

## The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street, Room 107  
Martinez, California 94553-1293

John M. Gioia, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Candace Andersen, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Diane Burgis, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Karen Mitchoff, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Federal D. Glover, 5<sup>th</sup> District

## Contra Costa County



David J. Twa  
Clerk of the Board  
And  
County Administrator  
(925) 335-1900

December 4, 2018

Robert Hoffner, President  
23<sup>rd</sup> District Agricultural Association  
1201 West 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Antioch, CA 94509

**Subject:** Firearm Possession and Sale on Contra Costa County Fairgrounds' Property

Dear Mr. Hoffner,

In 1996, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution requesting the Contra Costa County Fair Board discontinue gun shows at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds. In 2004, the Board of Supervisors conveyed to the 23<sup>rd</sup> District Agricultural Association the support of a policy prohibiting the sale of firearms and ammunition. However, gun shows continue to be allowed at the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds.

Gun violence and gun-related injuries and deaths continue to be critical public health concerns. The Board of Supervisors continues to support a policy that would prohibit the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds from being used in the proliferation of this critical public health hazard. As the nation grapples with the effects of mass shootings, the 23<sup>rd</sup> District Agricultural Association has the responsibility to determine if facilitating guns shows on public property is the message to be sending to the public.

Accidental discharge of a firearm is always a risk when handling firearms. Located near the Fairgrounds are a number of sensitive public areas, including a Head Start facility (a kindergarten readiness program) that is located on the Fairground property. Within 500 feet of the Fairgrounds property is Antioch High School and Fairview Park. Also nearby is Live Oak High School, Antioch Middle School, and Fremont Elementary School.

Alameda, Marin, Sonoma, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties have banned the possession of firearms and ammunition at their county-owned fairgrounds, and Los Angeles County has banned firearm and ammunition sales on its county-owned fairgrounds. The Board of Supervisors does recognize that the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds is on state property governed by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Agricultural District Association whereas the aforementioned counties own and control their respective fairgrounds. However, in September 2018, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural District governing the Del Mar Fairgrounds recently voted to postpone gun shows for up to a year, while it studies this same issue.

The Board of Supervisors respects the right of Contra Costa County residents to lawfully possess and use firearms, but is also committed to supporting policies that promote the health and safety of all county residents. On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I am requesting the Board of Directors of the 23<sup>rd</sup> District Agricultural Association to consider prohibiting the possession of firearms and ammunition, including the purchase, sale, and discharge of firearms and ammunition, on the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds' property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Mitchoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Mitchoff" clearly legible.

Karen Mitchoff, Chair  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, District IV

*Enclosure*

Engel St

Macaulay St

Cook St

Medanos St

Leggett St

W 14th St

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