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SOLANO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES STEVE HALES AS NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Solano County, CA – The Solano County Fair Association has announced the appointment of Steve Hales as the new General Manager of the Solano County Fairgrounds, effective January 14, 2017. Hales has been an integral part of the Fairgrounds’ staff for the past thirteen years, serving as the Assistant General Manager of Operations and Maintenance for the Fairgrounds since 2008 and prior to that as the Fairgrounds’ Operations Manager beginning in 2003.

“The Board is excited about having Steve expand his role with the Fairgrounds,” said Board of Directors President, Lee Williams. “His intimate knowledge of and experience with the various aspects of our operations over the past several years is invaluable in making the transition between General Managers go smoothly. We’re fortunate to be able to promote from within and keep our existing team intact to continue the momentum of success we’ve had over the last two years.”

Hales’ primary objective will be to build upon the foundation set by his predecessor for the long-term viability of the Fairgrounds. “I have big shoes to fill,” stated Hales. “During my tenure at the Fairgrounds I’ve witnessed the highs and lows that all businesses can face but in the last two years we’ve laid the ground work to expand our operations. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to add more depth to our existing events like Youth Ag Day and the annual Solano County Fair, while also bringing more and new events, people, community groups and businesses to connect with the Fairgrounds. This focus on our business development will be the cornerstone for our success going forward.”

Hales’ background includes the position of Chief Operating Officer for The Horse Park at Woodside (CA) where he managed the facility as well as its 501c3 non-profit corporation. He has also managed multiple equestrian facilities and events including the Eventing Competition for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, GA and the Wild Horse Valley Ranch in Napa, CA. He has attended Monterey Peninsula College, San Francisco State University and American University in Washington D.C. studying a diverse range of topics including photography, music, journalism and economics. Hales will succeed Stephen Pierce, General Manager since December 2014, who announced his resignation last November.

Established in 1949 to produce the annual County Fair, the Solano County Fair Association is a non-profit agency that is governed by a Board of Directors. The Solano County Fair Association has been providing educational, cultural, artistic, commercial and recreational programs to the residents of Solano County for over 65 years. The mission of the Solano County Fair Association



is “to ensure a positive experience for the public by providing a year-round multi-purpose venue that showcases and celebrates the wide variety of resources and activities available to our diverse community.” Major annual events produced by the Solano County Fair Association and held at the Fairgrounds include the annual Youth Ag Day, scheduled for March 14, 2017, and the annual Solano County Fair scheduled for August 2-6, 2017.

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