line up with all your empty promises to the community. By adding the equestrian center to the strategic plan and actually making strides to getting in real programs and horses, maybe you'll have a chance at gaining some of the trust from the community that you have lost, |

| date/time | Name (First) | City of Residence | Strategic Planning Feedback |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| 3/12/25 21:38 | Kimberly | Costa Mesa | Please keep the Equestrian center like it was before. I was born and raised here for three last 53 years. The Orange County fairgrounds has always been a part of the fabric of my life. Horses belong here. I'm sick and dismayed that while the wildfires were going on (my husband is a current fire captain in LA County) horses were not allowed at our precious fairgrounds. All three of my children were part of the ranch program at Davis magnet school. Please preserve the equestrian center!! |
| 3/13/25 10:08 | Cynthia | Orange | I am in favor of keeping the Equestrian Center at the fair grounds. This center is historical in the equestrian community. I want the previous equine activities, riding lessons and trainers restored. This has also been an evacuation center for Orange County horses during fires and floods. It should be added back into the Master Site Plan. |
| 3/13/25 11:06 | Liza | Rancho Santa Margarita | Keep it public please. |
| 3/13/25 12:26 | Keri | San Diego, CA | I'd like to see the existing Equestrian Center restored & preserved. Would like to see this space continue for camps, horse riding lessons, community activities, animal educational programs, etc. Please restore and preserve the Equestrian Center. |
| 3/13/25 13:30 | alexis | Costa Mesa | This will be your legacy Is closing the equestrian center what you want on your resumes? |
| 3/13/25 15:14 | Donna | Huntington beach | We need equestrian activities to resume!!! |
| 3/13/25 19:18 | Allison | Irvine | My two daughters had to stop their recreational vaulting classes since the city wouldn't allow us there anymore. They were crying for weeks. Please do something to change that! |
| 3/14/25 11:42 | Sangita | Costa Mesa | The barns have been instrumental in my daughter's development and health |
| 3/16/25 13:36 | Susan | Temecula | Please don't get rid of our equestrian facilities! They are needed. |