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Dear Dave Kegebein and Santa Cruz County Fair Board of Directors,

It has been brought to my attention that the Santa Cruz County Animal Services is bringing a new model ordinance to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for approval soon. I understand it is going before the Santa Cruz County Fair Board prior to the SC County Supervisors. I have reviewed different editions of the document and have many concerns.

One of my biggest concerns, that would directly affect the fairgrounds, is proposed ordinance **6.04.250 Prohibition on using live animals for entertainment and purposes**. This ordinance states “The use of animals as a form of amusement or entertainment in events such as circuses or rodeos is detrimental to the safety of the animals and the public, including children and trainers.” This statement is very subjective and when left up to interpretation could be an issue for the SCC Fair for all animal events. “Wild animals pose a significant danger to audience members, trainers, and the public at large.” I want to clarify that horses and cattle are *not* wild animals. They are domestic animals, livestock. To group together circuses and rodeos based on the use of “wild animals” is false representation of the groups. Additionally, to limit all circuses would be unfortunate as most events that call themselves circuses only have domestic animals in their acts. There are many types of circuses that use domestic livestock, including horses that would be great for the Fair Grounds to host, such as Cavalia. I enjoy taking my daughters to the reptile and insect tents and visiting the camels during the fair. In the ordinance, “Wild Animals” would include these species. Does this mean the snake wrangler and camel rides will be prohibited?

“Travel or confinement impairs the animals’ physical, psychological, and social needs, while close confinement, lack of exercise, pressure to perform, and other physical requirements of performing render the animals unable to express natural behaviors and socialize appropriately.” This is false information about how rodeo livestock are handled and maintained. When not at a rodeo, rodeo livestock live in large pastures and are under great care.

“This section does not apply to equestrian events except for those banned by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)”. The USEF should not be the only governing body for equestrian events. The USEF excludes many events and breeds, including the largest breed associations in the United States, the American Quarter Horse Association and the Jockey Club that registers Thoroughbreds. It also excludes many

disciplines, such as cutting, reined cow horse, roping, team penning, team sorting, gymkhanas, and barrel racing. These disciplines are represented under American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA), among many other associations. Not being more inclusive of the governing body(ies) for equestrian events in this ordinance will have a negative impact on revenue for SCC Fair Grounds, as many events not governed by USEF are hosted at the Fair Grounds.

I am afraid blanket ordinances banning one type of event like circuses and rodeos will inadvertently ban many events that the Fair Grounds currently supports and hosts. I sincerely hope the SCC Fair Board thoroughly reviews all aspects of the new model ordinance presented by SCC Animal Services. I am afraid our ranching and farming heritage, and the future of what county fairs represent are at risk. There is a lot at stake for the SCC Fair if the model ordinance gets passed as it is being presented at this time.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me if you have any questions of my concerns 831-818-2848.

Sincerely,

Kristi Locatelli

COO, Wild Roots Market

Owner, Zayante Creek Equestrian Center – Horse Boarding Facility

Board Member, Locatelli Deer Creek Ranch – Alfalfa and Cattle Ranch