



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: 25-437

June 24, 2025

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Approve a letter of support to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to reinstate North Salinas High School Track and Field Athlete Clara Adams as the True CIF 400-Meter Event State Champion.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a letter of support to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to reinstate North Salinas High School Track and Field Athlete Clara Adams as the True CIF 400-Meter Event State Champion.

SUMMARY:

At the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State Championships, Clara Adams won the 400-meter final but was subsequently stripped of her title due to a post-race celebration. She was further penalized by being disqualified from the 200-meter event, in which she was ranked second. This compounded punishment appears disproportionate and inconsistent with the standards of sportsmanship enforcement, particularly in the absence of prior warnings or comparable disciplinary actions. The letter from the Board to the CIF requests that the title be reinstated.

DISCUSSION:

If approved, the letter from the Board requests that the CIF immediately reinstate North Salinas High School sophomore and track and field standout Clara Adams as the rightful State Champion in the 400-meter final. Clara Adams is an exceptional athlete whose achievements are the result of her unwavering dedication, discipline, and work ethic. Earlier this year, she broke both the Monterey County and Central Coast Section records in the 400-meter event, remarkable milestones that reflect her outstanding ability and commitment to excellence.

At the CIF State Championships, Clara won the 400-meter final with an impressive time of 53.24 seconds. However, she was subsequently stripped of her title due to a post-race celebration that emulated a well-known gesture made by Olympic Gold Medalist Maurice Greene in 2004. Clara's celebration did not take place on the track itself, nor was it directed toward any competitors. There does not appear to be any precedent in CIF history over the last two decades for disqualifying a high school athlete from a state title on such grounds.

Moreover, Clara was further penalized by being disqualified from the 200-meter event, in which she was ranked second. This compounded punishment appears disproportionate and inconsistent with the standards of sportsmanship enforcement, particularly in the absence of prior warnings or comparable disciplinary actions.

Reinstating Clara Adams' 400-meter state championship title is not only justified, but necessary to uphold the principles of fairness, integrity, and justice. Clara serves as a role model for youth in our county and across California, and she deserves to have her victory, and her winning-setting time rightfully restored.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The letter of support was requested by Supervisor Luis Alejo.

FINANCING

The requested action has no impact on the General Fund.

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Approved by: Nicholas E. Chiulos, Chief Assistant CAO, x5145

Attachments: Letter