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August 4, 2011

Dr. Steven Beazley, President and CEO
David Ellis, Chair, Board of Directors
Orange County Fair and Events Center
88 Fair Dr.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Dear Steve and Dave,

I want to compliment you and the entire staff on the outstanding job you have done regarding this year's fair. Attendance has been through the roof, and on my visits fairgoers seem to be having a great time. They're certainly eating a lot of food, and I've done my best to keep up with them.

We are all delighted that the Governor has decided not to sell the fairgrounds. His decision provides us the opportunity to not only continue to offer all the wonderful activities we've come to expect at the fairgrounds, but also to reflect on the events of the recent past without the cloud of uncertainty that had been generated by the possible sale.

As we move forward into an exciting new era in the history of the fairgrounds, I would like to place an item on the August 25, 2011 board meeting agenda that I believe will serve a critical role as we move forward – the formation of a Fair and Events Center Citizen Oversight Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to investigate and issue a public report regarding the proposed sale of the fairgrounds. To that end, the committee would compile and review all information related to the proposed sale, including but not limited to all related documents, emails, records, minutes, memos and contracts. The committee would be charged with completing its work and issuing its report, to include findings and recommendations going forward, within 180 days of its formation. I would propose that the Citizens Oversight Committee be comprised of two members from each of the following interested constituencies: Orange County Fair Preservation Society, Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center, Orange County Market Place vendors, Orange County Business Council, Orange County Fair and Events Center Executive Management, and bargaining unit representatives.

As another step towards improved governance, I would also to include on the agenda for the August 25, 2011, board meeting a request to engage the services of a competent forensic auditor to conduct a forensic audit of fairground operations and transactions for the past three years. As we move forward I believe we need to aggressively attempt to ensure public support for the Fair Board and its commitment to the broad community we serve. Nothing will generate that support

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faster or more effectively than a Board that is willing to constructively examine its own actions and be willing to implement better practices when warranted.

By having a competent, independent professional review of the recent past, lift the veil on any actual or perceived secrecy, and help us become a more transparent and accessible Board, I believe we will take a giant step in the right direction. Only by bravely confronting the past can we successfully put it behind us. It's what the public expects of us, and it's the right thing to do.

Again, congratulations on an outstanding Fair season, thank you for your assistance and cooperation, and please let me know if you have any questions. See you on the 25th!



Nick Berardino

Copy to: Governor Jerry Brown
Speaker of the Assembly John Pérez
Senate President pro Tem Daryl Steinberg
State Senator Lou Correa
Assemblymember Jose Solorio
Assemblymember Allan Mansoor
Chairman Bill Campbell, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Tom Mauk, CEO, County of Orange
Mayor Gary Monahan, City of Costa Mesa
Tom Umberg, Attorney at Law
Joyce Tucker, Fair Board Vice-Chair
Kristina Dodge, Fair Board Member
Dale Dykema, Fair Board Member
Gary Hayakawa, Fair Board Member
Ali Jahangiri, Fair Board Member
Douglas La Belle, Fair Board Member
Gerardo Mouet, Fair Board Member