



**TEXAS RACING COMMISSION**

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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Austin: At a special meeting of the Texas Racing Commission held in Houston on October 29, 2008, the Commission granted Sam Houston Race Park's request to cancel their fall Thoroughbred meet scheduled to start on November 28, 2008 through April 4, 2009. SHRP's facility sustained major damages when Hurricane Ike moved through the Houston area on September 13, 2008. The Commission also approved Retama Park's request to add 43 dates to their current meet, with Thoroughbred racing continuing from November 20, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

Commissioners heard reports from Andrea Young, Chief Operating Officer of SHRP and SHRP's consultant, Chris Gage with BMS CAT, a company that specializes in commercial and industrial property damage restoration.

Gage described the major damage to the grandstand roof, tote board, track lighting, surface and rails, barns and dorms. According to Gage, both the grandstand and pavilion roofs must be completely replaced due to systemic roof failure. The tote board was destroyed beyond repair and must also be replaced. Barn Q, the biggest barn on the backside, was damaged and its dorms, along with all of the dorms on the backside must be renovated. He described other smaller scale damages throughout the park. SHRP's has targeted an April 1, 2009 completion date for all repairs.

The meeting, held at SHRP, included a tour, as Gage led the Commissioners and meeting attendees on a review of the damaged areas, including the backside barns, dorms and infield tote board.

The Commission also heard from industry representatives and horsemen concerned about the lack of training facilities now that Retama Park will be racing through the winter months. Charla Ann King, Executive Director of the Racing Commission, reported that staff is working to expedite licensing two new training centers that may provide some additional stalls.