

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, Placer County Executive Officer
By: James Importante, Management Analyst

DATE: April 5, 2011

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Placer County Grand Jury Report on the All American Speedway –
Board of Supervisors Responses

Action Requested: Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter in response to the Placer Grand Jury's 2010-2011 Report on the All American Speedway.

Background: On February 1, 2011, the Placer County Grand Jury issued its report titled *All American Speedway: Placer County Oversight Failure*. The report includes facts derived from the Grand Jury's investigations, and findings and recommendations based on those facts.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors was asked to provide a response to this Grand Jury report. In collaboration with various County departments, County Executive Office staff prepared a response on the behalf of the Board of Supervisors, which will be subject to your approval today. This memorandum provides a brief summary of the recommended Board of Supervisors' response to the findings and recommendations in Grand Jury report. Details of the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are included within the response letter attached.

Upon approval by your Board, the signed responses will be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court and the Placer County Grand Jury.

Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

Summarized in its report, the Placer County Grand Jury found that an expansion of the race track at the All American Speedway on the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville resulted in numerous noise complaints and other concerns for the residents in the immediate vicinity of the fairgrounds. In investigating the complaint, the Grand Jury determined that in addition to the noise issues, no permits were obtained by the Fair Association for the expansion of the Speedway. Additionally, the Grand Jury determined that Placer County's contract with the Fair Association expired in 2007, and has not been renewed as of January 2011.

The Grand Jury provided two Recommendations based on their investigation:

1. The Board of Supervisors ensure the entire All American Speedway has been examined by county building inspectors, and/or engineers so that all portions of the Speedway are brought up to current county and state codes, regulations and noise ordinances. Also ensure the facility has obtained all county and state permits, including an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required.
2. The Board of Supervisors give the Fair Association 90 days upon the publication of this report to accept and sign a new operating agreement, which includes addressing resolution of the aforementioned Speedway issues.

Board of Supervisors Response

A copy of the response letter to the Grand Jury is included in your agenda packet for your consideration today. To summarize, the County is committed to diligently working to resolve the issues associated with improvements to the speedway. The Fair Association, the City of Roseville and the County have met and communicated on numerous occasions to address operational issues related to the racetrack specifically. Furthermore, the County has worked with the Fair Association to address complaints, and continues to work to put a new agreement in place that will contractually address complaint resolution. Finally, it should be noted that the prior agreement provides for the Fair Association to continue operations on a year-to-year basis until the contract is renewed or renegotiated.

The Placer County Planning Department and Department of Facility Services have also been requested to respond the Findings and Recommendations and will provide additional information relative to the report by May 1, 2011.

Environmental: None.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact related to the signing of the responses to the Grand Jury.

Attachments:

Board of Supervisors 2010-11 Grand Jury Response to *All American Speedway: Placer County Oversight Failure*

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County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
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District 1

ROBERT M. WEYGANDT
District 2

JIM HOLMES
District 3

KIRK UHLER
District 4

JENNIFER MONTGOMERY
District 5



April 5, 2011

John Monaco, Foreperson
Placer County Grand Jury
11490 C Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report – All American Speedway Noise: Placer County Oversight Failure

Dear Mr. Monaco,

The Placer County Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2010-11 Grand Jury for their efforts associated with the Placer County Fairground speedway and for providing your findings for our response. This letter is in response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury's Findings & Recommendations from the report titled *All American Speedway Noise: Placer County Oversight Failure*. The County appreciates your concern for the welfare of both City and County residents.

Facts

1. California State law requires each county to have an annual agricultural fair (Government Code 25905). The Placer County Board of Supervisors has chosen the Placer County Fair Association to operate the fairgrounds. There is a written agreement signed by the Fair Association and the County. That Agreement covered the period from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2007, which allows the Fair Association to continue operations on a year-to-year basis until the contract is renewed.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with the Fact. Government Code 25905 identifies that the County may contract with a nonprofit association for conducting an agricultural fair as an agent of the County. The language does not speak to a *requirement* of an annual fair. It is true that there is a written agreement signed by the Fair Association and the County.

2. Placer County Facilities Department has attempted to enter into a new written agreement with the Fair Association which would give the County more oversight of the fairgrounds/Speedway operations. County officials have testified the Fair Association has refused to sign a new agreement because of the increased oversight.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Fact. The County adds, however, that both parties are presently in discussions concerning a revised agreement that contains additional operating conditions and controls.

3. There were complaints from nearby residents of excessive Speedway noise. The City of Roseville received written complaints from 26 residents and several homeowners associations about excessive noise coming from the public address system and racing vehicles, since the race track was enlarged in 2007. Complaints also encompassed traffic congestion, quality of life degradation and reduced property values. The majority of the complaints were submitted in 2007. The management at the Speedway has made some improvements with sound attenuation. There were repeated complaints recorded from 2008 through 2010. Additional telephone complaints were not documented.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this Fact and is aware that the City of Roseville received complaints. However, the County cannot verify the number of complaints or the specific content of the complaints. The County would appreciate reviewing any complaint documentation provided to the City of Roseville and will request the same from the Fair Association. Additionally, the County requests, in the future, all complaints lodged by residents from the City of Roseville and Fair Association be forwarded also to the County for review.

4. County officials testified that no permits or environmental impact studies/reports were obtained by the Fair Association for the Speedway expansion project.

Board of Supervisors Response: The County agrees with this Fact. There were no permits obtained prior to the Speedway modifications.

5. A written contract between the County and fairgrounds officials has not been renewed since 2007.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Fact. However, the County would like to point out that an agreement is in place. The County previously initiated negotiations for a new agreement and had prepared and presented a revised written agreement, but the Fair Association did not agree to sign the new agreement. Presently, County staff is engaged in discussions with the Fair Association concerning the revised agreement that contains additional operating conditions and controls.

6. The Speedway exists on County property.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Fact.

7. The City of Roseville does not have jurisdiction to enforce city noise ordinances related to county-owned property.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Fact. The City of Roseville does not have land use jurisdiction over the fairground property.

8. The Fair Association did not follow the requirements of the Placer County Zoning Ordinances nor the contract terms as they pertain to the planning, approval, construction, or modification of facilities located within the fairgrounds. No permits were issued by the county.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with the Fact. The County zoning ordinance does not apply to this property, however by contract terms, the Fair Association did not obtain approval.

9. Per the All American Speedway website, as of December 5, 2006, the Fair Association announces that they recently received a NASCAR-sanctioned agreement for review and approval.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors cannot validate or invalidate this Fact. Additionally, the County understands that the Speedway obtained previous NASCAR sanctioning.

10. The Board of Supervisors was notified by letter from the CEO of the Fair Association dated, December 13, 2006, that the Speedway improvement project was for only "safety and maintenance" and "would have minimal impact on the Speedway operations and the community."

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this Fact. A letter was provided to the Placer County Executive Officer on December 13, 2006 indicating the Fair Association Board of Directors approval of safety improvement work at the track. There was a statement in the letter that the "current safety improvement work will have minimal impact on the Speedway operation or the community." It is noteworthy that the letter also suggests the track improvements and ramps had been completed at the time the letter was received by the County.

11. After lengthening the track by 70 feet on one end and widening it by 30 feet on the other end, as well as increasing banking on two turns, it qualified the Speedway to hold NASCAR-approved races. The Speedway modification allows vehicles to increase speeds which generate more noise, as well as air pollution from un-combusted fuel and worn brake linings. This pollution source is across the street from a primary school and residential area.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors is unable to validate or invalidate this Fact. However, the County understands that the Speedway previously received NASCAR sanctioning.

12. The Fair Association conducted improper grading operations during this project and contaminated drainage was allowed to enter the City of Roseville storm drainage system.

Board of Supervisors Response: This Fact as stated is the Board of Supervisors' understanding. County staff was notified of these issues after the grading occurred, and assisted the Fair Association in complying with storm water regulations after the work was completed.

Findings of the Grand Jury

1. The Fair Association violated their written agreement by enlarging and modifying the All American Speedway without permission from Placer County. The changes at the Speedway have caused increased noise, air, and storm water run-off pollution, as well as parking and traffic congestion. The nearby residents complain that the value of their homes has decreased because of the Speedway noise, and their quality of life suffers during racing season.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this Finding. The County cannot confirm that nearby residents have lost value of their homes or that their quality of

life suffers from these improvements or that these improvements significantly increased these conditions over historical patterns.

2. By not addressing the noise and air pollution created by the Speedway, Placer County has failed to protect the health and safety of the citizens living near the All American Speedway.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this Finding. Representatives from the County and the City of Roseville met with the Fair Association Director and Board members of the Fair Association Board specifically to address concerns raised relative to operation of the racetrack on April 16, 2007 including noise, parking and drainage improvements. The County has consistently encouraged the Fair Association to address complaints, and continues to work to put a new agreement in place that will contractually address complaint resolution.

3. When the Board of Supervisors was notified that construction was planned at the location, they failed to initiate an investigation which would have revealed that the Fair Association did not obtain county and state permits as required by law and as stipulated in the terms of the contract. The Board of Supervisors should have ensured that all permits had been filed and approved, and environmental and engineering studies were conducted by the appropriate agencies.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with this Finding. The County was unaware of the Fair Association's plans to improve the racetrack prior to track improvements being completed, as referenced in the December 13, 2006 letter. The letter references the improvements as having been completed, "The relocation of on/off ramps required widening of the back straightaway approximately 30 feet. Also, during the safety improvements the track was extended north approximately 70 feet and the banking increased in turns three and four to provide additional racing surface for competitors to avoid disabled-wrecked vehicles, increasing competitor safety and reducing potential injury. After being informed, the County met and otherwise communicated on numerous occasions with the Fair Association and the City of Roseville to discuss the improvements and ways to mitigate complaints

4. The Placer County Facilities Department has failed to demonstrate fiduciary responsibility by not executing a new operating agreement with sufficient oversight language to ensure the Fair Association adheres to their written agreements.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with this Finding. The Department of Facility Services initiated negotiations and drafted a new operating agreement which included provisions intended to address the noise-related issues associated with the speedway. Ultimately, the Placer County Fair Association did not sign the new operating agreement and the current agreement is still in effect. Facility Services maintained communication with the Fair Association throughout this timeframe attempting to complete negotiations for a new agreement. The County cannot unilaterally impose a new agreement. Presently, the parties have reentered discussions concerning a revised agreement.

5. It is clear that the Fair Association's intent was to qualify for NASCAR sanctioned racing events under the guise of "safety and maintenance improvements."

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this Finding. The County cannot speculate on the Fair Associations intentions. Moreover, it is the County's understanding that the speedway was previously sanctioned by NASCAR.

6. Modern race vehicles (NASCAR) capable of higher engine speeds, combined with the extended length of the Speedway, continue to generate more noise than existed before the track was enlarged.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this Finding. The County cannot confirm or deny that these Findings are factual. The County has recommended that the Fair Association conduct follow-up sound studies to quantify conditions and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

7. When residents complained to the City of Roseville, they were told that the fairground was County property and that they were unable to enforce Roseville's noise ordinances at the Speedway. The residents were referred to the County. The County directed the complaints to the Fair Association.

Board of Supervisors Response: The County partially disagrees with this Finding. As noted above, meetings were initiated with the City of Roseville and with the Fair Association to discuss the racetrack specifically. For example, the County initiated a meeting with the City of Roseville and the Fair Association on April 16, 2007 where there was consensus reached for the Fair Association to follow up to address complaints. The Fair Association worked with the City and the County to address concerns identified relative to noise and drainage and met with residents to discuss remedies being implemented. The County has consistently encouraged the Fair Association to address complaints, and continues to work to put a new agreement in place that will contractually address complaint resolution. Presently, the parties are discussing a revised agreement.

Recommendations of the Grand Jury

1. The Board of Supervisors ensure the entire All American Speedway has been examined by county building inspectors, and/or engineers so that all portions of the Speedway are brought up to current county and state codes, regulations and noise ordinances. Also ensure the facility has obtained all county and state permits, including an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required.

Board of Supervisors Response: This recommendation will not be implemented as recommended. At the time improvements were undertaken County and City staff inspected the site and required that remedial improvements, primarily related to drainage and erosion, be undertaken. These improvements were subsequently reviewed by staff. The County believes that the appropriate mechanism to address the issues related to the speedway is through a new operating agreement. As part of the evaluation and further development of the new operating agreement, appropriate staff will be engaged from various functional areas of expertise to analyze conditions and ensure appropriate elements are addressed. The County will work diligently with the Fair Association to closely review the concerns of the Grand Jury and implement appropriate remedies as legally required. Discussions concerning a revised agreement are on-going. The revised agreement will provide additional controls that will address many of the concerns posed by City residents.

2. The Board of Supervisors gives the Fair Association 90 days upon the publication of this report to accept and sign a new operating agreement, which includes addressing resolution of the aforementioned Speedway issues.

Board of Supervisors Response: Unfortunately, this recommendation cannot be implemented within the timeframes specified. The County is committed to completing a new operating agreement with the Placer County Fair Association, but any such agreement must be developed bi-laterally; the County cannot simply demand that the Fair Association sign an agreement. Presently, both parties have entered into discussions concerning a revised agreement and the County is committed to completing a new agreement that addresses concerns raised as quickly as possible.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the work of the 2010-11 Placer County Grand Jury in their report regarding the All American Speedway. The County is fully committed to resolving the issues stemming from increased noise and other impacts in the area related to improvements to the speedway. The Placer County Planning Department and Department of Facility Services have been requested to respond the Findings and Recommendations and will provide a more detailed response to this report in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Weygandt, Chairman
Placer County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tom Miller, CEO, County of Placer
Roseville City Council
Mike Blair, Chief of Police, Roseville Police Department
Joan Bartosik, CEO, Placer County Fair Association

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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District 3

KIRK UHLER
District 4

JENNIFER MONTGOMERY
District 5



April 5, 2011

Alan Pineschi, Presiding Judge
Placer County Superior Court
P. O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

Re: 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report – All American Speedway Noise: Placer County Oversight Failure

Dear Mr. Monaco,

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Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Fact. The City of Roseville does not have land use jurisdiction over the fairground property.

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Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this Finding. The County cannot confirm that nearby residents have lost value of their homes or that their quality of

life suffers from these improvements or that these improvements significantly increased these conditions over historical patterns.

2. By not addressing the noise and air pollution created by the Speedway, Placer County has failed to protect the health and safety of the citizens living near the All American Speedway.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with this Finding. Representatives from the County and the City of Roseville met with the Fair Association Director and Board members of the Fair Association Board specifically to address concerns raised relative to operation of the racetrack on April 16, 2007 including noise, parking and drainage improvements. The County has consistently encouraged the Fair Association to address complaints, and continues to work to put a new agreement in place that will contractually address complaint resolution.

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Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with this Finding. The County was unaware of the Fair Association's plans to improve the racetrack prior to track improvements being completed, as referenced in the December 13, 2006 letter. The letter references the improvements as having been completed, "The relocation of on/off ramps required widening of the back straightaway approximately 30 feet. Also, during the safety improvements the track was extended north approximately 70 feet and the banking increased in turns three and four to provide additional racing surface for competitors to avoid disabled-wrecked vehicles, increasing competitor safety and reducing potential injury. After being informed, the County met and otherwise communicated on numerous occasions with the Fair Association and the City of Roseville to discuss the improvements and ways to mitigate complaints

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Board of Supervisors Response: The County partially disagrees with this Finding. As noted above, meetings were initiated with the City of Roseville and with the Fair Association to discuss the racetrack specifically. For example, the County initiated a meeting with the City of Roseville and the Fair Association on April 16, 2007 where there was consensus reached for the Fair Association to follow up to address complaints. The Fair Association worked with the City and the County to address concerns identified relative to noise and drainage and met with residents to discuss remedies being implemented. The County has consistently encouraged the Fair Association to address complaints, and continues to work to put a new agreement in place that will contractually address complaint resolution. Presently, the parties are discussing a revised agreement.

Recommendations of the Grand Jury

1. The Board of Supervisors ensure the entire All American Speedway has been examined by county building inspectors, and/or engineers so that all portions of the Speedway are brought up to current county and state codes, regulations and noise ordinances. Also ensure the facility has obtained all county and state permits, including an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required.

Board of Supervisors Response: This recommendation will not be implemented as recommended. At the time improvements were undertaken County and City staff inspected the site and required that remedial improvements, primarily related to drainage and erosion, be undertaken. These improvements were subsequently reviewed by staff. The County believes that the appropriate mechanism to address the issues related to the speedway is through a new operating agreement. As part of the evaluation and further development of the new operating agreement, appropriate staff will be engaged from various functional areas of expertise to analyze conditions and ensure appropriate elements are addressed. The County will work diligently with the Fair Association to closely review the concerns of the Grand Jury and implement appropriate remedies as legally required. Discussions concerning a revised agreement are on-going. The revised agreement will provide additional controls that will address many of the concerns posed by City residents.

2. The Board of Supervisors gives the Fair Association 90 days upon the publication of this report to accept and sign a new operating agreement, which includes addressing resolution of the aforementioned Speedway issues.

Board of Supervisors Response: Unfortunately, this recommendation cannot be implemented within the timeframes specified. The County is committed to completing a new operating agreement with the Placer County Fair Association, but any such agreement must be developed bi-laterally; the County cannot simply demand that the Fair Association sign an agreement. Presently, both parties have entered into discussions concerning a revised agreement and the County is committed to completing a new agreement that addresses concerns raised as quickly as possible.

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Sincerely,

Robert M. Weygandt, Chairman
Placer County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tom Miller, CEO, County of Placer
Roseville City Council
Mike Blair, Chief of Police, Roseville Police Department
Joan Bartosik, CEO, Placer County Fair Association

DATE 3-23-11
 Board of Supervisors - 5
 County Executive Office
 County Counsel
 Administrative Assistant
 Holly H. CEO

RECEIVED
MAR 23 2011
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

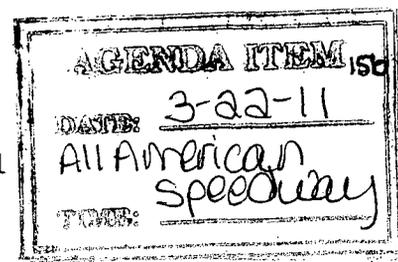
From: Gary Dees [mailto:gntdees@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Subject: March 22nd Agenda Item 15B - Response to Grand Jury Report All American Speedway

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Gary Dees – Resident City of Roseville

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report of February 1, 2011

March 21, 2011



I have reviewed the formal response prepared to the Grand Jury Report and find the following discrepancy.

The discrepancy is that on page 3 # 2 and page 4 of the response to the Findings of the Grand Jury. The county has done it's diligence in addressing environmental impacts of citizens living near the All American Speedway. The county has consistently communicated with and met with citizens who registered complaints. **I have never been contacted by anyone from the County.** Below is some background on my own experience with the raceway noise issue and would seem to support my concerns with the track going back to the spring of 2007.

I have lived within the City of Roseville boundaries for 23 years and approximately 1.50 miles away from the Fairgrounds. At no time prior to the Spring of 2007 was the raceway a noise pollution issue. In fact, the vast majority of the time we were not even aware that there were races being conducted. During the 2nd half of 2006 we did notice construction occurring at the fairgrounds and specifically the raceway. Unknown to us at that time was that this was a major expansion that would allow the fair to conduct **NASCAR** sanctioned events.

In the spring of 2007 we did begin to notice that we could hear the cars from the race track. What we heard were tires screeching, engine back fires, revving of engines, braking and skidding. We also began to hear the speakers from the fairgrounds which included race commentary and music at times. This noise become intrusive and was causing significant noise in our back yard as well as inside our house. We could not enjoy our backyard over the noise of the cars. These noises were not only occurring on Saturdays (race day) but on what were supposed to be the only practice days authorized for car owners (Thursday and Friday). The practice days were never enforced as we heard cars practicing at different times on several days of any week. In addition they were racing past 10 PM until 11 PM or later on Saturday's. For a point of reference of how loud the noise was during the races. We could be in our house with a DVD movie playing and surround sound on and we could hear the cars over the movie. We are a 1.5 miles from the race track.

After several calls to the City of Roseville, Roseville PD and the County of Placer we were told we would have to contact the fair board as the track resides on county property and they had a use permit. We proceeded to contact the fair grounds and were referred to a gentleman named Brock Wimberely. We discussed our concerns with Mr. Wimberely and asked him if any

changes had been made to the speedway. We also inquired if more powerful cars were now racing at the track. He said that some minor remodels had occurred and that to his knowledge more powerful cars would not be racing. I asked him if NASCAR races were going to be held and he stated not to his knowledge. We told him that we had lived in the City for 20 years at the time and in all those years the cars could not be heard at our house (1.50 miles away). He was receptive to our concerns and said that they had been aware of other complaints and were going to take actions to mitigate them. Those mitigation's did not occur and we did not hear from Brock Wimberely again and were then referred to Dennis Gage.

Not satisfied with the information provided by Mr. Wimberely I conducted some rudimentary investigations and found out that in fact the track had been lengthened and widened to meet NASCAR standards. It was now a sanctioned NASCAR track which allowed more powerful cars to race. It is ironic that several of the Grand Jury findings support my own findings from that time. Following several more races I wrote a letter to the editor of the Press Tribune which was published on June 27, 2007 outlining the above concerns (see attachment). I would think this would reinforce that I was a vocal complainant so not sure why I was never contacted by the County.

Brock Wimberely was soon replaced by Dennis Gage. Let's just say Dennis was not even remotely receptive to the idea that the races were causing any issues to the residents. He came to my house with a member of the fair board one Saturday evening and stood in my back yard as the cars were racing and stated that the track had not been expanded and that more powerful cars were not racing. Gave us his cell # and told us to call when we could hear the cars and that he would work to resolve. We proceeded to call Dennis that night and regularly throughout the fall of 2007 and throughout 2008. Throughout this time there were no noticeable changes in the noise levels of the track and the loud speakers. The speakers were so loud we could hear the drivers name and car number being announced as well as their pole positions. During this time we contacted the City of Roseville, Placer County and the Fairgrounds regularly. We would express our concerns that the raceway races were running consistently later than 10 AM (many times to 11 or later) on Saturday evenings. Cars were practicing at all times and all days of the week. I can recall one conversation where I contacted Mr. Gage on a weekday and told him a car was practicing and he said he was at the fairgrounds and would pull the car off the track. I am not sure where the communication breakdown was at the track that day but that never occurred. There are so many examples like this that it would serve no purpose other than to reinforce the lack of concern towards the residents. The City of Roseville was always receptive to my complaints but we are always referred back to the County and the Fair Board.

Feel free to contact me at any time.

Gary Dees
916-771-3070

Opinion

Neighbor no fan of noise at NASCAR races

I must report that yesterday evening and last night were the most invasive to date in terms of the noise from the speedway. From the cars' engines backfiring to the the screeching tires and noise from engines revving

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up, it was enough to drive us inside our house once again. Even inside, we were forced to turn up the volume on our television to drown out the noise as they continued to race until 11:05 p.m.

I spoke to Brock (Wimberley, CEO of the Placer County Fair) first thing this morning as I could not reach him on his cell phone last night. I voiced my most serious complaint about the noise to date. He was, as usual, receptive to my complaints and understood how invasive the noise is on our neighborhood. He indicated, however, that they did not have the manpower to begin working on installing the plywood on the fence. I am still not convinced this will suffice in reducing the noise to acceptable levels. There needs to be a sound barrier or other acoustical material utilized to ensure the noise levels dissipate. If this cannot be corrected, then the speedway should not be allowed to operate.

My family has lived in Roseville for 20 years with the knowledge of the fairgrounds and the racetrack. Until this year, the noise coming from the speedway was not invasive. I still believe this is a result of the

reconfiguration and enlarging of the track. This has made it possible for the cars to reach higher speeds and rpm's on a longer straightaway, which I believe has had a tremendous impact on the noise levels.

I have not researched this matter, but I would find it hard to believe that few, if any, other municipalities have racetracks in the middle of a city, let alone in residential areas.

I still cannot seem to find out from the city or county if any environmental impact study was completed prior to the renovation. I am of the belief now that since I cannot get a definitive answer that in all likelihood an environmental impact study was not conducted. I believe this is a violation of current laws.

We are at our wits' end on this whole issue. We are not only concerned about the noise and its impact on our lives as well as our neighbors and guests, but also on the real estate value of our home. We have deep roots in this community and have always felt the city work in the best interests of its residents.

With this in mind, I am requesting the city take a stronger position on getting corrective action taken by the Placer County Fairgrounds.

**Gary Dees,
Roseville**

Helmet laws need to be enforced for everyone

I live in Roseville and own a motorcycle. What is the chance I could drive through Roseville without a helmet and not get a

ticket? No chance. But how many kids do you see riding bicycles and scooters without a helmet? I live across from a park and I see it all the time.

What does it take for police officers to enforce the law that helmets have to be worn by people under the age of 18 when riding a bicycle or scooter? Does a child have to die first? If you are over 18 and don't wear a helmet, you are not breaking the law, you are just stupid. But unless I am mistaken, if you are under 18, helmets are mandatory.

I am not blaming the Police Department; they have priorities. But I would like the City Council to vote to make the enforcement of the helmet law a priority. Confiscate their bikes if they don't have a helmet and

make their parents go to the Police Department, show them that their kids have a helmet and have the parents explain why they are allowing their children to ride their bikes without a helmet.

Kids don't wear helmets because they are not used to all kids wore helmets, then helmets would become "cool". Besides, in today's society of kid dies because he or she is not wearing a helmet, the parents will sue the city for not enforcing the helmet law. Are you know that some kids who never wore a helmet would be stupid enough to ride in favor of the parents who were stupid enough to let their kids ride a bike without a helmet.

**Brad Ness
Roseville**

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