



April 8, 2019

Rick Baedeker, Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Baedeker,

When animals are used for sport and entertainment purposes, one preventable death is a grave concern. Twenty-three unexplained fatal injuries in three months at a single facility is a crisis that demands a full stop and comprehensive review. Santa Anita Park has reached this tipping point with the shocking deaths of 23 of its horses since December 26.

I hope you agree that the safety and welfare of these equine athletes are paramount to all other considerations, and while we appreciate Santa Anita Park's recently-announced medical and procedural safety reforms, it appears these measures will not adequately resolve the crisis.

We join Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board, and others in urging the California Horse Racing Board and the Stronach Group to immediately suspend all racing and training until an exact cause of these tragic deaths can be pinpointed and addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Bershadker  
President & CEO  
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

cc: Tim Ritvo  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Stronach Group