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PUBLIC STATEMENT

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21ST DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION BOARD ANNOUNCES DECISION REGARDING THE BILLY J. HARGROVE & ASSOCIATES BIG FRESNO FLEA MARKET & SWAP MEET AND INITIATES NEW FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SWAP MEET CONTRACT

On March 24, 2009, the 21st District Agricultural Association (District) Board of Directors elected to not pursue further examination of Billy J. Hargrove & Associates, the operator of the Big Fresno Flea Market & Swap Meet (Swap Meet), at this time following an in-depth review of financial records and accounting practices by commissioned accounting firm Baker, Peterson & Franklin, CPA, LLP and independent counsel for the District did not find sufficient evidence to either confirm or refute that Billy J. Hargrove & Associates engaged in an intentional practice of underreporting gross revenues to the District as claimed in the Fresno County Sheriff's Department investigative reports filed in 2007 and brought to the attention of the District in May 2008. Throughout the District's internal investigation, all parties involved participated with a high level of cooperation which was integral to the integrity of the review.

The District will continue to honor the Swap Meet contract with the implementation of accounting practices as outlined in the Independent Accountant's Report completed by Baker, Peterson & Franklin, CPA, LLP. In preparation for the conclusion of the Swap Meet contract set to expire November 16, 2009, the District will immediately initiate the formation of a formal Request for Proposal (RFP), which has already received unsolicited competitive interest from 10 organizations. The RFP will be for a new multi-year contract and will not include operation of parking for interim events such as the Hmong International New Year Celebration and Home & Garden Show. The District will also contract with Baker, Peterson & Franklin, CPA, LLP to augment the District's oversight of contractual financial processes of the Swap Meet operation.

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