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SAVE THE FAIR!

The Sonoma-Marin Fair Board Wants to Hear from You at a Town Hall Meeting

PETALUMA, CA (March 28, 2023) -- The Sonoma-Marin Fair Board is hosting a Town Hall on **Wednesday, April 5, at 5:30 p.m.** at the Herzog Hall at the Petaluma fairgrounds. The purpose of the meeting is to allow for public response to the Petaluma City Council's recent decision to take over management of the Petaluma fairgrounds. If City leadership continues with its plan, control of the 55-acre facility will transfer to the City on **January 1, 2024**.

The Council's decision has raised concerns from the public about the future of the annual beloved Sonoma-Marin Fair and the property's longevity for evacuation and community events. The Petaluma voters acquired the property in 1910 through a \$20,000 park bond. Since 1936, the 4th District Agricultural Association - the state entity that provides the annual Sonoma-Marin Fair, has been leasing the property from the City.

The multi-faceted, year-round function of the fairgrounds has become essential to our community in many ways – all at no cost to the City of Petaluma or its taxpayers. The 4th District Agricultural Association has invested millions of dollars in making our fairgrounds what they are today.

Not only is the facility used for the annual fair event, but it serves as an evacuation center during natural disasters, sustains the legacy of Petaluma's rich agricultural heritage, and is a community meeting place for private events like Quinceaneras, nonprofit fundraisers, year-round schools, daycare centers, car racing, and festivals. For decades, the Fair Board has been asking the City to consider a 40-year or longer lease so the 4th DAA can apply for state funding and grants to upgrade the facility with a

focus on serving northern California with a multi-million resilience center, improved community gathering center, and park improvements.

To learn more about the fairgrounds' future and to RSVP for the April 5 meeting, visit www.sonoma-marinfair.org.

Join us for the Sonoma-Marín Fair **from June 21-25, 2023**. Enjoy five fun-filled days of FREE concerts, unlimited carnival rides, the World's Ugliest Dog contest, action-packed Pit Stop USA Sprint Car Racing, fun games & contests, delicious fair food, and more. Be the first to know about the fun by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We'll see you at the Fair! For details, visit Sonoma-marinfair.org or call (707) 283-3247.

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