

PASADENA STAR-NEWS

Wednesday

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YOUR VIEW

The Shops needed at racetrack

At a recent meeting of the Arcadia Planning Commission, a local resident questioned the importance of the proposed The Shops at Santa Anita to the viability of Santa Anita Park.

Santa Anita Park is partners with Caruso Affiliated on this project because we believe it is crucial to our long-term success. We are proud to be part of the Arcadia community, and we want to ensure that we remain a part of this special city for many years to come.

As vice president and general manager of Santa Anita Park, I have observed the nature of our business has changed over the years. So has our financing.

Longtime Arcadia residents might remember when our parking lot would regularly be full. Today it is a much different story. As the opportunity for and popularity of off-track betting has grown, fewer people are actually coming to the racetrack.

We need to find ways to draw families back to Santa Anita Park, and we strongly believe that The Shops at Santa Anita can help us do that with its upscale shopping, dining and community entertainment opportunities. We also believe that The Shops at Santa Anita will be an asset to the entire community - we would not support it otherwise.

George Haines

ARCADIA