

## Northern California Report

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We all hear the daily stories about horses leaving our state by the day, you continue to hear about owners no longer able to afford the horses, or you hear about one breeder after the next cutting back on the amount of horses they plan to breed. Unfortunately, this has become everyday talk amongst the horsemen both North and South. Is there any hope? Well, if the message being sent from the State Capital in Sacramento that Governor Schwarzenegger wants to help racing is his final year in office is true, yes, there is hope. Racing is in desperate need of some legislation that will help build our purses that continue to shrink. To have the Governor personally backing legislation can only help, right?

Here is what we know: The racing lobbyists were called to a meeting with the Governor's staff in January. They were told to get all the industry members to reach a consensus and bring back language on legislation that the industry could support. The CHRB then followed that meeting with a Legislative Committee meeting on March 4 at the Capital in which all segments of the industry were asked for ideas and/or a wish list for legislative action. The most common themes expressed centered on instant racing machines, establishing a betting exchange, and rewording the mileage restrictions concerning the mini-satellites. The CHRB, under the new chairman, Keith Brackpool, is determined to put forth a comprehensive legislative package that all of racing could support, but more importantly, get the Governor's backing. Rest assured, the CTT is very much involved and engaged in all these talks!

The Tapeta surface at Golden Gate Fields got a much needed re-application of wax and new fibers on March 15 and 16. Over the past few months, the track superintendent at GGF constantly had to apply band-aide techniques to keep the surface together as it seemed like the materials had completely been washed away. In fact, an application of wax never did take hold in November. Management is keenly aware that many trainers had lost confidence in the surface since so many horses were being injured and/or just not liking the surface itself. They have assured us that they will apply wax and fibers as many times in a given year that is necessary. The surface will be re-evaluated this summer and it will be then determined when a new application of materials should be applied. Meanwhile, the CTT will be working very closely with the GGF management to communicate any lingering problems with the surface.

Unfortunately, the purses at GGF were cut by approximately 8% when the most recent condition book was released. The TOC and GGF management decided to cut 4 stakes and reduce 2 others. The 8% cut was applied across all categories except that the bottom purse was not affected. It is hoped that this action will stabilize the purse pool all the way thru the Fall meet. Hopefully by that time, we will have some positive news regarding some legislative relief to help enhance our purses. We sure need it!