

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING SUPPORT IN MAINTAINING THE EXISTING 7.5 ACRE EQUESTRIAN CENTER AT THE ORANGE COUNTY FAIR AND EVENT CENTER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.

WHEREAS, the Orange County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa, California is celebrating its 118th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The 32nd District Agricultural Association, doing business as the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa, California, is a state entity within the Division of Fairs and Expositions, California Department of Food and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Orange County Fair and Events Center in Costa Mesa, California is "Celebration of Orange County's Communities, Interests and Heritage;" and

WHEREAS, horses and livestock have always been part of the history, communities and heritage of Costa Mesa and Orange County; and

WHEREAS, equestrian activities have always been a part of the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa, California; and

WHEREAS, the 15-acre Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California was constructed in the northeast portion of the Fairgrounds in 1980;

WHEREAS, the Fair's Master Plan, adopted by the Board of Directors in 2003 called for the removal of 7.5 acres of the Equestrian Center, with 7.5 acres to remain; and

WHEREAS, there is an tremendous public benefit in keeping the remaining 7.5 acres of recreational opportunity at the Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California; and

WHEREAS, it is proven that horse-related activities provide wonderful alternatives for children, and horses help to inspire, teach and provide important personal development for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California provides irreplaceable public benefit to numerous local non profit youth organizations, including opportunities for disabled youth; and

WHEREAS, local Costa Mesa and Newport Beach businesses benefit from the riders, boarders, staff, and volunteers who utilize the Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California, and removal of the Equestrian Center

would decrease revenue to those local businesses and cities; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be an increasing loss of equestrian facilities throughout the County, and removal of the Equestrian Center would eliminate a significant asset in the City's Park, Recreation, and Open Space Inventory that cannot be replaced; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center is on publicly owned land in Costa Mesa, California; and

WHEREAS, the Fair is considering replacing the last remaining 7.5 acre Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California with a paved parking lot which the original Master Plan EIR considered a significant adverse impact; and

WHEREAS, the "net cost" of relocating and replicating the existing Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center elsewhere in Costa Mesa has not been calculated and is expected to be significant. Costs associated with land acquisition and replacement of facilities will greatly exceed the \$65,000 per year in revenue generated by the existing facilities; and

WHEREAS, alternative parking options are available to the Orange County Fair and Events Center that do not require removing the existing Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California; and

WHEREAS, the benefit of a parking lot does not override the loss of the Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, and the public benefit and recreational opportunities it provides to Costa Mesa as well as the surrounding city residents, businesses, and youth organizations,

WHEREAS, alternative parking lot locations and options should be considered first before considering removal of the Orange County Fairgrounds Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa, California;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa hereby supports maintaining the existing 7.5 acre Equestrian Center at the Orange County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa, California for future generations to enjoy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, Julie Folcik, City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. _____ was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the said City Council at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____ 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this _____ day of _____ 2009.

City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of
the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa