



B O A R D O F S U P E R V I S O R S

August 9, 2022

The Honorable Board of Supervisor
County Administration Building
1221 Oakland Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

Subject: ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.08 OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE TO PROHIBIT SPECIFIED DEVICES
AND WILD COW MILKNG

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the ordinance amendment related to prohibited activities and devices at rodeo events in unincorporated Alameda County; approve adoption of ordinance chapter 5.08 prohibiting wild cow milking and the usage of specified devices at rodeo events.

BACKGROUND:

On November 5, 2019 at the Board of Supervisors regular meeting, your board adopted an ordinance amendment adding section 5.08.175 to the county ordinance code to prohibit sheep riding/mutton busting upon receiving an informational report reviewing Animal Control regulations pertaining to rodeo activities at the Board Planning Meeting on January 15, 2019. Issues pertaining to wild cow milking and other practices were also presented, however, only sheep riding/mutton busting was addressed in the adoption of the ordinance amendment. Scrutiny continues to exist due to the potential harm to rodeo participants and animals specifically relating to the event of wild cow milking and the usage of specified devices such as bucking straps, spurs, and non-release ropes.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

Rodeo activities are regulated under Chapter 5 of the Ordinance Code and certain activities are prohibited in Article II of the Ordinance. Adopted in 1993, language specific to rodeos was presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption, as concerns were raised related to the treatment of animals. The existing ordinance currently prohibits intentionally tripping or felling equine or bovine animals and climbing on and attempting to ride ovine animals. The ordinance was last changed on November 5, 2019 with the adoption of an ordinance prohibiting sheep riding/mutton busting.

The attached ordinance reflects and addresses public concerns around wild cow milking and the usage of specified devices such as bucking straps, spurs, and non-release ropes.

Alameda County has a long history of agriculture and rodeo activities. However, concerns have been raised over the years that the current regulations are not adequate to address on-going rodeo activities that are considered unsafe for participants and unnecessarily cruel and/or inhumane to the animals involved. Devices such as spurs cause blunt trauma to animals' shoulders, and bucking straps cause painful irritation to their abdomens, including open wounds and burns. In addition, animals used in roping practice and events have suffered torn ligaments, broken ribs, punctured lungs, severed spinal cords and tracheas, and internal hemorrhaging. Breakaway ropes allow the animals to be released immediately without a sudden stop or fall. Furthermore, the wild cow milking competition, where lactating beef cattle that are not used to human handling are released, caught, and milked for sport, is not a sanctioned event by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA).

This ordinance amendment expands upon existing code to promote public health, safety, and welfare through the regulation and control of people's use and keeping of animals.

Active rodeos in the County are mostly found at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, in the City of Livermore, and at the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Park located near the City of Dublin. Rowell Ranch Rodeo, owned and operated through the Hayward Area Recreational District is within the unincorporated area, and would be required to abide by any County ordinance.

Animal Control in the Alameda County Sheriff's Office is responsible for enforcing Chapter 5 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code.

FINANCING:

There is no increase in Net County Cost as a result of this action.

VISION 2026 GOAL:

The ordinance amendment supports our shared vision of **Safe and Livable Communities** by promoting public health, safety, and welfare as well as the humane care for animals.

Respectfully,



Richard Valle
Alameda County Supervisor, District 2



Dave Brown
Alameda County Supervisor, District 3

cc: Sheriff's Office
County Counsel

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.08 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE
TO PROHIBIT SPECIFIED DEVICES AND WILD COW MILKING

SECTION I

In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda makes the following findings:

- a. The County of Alameda ("County") intends to promote public health, safety and welfare through the regulation and control of people's use and keeping of animals, including at certain rodeo events;
- b. Existing County Ordinance Code provisions regarding rodeos prohibit intentionally tripping or felling equine or bovine animals;
- c. Existing County Ordinance Code provisions regarding rodeos prohibit climbing on top of, riding, or attempting to ride any ovine animal (sheep), or to cause any other person to do so;
- d. The Board recognizes that the Wild Cow Milking event is not a sanctioned event by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA);
- e. The Board finds that this ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the common-sense exemption, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity subject to this ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3);
- f. Spurs cause blunt trauma to animals' shoulders, and bucking straps cause painful irritation to their abdomens, including open wounds and burns;
- g. Animals buck violently in an attempt to escape the combined torment of the spurs and bucking straps, and may suffer severe back and leg injuries from the repeated, unnatural movement;
- h. Animals used in roping practice and events have suffered torn ligaments, broken ribs, punctured lungs, severed spinal cords and tracheas, and internal hemorrhaging.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda ordains as follows:

SECTION II

The Alameda County Ordinance Code is hereby amended as follows:

Section 5.08.170 is amended to read as follows:

5.08.170 - Bovine animals.

- A. No person shall intentionally trip, drag or fell any bovine animal (including but not limited to, any steer, calf, bull, ox, heifer or cow) by the tail by any means whatsoever for the purpose of entertainment or sport, including during a rodeo or practice for a rodeo.
- B. No person shall intentionally milk or attempt to milk a lactating bovine animal (including but not limited to, any calf, ox, heifer or cow) by any means whatsoever for the purpose of entertainment or sport, including during a rodeo or practice for a rodeo.

Section 5.08.177 is added to Chapter 5.08 and reads as follows:

5.08.177 Prohibition of specified devices for equine, bovine, and ovine animals.

- A. No person shall conduct roping of any equine (including but not limited to, any horse, mare, pony, ass, donkey, burro, mule, or hinny), bovine (including but not limited to, any steer, calf, bull, ox, heifer or cow), or ovine (sheep) animal in any entertainment or sporting event, including a rodeo or practice for a rodeo, with the exception of breakaway roping, where the animal is released immediately after it is roped without the animal being subjected to a sudden stop or fall.
- B. No person shall use spurs or bucking straps upon any animal during any entertainment or sporting event, including during a rodeo or practice for a rodeo.

SECTION III

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after the date of passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it shall be published once with the names of the members voting for and against the same in the Inter-City Express, a newspaper published in the County of Alameda.

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, on the ____ day of September, 2022, by the following called vote:

AYES:

NOES:

EXCUSED:

ABSTAINED:

Keith Carson
President of the Board

ATTEST:

Anika Campbell-Belton
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Deputy

Approved as to Form:

Donna R. Ziegler, County Counsel

DocuSigned by:
By: Heather Littlejohn 7/29/2022
Heather Littlejohn Goodman
Deputy County Counsel

Agenda Item
101

Campbell-Belton, Anika, CBS

From: Patricia Quintana <pquintana3@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 11:24 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Input - Ordinance 5.08

County Administration Building
1221 Oakland Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Alameda County Board Members:

Subject: ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.08 OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE TO PROHIBIT SPECIFIED DEVICES AND WILD COW MILKING

I am writing to encourage you to please adopt the subject ordinance amendment to Chapter 5.08 for the protection of livestock in your county from acts of extreme animal cruelty. This ordinance (5.08) would ban wild cow milking and the use of bucking straps, spurs and non-release ropes during rodeo events in Alameda County.

In the United States, It is very hard to continue to fathom and process the perpetual abuse of livestock especially in the name of sport and competition. I appreciate your county's efforts and commitment to addressing animal cruelty in this area.

Most Sincerely,

Patricia Quintana

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BOS, CAO, CCO

Agenda 9.20.22

#10

Campbell-Belton, Anika, CBS

From: Linda Timmons <lindatimmons11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Clerk of the Board; Haubert, David, Supv BOS Dist 1; Miley, Nate, Supv District 4; Valle, Richard, Supv BOS Dist 2; Brown, Dave, BOS Dist 3; Carson, Keith, Supv BOS Dist 5
Subject: Changing Ordinance 5.08

Please vote NO on Changing Ordinance 5.08.

Please preserve the livelihoods of ranchers and the multitude of others who support agriculture and equestrians in rodeo and in so many other ways. Let the PRCA continue to give guidance to ensure livestock are treated humanely. Let the heritage continue as we work the land, allowing livestock to graze and help keep our open areas safe from fire and enabling the carbon footprint to be recycled into productive soil.

One final note. I have owned goats, chickens, and a horse. I took lessons to learn how to ride. Part of that was instruction after many weeks/months of riding to use spurs in a way that was not punitive or injurious to the horse. The spur was intended to give pressure to instruct the horse to move away in the direction applied. Well trained horsemen and women train their horses extensively and use little cues to obtain the desired performance. Note the observation of dancing horses or trick-riders to mention just a couple instances. Many hours are spent not to mention money that helps support our local economy in caring for our livestock.

I urge you to vote NO on this ordinance.

Thank you,
Linda Timmons

**** This email was sent from an external source. If you do not know the sender, do not click on links or attachments. ****

Bos CAO

Campbell-Belton, Anika, CBS

From: Brenda Morris <morrisranching@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Clerk of the Board; Haubert, David, Supv BOS Dist 1; Brown, Dave, BOS Dist 3; Miley, Nate, Supv District 4; Valle, Richard, Supv BOS Dist 2; Carson, Keith, Supv BOS Dist 5
Subject: September 20th Agenda Item 101 (August 9th Item 50) Opposition to Ordinance Amendment Ch 5.08 to Prohibit Specified Devices and Wild Cow Milking

September 19, 2022

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 5.08 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code to prohibit specified devices and wild cow milking. This amendment is a broad brush that also affects the ranching and equine communities by including the following statements in SECTION 1 a: "In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda makes the following findings: a. The County of Alameda ("County") intends to promote public health, safety and welfare through the regulation and control of people's use and keeping of animals, including at certain rodeo events;" and 5.08.177 Prohibition of specified devices for equine, bovine, and ovine animals; A. No person shall conduct roping of any equine..., bovine ..., or ovine...animal in any entertainment or sporting event, including a rodeo or practice for a rodeo, with the exception of breakaway roping, where the animal is released immediately after it is roped without the animal being subjected to a sudden stop or fall. B. "No person shall use spurs or bucking straps upon any animal during any entertainment or sporting event, including during a rodeo or practice for a rodeo."

These statements in Section 1 a. and 5.08.177 D have the overreaching power to regulate private and commercial owners of livestock. Title 17 Zoning Ch17.06.030 - Lists the uses allowed in the "A" district including; D. Grazing, breeding or training of horses or cattle. There are best practices already in place which includes using some of the banned devices proposed in the ordinance amendment. Spurs and ropes are devices used in gathering, doctoring, and handling cattle in daily operations. Practicing with these tools sharpens the skills of the rider and horse, but may be viewed as "entertainment or sport" from a member of the public who might view these activities from a public roadway. Amending Chapter 5.08 to include banning of these tools would contradict the list of uses allowed in the "A" district by potentially eliminating the tools that are necessary in daily operations of grazing, breeding or training of horses or cattle.

Members of my family have participated at local rodeos and we operate a commercial cattle business. Caring for the safety and welfare of our animals is our number one priority. The proper use of tools, including spurs and ropes, the County is proposing to ban, are necessary for our daily operations. The author of this ordinance may or may not have intended to create an overreach of County power in daily operations of local citizens but that will be the result if this ordinance is passed.

It is concerning to all of the agricultural community in Alameda County that there were no meetings or discussions with our community prior to posting this ordinance amendment. Some of the information in the reasons for this amendment are not accurate and should have been discussed with our community; i.e. Section 5.08.170 is amended to read as follows: " No person shall intentionally milk

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SEP 14 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

Alameda County Board Of Directors
1221 Oak St. Ste # 536
Oakland, Ca 94612

To: Board Members

It has come to my attention that a proposal before you to amend chapter 5.08 of the alameda co. ordinance that will ban the use of flank straps, spurs , tied ropes and wild cow milking. It concerns us greatly that this amendment is being proposed by the board without the input of your constituents, especially those impacted and industry professionals.

Firstly flank straps used on bucking horses, are lined with a protective covering and do not abrade the skin. They are just uncomfortable. The flanks used on bulls, are a soft rope, they do not irritate the skin. If these implements caused damage to the skin eventually there would be infection in the skin and the animals would be in pain. This would make them quit bucking, all the flanks do is a tickling affect. At all Professional Rodeos and Bull Riding Events, animals are inspected by Veterinarians and or Professional Judges at the Event, prior to competitions.

Spurs:

Spurs, used by horsemen are used very sparingly. Highly trained horses are cued with the spurs. There is no way they are used with so much pressure they would even remove a little hair. The rowels roll and are very dull. Overuse is the sign of a very unknowledgeable person. In Rodeo there are specific rules in regards to spurs. The rowels are dull and inspected by the judges, prior to the Event.

Wild Cow Milking

Cow Milking absolutely does no harm to the cow. No cow man on earth would allow their cows to be abused. They make a living with them, they raise babies for them. If anything sustains an injury it's to the cowboys in this event.

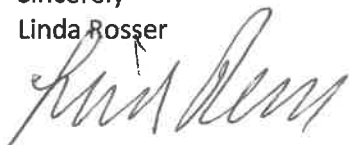
Tied Ropes

All trained or broke animals must be tied up corralled or they wander off. Even domestic dogs are leashed or put in kennels to protect them from harm.

My family has been in the Rodeo business for over 70 years. We value our Rodeo Stock, we care for them like we care for our kids. If anyone might so harm or even slight abuse to our animals will be fired or shot !!!

Please do your research and ask questions about the Western way of Life.

Sincerely
Linda Rosser

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Linda Rosser', with a small arrow pointing to the name 'Linda Rosser' in the typed text above it.

Sept. 12, 2022

I suspect the benefit of
all rodeos. The cruelty of
animals is the worse thing
ever. No animal should
be abused.

Concerning rodeo
grounds its an animal
pamper and today and
Education center would
be the best idea ever.

Eric Mida is
doing so well in the
helping of animals. STOP
The cruelty of this loving
animals please!

Melvin Woodruff

Mrs. Ronell Ialeggio
3081 Live Oak Court
Danville, Ca 94506
September 13, 2022

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, Ca. 94612

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SEP 20 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

Re: Rodeo Abuse

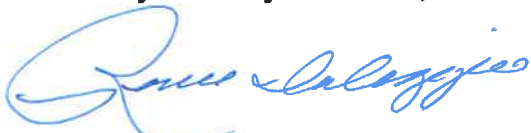
Hello,

I'm writing in concern regarding your anticipated voting on the abuses to the animals used at the Rodeos performed in your county.

I attended my last rodeo at Rowell Ranch twenty-five years ago or more and watched in horror with our children as a horse died and broke its neck bucking with a cinch tied up on the kidneys.

I urge you to vote with a conscious to stop the abuse being done to the calves, horses and cows. I had a horse for thirty years and know when animals are in fear and terror and that is what I have seen at rodeos.

Thank you for your time, efforts,



Mrs. Ronell Ialeggio

cc: BOS, CAO, CBS



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SEP 20 2022

CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS



FOREVER / USA

*Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612*

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Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

SEP 20 2022
CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

~~RE: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 5.08 of the Alameda County Ordinance~~

Dear Board Members:

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We have many businesses, nonprofits and equestrians in our community that will be devastated by this change. The change will not allow us to hold equestrian events including horse shows such as dressage, hunter/jumper and even therapy riding clinics, as well as, make ranching, team roping and rodeo in our county impossible. The economic impact to local businesses, who are already struggling, will be significant.

We encourage you to listen to your community and not discriminate against the agricultural, equestrian and ranching community. Please send the item to at least the Castro Valley, Fairview and Sunol MAC Boards and Agricultural Advisory Committee for their invaluable input and recommendations.

Please take a moment to listen and don't negatively impact our businesses, non-profits and residents without giving the MAC and Agricultural Advisory Committees the opportunity to offer their important input.

Sincerely,



cc: BOS, CAO, CBS

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

~~RE: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 5.08 of the Alameda County Ordinance~~

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Please take a moment to listen and don't negatively impact our businesses, non-profits and residents without giving the MAC and Agricultural Advisory Committees the opportunity to offer their important input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Hunter", written in a cursive style.

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SEP 20 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

OAKLAND CA 945

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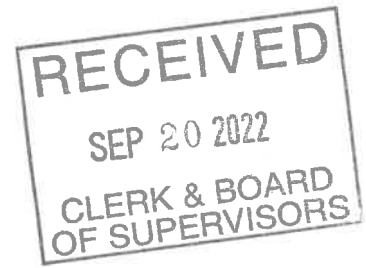
*Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Admission
1221 Oak St Suite 536
Oakland, CA. 94612*

94612-425439



September 14, 2022

The Honorable Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
chs@acgov.org



AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION

Re: Adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 5.08 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code to prohibit the use of specified devices for rodeo.

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to you as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), the largest equine breed registry in the world, requesting that you decline the adoption of amendments to Chapter 5.08 prohibiting the usage of specified devices at rodeo events. Of particular concern to AQHA is the proposed language to prohibit the use of ropes and spurs.

AQHA has more than 1,000 members in Alameda County, many of which are involved in ranching and rodeo as part of their livelihoods, and the American Quarter Horse is their breed of choice for those activities. Banning ropes will remove all roping events at rodeos, and a vital tool for ranchers to safely work and treat cattle. Furthermore, banning spurs will not only contribute to the elimination of rodeo, but will abolish all equestrian activity, such as horse shows and youth horsemanship programs.

The humane treatment of the American Quarter Horse is paramount to AQHA. To that end, AQHA established the Animal Welfare Commission (AWC), with members who are industry professionals, veterinarians and animal scientists who oversee the development and implementation of AQHA's animal welfare rules and regulations. As a result, AQHA has passed strict rules regarding safe spur use to protect the horses competing in the Association's events. We would urge you to eliminate the language banning ropes and spurs and would be happy to serve as an expert resource as you consider this proposal.

Alameda County has a rich history in agriculture, equestrian events and rodeo, and the popularity of these activities continues to grow and provide a strong economic impact for rural unincorporated Alameda County. Furthermore, these activities provide for wholesome family activities that provide for enriching experiences enhancing the human animal bond.

We encourage that you do not adopt the amendments to Chapter 5.08, which are based on unfounded animal welfare concerns supported by organizations that want to eliminate equine sports and related equestrian activities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karl Stressman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karl Stressman
AQHA CEO

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION

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SEP 20 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

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SEP 15 2022

The Honorable Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

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September 16, 2022

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SEP 21 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

Board President Keith Carson
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

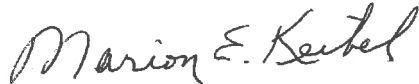
Dear Alameda County Board of Supervisors Board President Keith Carson:

I am writing you regarding an amendment to the Alameda County rodeo ordinance that you will be considering at your September 20th board hearing.

Do legislate for humane treatment of animals in rodeos—and elsewhere. To allow horrific suffering of abused life (e.g., roped calf with broken neck left to die without mercy) is despicable and degrading of the worth of life. Can you imagine the horror of untended trauma?

Thank you for taking input from your California constituents for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Marion Keibel
2108 Athene Drive, Concord, CA 94519

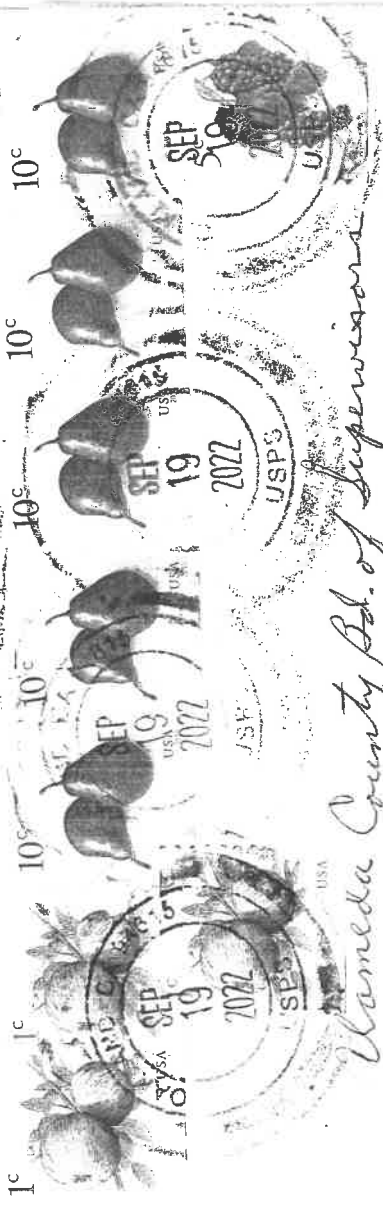
Copy to: Action for Animals

cc: BOS, CAO, CBS

K
Ms Marion Keibel
2108 Athene Dr
Concord, CA 94519-2231

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SEP 21 2022
CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS



Alameda County Bd. of Supervisors

*1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612*

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SEP 28 2022

CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

Sept. 22, 2022

Alameda County Supervisors

I wrote to you a while back about rodeos
little by little they are trying to take every
thing about the past away.

History don't mean anything anymore.
That's what bothers me. I lived around
here all my life. They don't know what
they are talking about they never seen
what me and my family seen.

Like I said before my father had draft
horses he needed them for his work, I guess
by using them for work he was abusing
them. He was proud of his horses and he
took good care of them.

Rodeos have not had its day they been
around for a long time and will be around
for a long time. I been around all kinds
of animals all my life. I had a saddle horse
and I took good care of him.

Rodeos do come from ranching and
ranching and agriculture are related
People need to mind their business

Yours, Truly
Leonard F. Rose

P.S. If it wasn't for history no body would
be where they are To day think about it.

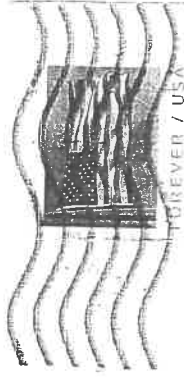
CC: BOS, CAO, CBS



Mr. Leonard Rose
P.O. Box 14401
Fremont, CA 94539-1101

OAKLAND CA 945

22 SEP 2022 PM 7 L



*Alameda County Supervisors
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, Calif. 94612*

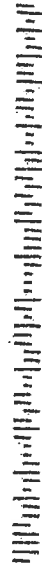
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SEP 28 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

94612-422531



Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 5.08 of the Alameda County Ordinance

Dear Board Members:

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We encourage you to listen to your community and not discriminate against the agricultural, equestrian and ranching community. Please send the item to at least the Castro Valley, Fairview and Sunol MAC Boards and Agricultural Advisory Committee for their invaluable input and recommendations.

Please take a moment to listen and don't negatively impact our businesses, non-profits and residents without giving the MAC and Agricultural Advisory Committees the opportunity to offer their important input.

Sincerely,

(Print your name here)

Josephine E. Eberhardt
Josephine E. Eberhardt

RECEIVED

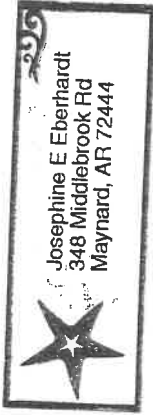
SEP 26 2022

**CLERK, BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**



Please! Don't destroy rodeo and the
horse industry along with it,

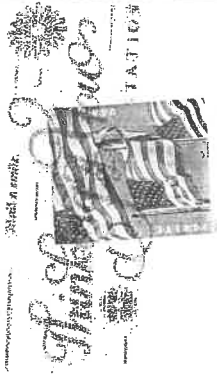
cc: BOS, CAO, CBS



Josephine E Eberhardt
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Maynard, AR 72444

MEMPHIS TN 380

21 SEP 2022 PM 4 L



Alameda City Board of Supervisors
County Administration
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Oakland, CA 94612
Fin. Admin. 2