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September 23, 2008

Bill Matthews
Historical Rillito Racetrack
2429 W. Wetmore
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Dear Bill:

The purpose of this letter is to support your organization and the Arizona horse racing industry in the effort to preserve Rillito Racetrack as an historical site in the National Registry.

From my perspective, there are a number of very good reasons to preserve Rillito as a racing facility. Having been raised in Tucson, my first experience at a horse track was at Rillito in the 1950's when my passion for horse racing was started. Those first exciting days of watching Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds compete led to a thirty-year career as an executive in the horse racing industry.

As you know, Rillito has a rich history in American Quarter Horse racing; and many outstanding riders, trainers and owners got their start or participated at Rillito. With the world-renown Race Track Industry Program at the University of Arizona, Tucson can ill afford to lose its only live venue for horse racing. In addition, the economic impact of the race meet each year has to number in the millions of dollars for the community, not to mention the enhancement to the entertainment opportunities provide Southern Arizona citizens.

As a past executive director of racing for the American Quarter Horse Association and in my current position as the executive director and executive vice president of The Jockey Club, I assure you that many of the leaders of the horse racing industry would lament the passing of Rillito from the ranks of active horse track in this country. I would strongly urge the Pima County Board of Supervisors to preserve Rillito for the past, current and future generations of horse racing fans in the Southwest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Fick". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and "F".

Dan Fick

Executive Director & Executive Vice President