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Letter to the editor: Need for fairgrounds overhaul

Ventura County Star

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Ventura County Fairground grandstands fast-tracked for repair

Gallery: Aging grandstands at the Ventura County Fairgrounds have been fast-tracked for repair of corrosion and wear, as seen Friday, April 7, 2023.

Re: your April 10 story, [“Reports on fair grandstands push plans into high gear”](#):

As I read this article, I could not help but notice that the engineering firm that was contracted to conduct the Physical Assessment of the Ventura County Fairgrounds was a San Diego firm. One of the key arguments that has been voiced against the PSG proposal was the concern over non-local agencies taking away jobs from local firms. In reviewing PSG’s proposal, it is quite clear that theirs is a locally driven project. I would like to know why the VC Fairgrounds CEO/Board were not able to work with local engineering firms. What other contracts will they be outsourcing?

If the report states, “A significant amount of corroded, worn and aged components and connections has rendered the grandstands hazardous and unsafe condition for public usage.” Why is it considered safe for the expected 6,500 people who will be attending the upcoming Skull and Roses tribute festival?

A large contingency of racetrack fans attended the February board hearing where they rudely shouted over and intimidated those in attendance. Where were they at a recent Saturday night raceway event when the attendance was so low the organizers had to pipe in recorded applause in an attempt to create a positive experience?

While the article mentions the Physical Assessment report, it would have been helpful if they would have also provided the community [with a link to that report.](#)

<https://venturacountyfair.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Facility-Assessment-Report.pdf>

The pictures in the report tell a compelling story as to the dilapidated and unsafe conditions that are the current reality of our fairgrounds. The patch and paint repairs that will be taking place do not address the need for a total overhaul of this treasured location.

Kelley Elrod, Oxnard

