

# STAFF REPORT

## City of Lancaster

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MVB

Date: July 26, 2011

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Mark V. Bozigian, City Manager

Subject: **Approval of Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the City of Lancaster and the 50<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and improving the facilities and functions of the Association**

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### **Recommendation:**

Approve a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the City of Lancaster and the 50<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association (Association) for the purpose of operating, maintaining, and improving the facilities and functions of the Association.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

No direct financial impact to the City as the operations, maintenance, and improvement of Association facilities and functions are funded from existing Association budgets and revenues. It is anticipated that additional staff resources will be required for coordination between the City and Association; this will be absorbed utilizing existing staffing.

### **Background:**

In September of 2010, California State Senate Bill No. 1085 (SB 1085) was signed into law. SB 1085 authorized, with the consent of the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Association to enter into a joint powers agreement for the purpose of creating a joint powers agency to operate, maintain, and improve the facilities and functions of the Association. Staff has been in discussions with staff of the Association to develop a framework and proposed JPA to establish a joint powers agency as authorized by state law. The JPA recommended for Council approval has been approved by the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and will be considered by the Board of Directors of the Association at their July 28, 2011 meeting.

Over the past few years, the California State legislature and Governor's Office have approved legislation that many times has eroded local control of local affairs. SB 1085 offers the community an opportunity to ensure and enhance local control of a critically important community asset, the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, along with ensuring the continuation of high quality events for the benefit of the Antelope Valley and the regional economy. As referenced in the attached correspondence from the Department of Food and Agriculture, it also offers the State a model for partnerships with other local communities statewide. This is an opportunity for the State of California and local government to work together for the mutual benefit of both entities and the citizens we serve.

The current Fair Board and staff have done an excellent job in managing the facilities and events of the 50<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association. The City of Lancaster, and the unincorporated community of Lancaster prior to City incorporation, have always been home to the Fairgrounds and have always actively supported the Antelope Valley Fair and Fairgrounds as important assets of the Antelope Valley. Not the least of this support was the City's role and monetary contribution to the relocation of the Fairgrounds to its current location. The proposed JPA is a continuation and natural progression of the long-standing beneficial partnership between the City and Association.

**Attachments:**

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

Correspondence from California Department of Food and Agriculture