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AREA OFFICIALS SIGN MOU FOR FAIRGROUNDS DEVELOPMENT

VALLEJO – The City of Vallejo, County of Solano and Solano County Fair Board on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow the development of the Solano County Fairgrounds to move forward.

""This started two years ago in July at a meeting in the Mayor's Office," said Solano County Supervisor John Silva during ceremonies held at an opening night receptions for the fair. "We all have a vision for something bigger at the fairgrounds. We wanted to see what we could do to bring the dream to life. We wanted a year-round entertainment destination."

Friday's signing might make that dream a reality. The MOU includes the clearance of restrictions from a 1947 deed on the Solano County Fairgrounds property by the City of Vallejo. The clearance of the deed restrictions allows the Fair Association to continue its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to seek a master developer to partner in the development of the property. The RFQ process was initiated in March 2003.

"This is a great opportunity not only for the fair, the City of Vallejo and the county, but it's an opportunity to come up with something first class," said Supervisor Barbara Kondylis.

The revitalization project has been in process since 2000, when Silva and Kondylis began working with SCFA, the City of Vallejo, Marine World and the Holiday Inn to create a common vision for the fairgrounds property. Located at the intersection of Interstate 80 and State Highway 37, across from Six Flags Marine World, the site is considered the gateway to the wine country, San Francisco and the East Bay. The property is owned by the County of Solano and operated by the Solano County Fair Association.

"The Vallejo City Council adopted as a goal making an effort to find a higher and better use for the fairgrounds," said Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli. "We found it impossible not to work with Fair General Manager Kim Myrman."

The Mayor was not alone in his praise for Myrman, who came to the fair in 2000.

"Kim is a visionary," said Council member Pamela Pitts. "We recognized that great vision and followed along. We're looking forward to great things."

Rich Martinez, President of the Solano County Fair Board, shared the enthusiasm for the project while keeping things in perspective.

"We're all really excited about this evening," said Martinez." The signing of this MOU allows us to get the process back on the fast track. We recognize how valuable the property is to the City and the County, but this is a six or seven year project.

"It won't be done tomorrow," Martinez said. "We'll race as long as we can, we'll have the fair as long as we can, and we'll do the best we can."



Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli, Solano County Board of Supervisors President Duane Kromm and Solano County Fair Board President Rich Martinez sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the three agencies at Friday's event.

