



May 22, 2023

Chairman James Boswell and Members of the Board  
LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT (LARPD)  
4444 East Avenue  
Livermore, CA 94550

Dear Chairman Boswell and Members:

To their good credit (following the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' lead), the Livermore Rodeo folks recently dropped the non-sanctioned, brutal and sometimes-fatal "wild cow milking contest" from the rodeo program. Kudos for that.

But good intentions are not enough, and boards change. What is needed is an ongoing WRITTEN rodeo policy, something akin to the one adopted by HARD's Rowell Ranch Rodeo back in 1987, and reviewed annually. (I believe you have a copy of the HARD policy.) There also needs to be a serious discussion, with public notice and participation, of banning traumatic events involving young animals, such a calf roping.

At the very least, such a policy should ban cruel and non-sanctioned events such as "wild cow milking," "mutton busting" (banned by the County Board of Supervisors in 2019), and all animal "scrambles." There should also be a veterinarian ON-SITE at every rodeo event. This has long been a requirement at racetracks, horse shows and endurance rides. Should hold true for all rodeos, too.

I believe that such a policy would benefit animals and the rodeo alike, and certainly have the support of the general public, the veterinary profession, and help deflect some of the growing rodeo criticism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Sapontzis  
President