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### **Solano County Fair Association Hires Thomas B Keaney, Sr. As Chief Executive Officer**

**Vallejo, January 18, 2024.** The Board of Directors for the Solano County Fair Association, the nonprofit organized to conduct the annual Solano County Fair and provide a year-round multi-purpose event center on behalf of Solano County, is pleased to announce the hiring of Thomas B Keaney, Sr. as Chief Executive Officer for the Association. Mr. Keaney, previously the Chief Executive officer of the Cloverdale Citrus Fair, brings a profoundly diverse career and volunteer work history and experience to the Solano County Fair Association. He is scheduled to begin March 1, 2024, and immediately jump in to ensure an exciting 2024 Solano County Fair Diamond Jubilee celebration, June 13 – 16, 2024.

*“An extensive search for a new CEO was conducted and we believe that Tom Keaney is the leader who will help us build a successful, community-relevant, and entertaining fair and manage the fairgrounds so that it too is ‘the people’s’ event center for all of Solano County,”* said George Kennedy, President of the Solano County Fair Association Board of Directors. *“We envision a new day for the Solano County Fair and Fairgrounds – one that allows our county residents a safe, wholesome place for the community to gather and celebrate our diverse interests and cultural expressions. And we believe that Tom Keaney is the leader to help us achieve this goal.”*

The Solano County Fair Association began its nation-wide search for a new CEO last Fall with the goal of finding a leader who could effectively implement the vision,

direction, and strategic goals of the Solano County Fair Association, including County goals and direction related to potential development of the property.

Thomas Keaney, in addition to his experience managing a local fair and fairgrounds, has experience as a business and data analyst in the financial field, paralegal work in real estate, labor law, and intellectual property law and has been actively involved as a volunteer leader with the Novato Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts and 4-H youth organizations and as a volunteer with emergency response and at evacuation shelters for the Kincade, Glass and Walbridge fires.

Quote from Tom: *“I have always been energized by my desire to make a difference in the communities where I work and live. Serving as the leader of the Solano County Fair Association is a tremendous honor and opportunity to support resiliency and quality of life in our community.”*

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Mr. Keaney currently resides in Novato with his wife and has grown up participating and engaging with county fairs in the region. His favorite fairgrounds memory is “Backstage at the Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton, waiting to go on. It was like 105 degrees and the glitter shirts we were wearing felt like sandpaper across our necks. Then we were introduced and stepped out onstage looking at the largest audience we had ever seen. It was pure magic!”

The Solano County Fair, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Vallejo, is a long-standing community institution dedicated to producing the annual fair and event center that celebrates the wide variety of cultural and social interest, activities, avocations, and civic engagement of our diverse community while serving as a trusted resource and economic engine for the region. The Solano County Fair Association operates the fairgrounds property and has been producing the annual county fair, operating Solano Race Place, and managing the active fairgrounds as an event center on behalf of the County of Solano since 1946. The dates of the Solano County Fair are June 13 -16, 2024, located at the fairgrounds, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, California.

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