



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** MARCH 3, 2009

**ITEM NUMBER:**

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING THE EQUESTRIAN CENTER AT THE ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 12, 2009

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**PRESENTATION BY:** COUNCIL MEMBER KATRINA FOLEY

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** CAROL PROCTOR, MANAGEMENT ANALYST, AT (714) 754-5688

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Determine whether or not to adopt the proposed Resolution.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the February 4, 2009 City Council meeting, Council Member Katrina Foley requested that the City Council be briefed at their February Study Session on the Orange County Fair and Event Center's (OCFEC) Equestrian Center Land Use Environmental Study. The proposal to conduct this study was presented to the OCFEC's Board of Directors at their January 22, 2009 meeting. The action taken by the Board was: Director Tucker motioned and Director Dykema seconded to authorize the Equestrian Center Land Use Environmental Study, including an Equestrian Center alternative. This was approved 8-0, with one Director absent.

The City Council listened to public comment and then heard a presentation by OCFEC President and CEO Steve Beazley on the Equestrian Center at their February 10, 2009 Study Session. Mr. Beazley's presentation included a brief history and a summary on the Equestrian Center and the Fairground Master Plan as well as the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) which is a land use study. He stated the Final EIR results on the study are expected to be brought before the Board in September.

Mr. Beazley responded to questions by the City Council concerning other options to keep the Equestrian Center where it is or to relocate the Center elsewhere in the Costa Mesa area. He stated the OCFEC Board has not yet considered other alternatives, such as restriping, as a means of creating the additional 1000 parking spaces needed. Council Members stressed the history of the Center at the Fairgrounds and its recreational, open space and public service value. Highest and best use of the property and parking needs were discussed.

Council Member Foley has requested that this matter be brought forward for formal consideration and action. She would like to see the existing Equestrian Center remain

at the OCFEC. If the OCFEC Board of Directors eventually takes action to change the Master Plan through the SEIR process in order to remove the Center, she would like the Board to reiterate their commitment to relocate the Center in the immediate area. Attachment 1 is the Study Session report, including the OCFEC Board of Directors Report and a map of the Fairgrounds. Attachment 2 is a Resolution requested by Council Member Foley, seeking support for the existing 7.5 acre Equestrian Center to remain at the Orange County Fair and Event Center.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

Do not adopt the Resolution.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the attached resolution as to form.

**CONCLUSION:**

This item has been agendaized at the request of Council Member Foley. The attached Resolution, if approved by the City Council, will be forwarded to the OCFEC Board of Directors and CEO/President Beazley.

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CAROL C. PROCTOR  
Management Analyst

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THOMAS R. HATCH  
Assistant City Manager

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KIMBERLY HALL BARLOW  
City Attorney

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Steve Beazley, President & CEO  
Orange County Fair & Event Center

ATTACHMENTS:      1      [Study Session Staff Report, including OCFEC Board Report and Map](#)  
                            2      [Resolution 09-](#)