

SAVING ORANGE COUNTY'S HORSES

MYTHS VS. FACTS



MYTH

The Equestrian Center is a private facility only for private use.



Weekly, numerous Orange County residents utilize the facility for activities such as horse care, riding, lessons to learn horseback riding, participation in various therapy programs, involvement in competitive sports training, or merely visiting to observe horses in action.

FACT

The Equestrian Center is a public boarding facility on public land.

The Equestrian Center does not offer public programming.



The Equestrian Center provides diverse public programs, including six accessible riding schools such as Pony Club, OC Vaulting, programs for at-risk youth, therapy for veterans and battered women, hourly lessons open to everyone, as well as tours catering to school groups, Girl Scouts, and other non-profit organizations.

The Equestrian Center offers public programming to the community.

The Equestrian Center has been losing money for years.



In 2022, following a suggestion from the Orange County Fair & Event Center Staff, the Board of the Orange County Fair & Event Center voted to grant a daily maintenance and animal care contract for overseeing the Orange County Equestrian Center. This resulted in a monthly operating loss exceeding \$100,000.

Previously, the Equestrian Center brought in more than 1 million dollars within the last decade.

An Equestrian Center with operational net losses is a gift of public funds.



Public agencies have the legal authority to provide financial assistance to equestrian centers without violating the law. This exemption is grounded in the public purpose of equestrian centers, which is to offer recreational opportunities to the public. California courts have determined that expenditures serving a public purpose are not considered gifts of public funds, even if they incidentally benefit private individuals and entities.

Equestrian Centers in California are exempt from the state's Gift of Public Funds laws.