

Date of Hearing: June 4, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 173 (Alvarado-Gil) – As Amended June 1, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month.

SUMMARY: Designates the month of May 2026 as California Fairgrounds Appreciation Month in appreciation of the services provided to California by the 77 fairgrounds and 78 fairs in the state. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) As early California communities were developing, the demand for fairgrounds in the Golden State emerged rapidly, so fairgrounds were established to address the communal necessity to maintain a platform for farmers, artisans, and inventors to showcase their products and produce.
- 2) The California Legislature founded the State Agricultural Society in 1854 to address the demand to hold a statewide exhibition of livestock and agricultural products. The initial success of the State Agricultural Society served as a catalyst for the establishment of California's first State Fair, hosted in 1854 by the City of San Francisco, where agricultural exhibitions were organized to showcase local produce and livestock.
- 3) The Dixon May Fair of 1876 was California's first county fair and was vastly different from the fairs Californians cherish presently because it was a community picnic of sorts to honor the Spring season. Soon after the Dixon May Fair of 1876, the tradition of counties hosting fairs accessible for all Californians to enjoy spread throughout the Golden State, with each region developing its own unique customs and flair.
- 4) California's 77 fairgrounds and 78 fairs serve the entire state with some of the most notable fairs including the California State Fair, the San Diego County Fair, the Big Fresno Fair, the Alameda County Fair, the Amador County Fair, and the Los Angeles County Fair.
- 5) Fairgrounds host a wide array of events, from county fairs and agricultural expositions to concerts, trade shows, and festivals, attracting millions of visitors annually who stimulate local economies by driving demand for hospitality services, including hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments.
- 6) California's fairgrounds provide safe public facilities specifically designed for animals, pets, and livestock during the fair season, natural disasters, and states of emergencies. During a state of emergency, a natural disaster, or the ongoing impacts of climate change, California fairgrounds are called into service as medical sites, staging areas for emergency equipment and emergency personnel, and evacuation sites to assist those displaced by a fire or flood.
- 7) One of the primary functions of fairgrounds is to celebrate and preserve California's rich agricultural heritage and to emphasize the significance of agriculture, helping to ensure that this vital industry continues to thrive.

- 8) Fairs offer a platform for programs foundational to the agricultural education of youth, including Future Farmers of America, the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, and the University of California 4-H Youth Development Program, to educate the public and students by hosting displays of livestock, produce, and horticulture and by offering insight into sustainable farming practices and the latest advancements in agricultural technology.
- 9) The future of fairgrounds lies in their ability to adapt to changing social and economic landscapes while preserving the traditions that make them so beloved and as California continues to grow and evolve, so too must these iconic venues to remain operational.
- 10) By providing a space for community gathering, economic activity, and cultural celebration, fairgrounds will remain an integral part of California's identity as they are not just a part of the state's history, but a vibrant and essential element of its future.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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