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The Big Fresno Fair Board Announces Formal CEO Search For Next Leader of the Fourth Largest Fair in the State of California

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, May 31, 2022 - The Big Fresno Fair (Fair) Board of Directors announced its formal search for the next CEO to lead year-round operations for the fourth largest fair in the State of California. The Board is working closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Fairs & Expositions Branch on the CEO Search process. Information about The Big Fresno Fair and the application for the CEO position can be [found here](#).

In September 2020, longtime Fair CEO, John C. Alkire retired and transitioned to the Fair's nonprofit Foundation, Friends of The Big Fresno Fair, in an effort to elevate fundraising amid the uncertainty of the pandemic. At that time, Deputy Managers Stacy Rianda and Lauri King were appointed by the Fair Board to oversee all Fair operations as an interim leadership strategy. Since then, the Fair has pivoted from a historical in-person Fair to a drive-thru event in 2020, and then navigated back to more normal year-round operations and a successful in-person fair in October 2021.

"The Board is pleased that the Fair has returned to its robust level of year-round activity," stated Chuck Riojas, President of The Big Fresno Fair Board. "We are confident that with this search, we will determine the right person to lead the Fair into the future."

The 2022 Big Fresno Fair will run October 5 - 16.

About The Big Fresno Fair:

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fourth largest fair in the state of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. More than 600,000 people from throughout the State visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest annual event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Chuck Riojas, President; Terry Gonsalves, Vice President; Gary Cahil, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Frank Flores; Jerry Pacheco; Annalisa Perea; and Lawrence Salinas. For more information about The Big Fresno Fair, please visit www.FresnoFair.com.

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