



## The Big Fresno Fair Operational Update 10/21/20

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**Attributed to Stacy Rianda & Lauri King, Deputy Managers, The Big Fresno Fair**

*The Big Fresno Fair was thrilled with the results from Drive-Thru Eats and the incredible support from the community. During the 10-day food and entertainment event nearly 26,000 cars passed through the Fairgrounds to enjoy this adapted version of The Big Fresno Fair, a 137-year Valley tradition.*

*This outpouring demonstrates that the community values the use of the 165-acre Fairgrounds, even in an adapted format. The public can expect future events like the Fresno Home & Garden Show (October 23 – 25) and Holiday Fantasy of Lights Show (November 27 – January 3) at the Fairgrounds – all operating within CDC and State health and safety guidelines.*

*Since March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown most Fresno Fairgrounds business operations, there has been minimal revenue to sustain ongoing operations. Therefore, the Fair adjusted to financially survive a long-term pandemic with an uncertain end by reducing expenses including staffing.*

*As a self-funded entity of the State, Fair Management and the Board formally entered into a process with the California Department of Food and Ag, Department of Personnel and CalHR to prepare layoff notices to all 26 full-time employees as of August as a precautionary measure since allowed public events were unknown at that time. These 120-day notices are effective as of December 16, 2020.*

*Based upon the allowed operations to-date, Fair Management will continue with a reduced staff of 8 full-time employees effective December 17 and into 2021. These positions encompass Management, Accounting, Administration and Maintenance.*

*Without knowing the future of public events and what is permissible by the CDC and State amid the ongoing COVID-19 health pandemic, the focus of the Fair is to continue raise funds through the Friends of the Big Fresno Fair and hold adapted public events within health guidelines.*

*There are a number of programs and organizations championing support of fairs throughout the State and Nation including Western Fairs Associations (WFA), International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE) and several independent fairgrounds' efforts. All are working to lobby support of the fair industry as a whole, an industry that contributes \$4.67 billion for the U.S. economy and supports thousands of jobs. Locally, The Big Fresno Fair annually contributes more than \$77.1 million in economic impact to Fresno County.*

