

Pearl Jam cancels pair of San Diego concerts

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pearl Jam canceled the band's only Southern California appearances Monday after the San Diego County Sheriff's Department raised concern over safety and security.

The cancellation of the June 26 and 27 performances at the Del Mar Fair came only three days after local media reports that the Sheriff's Department had asked fair officials to cancel the shows.

"Not to make enemies, but it seems the officials in San Diego have overreacted, creating an impossible situation," said band member and former San Diegan Eddie Vedder in a statement.

The statement released by Pearl Jam's public relations company in Seattle said the group's manager, Kelly Curtis, was disturbed the agency took its concerns about safety to the media rather than to the band.

"In my opinion, this was an unprofessional and unproductive approach, and it has left us with no alternative but to cancel the shows," she said.

A Pearl Jam spokesman said the band hopes to reschedule the concert later this year in San Diego or Southern California. Meanwhile, ticket holders are expected to get a full refund within 21 days.

Fair organizers had anticipated

an attendance of more than 13,000 people, said Jill Esterbrooks, a spokeswoman for the fair.

"We anticipate we could possibly have a loss of up to \$100,000 or more, but we may see other folks who come that night who wouldn't otherwise," she said. "We will have to pay for additional entertainment to fill our grandstand that night."

Sheriff's Department officials did not immediately return telephone calls, but earlier reports said they were concerned over the large number of fans trying to get into the concert without tickets.

In March, thousands of fans without tickets stormed fences and barricades at a Pearl Jam concert in Palm Beach, Fla. About 8,000 tickets were sold for the show, but as many as 20,000 people crammed into the theater.

At a 1993 Seattle concert, audience members tore down metal fences and rushed the stage. About 100 people were treated for minor injuries and several suffered broken bones.

The popular rock band and leader of the Seattle-based grunge rock movement has been involved in a high-profile war over surcharges with Ticketmaster and cobbled together a tour without the cooperation of the nation's leading ticket-selling agent.