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By contrast, the licensing exam serves as the ultimate preventative measure. If an exam works properly, only those knowledgeable about and capable of adhering to relevant laws will be licensed to provide real estate services. Coupled with consumer education and professional learning opportunities for licensees, this model of consumer protection is effective and efficient; it helps to prevent issues before they arise rather than remediating them after consumer harm has already occurred.

On the face of it, preparing the exam appears like a seemingly simple function. The reality, however, is that creating a licensing examination is a complicated and multistep process where two national standards must be met. Beginning with a “snapshot” of the profession (occupational analysis), data is crafted into the “test plan,” which articulates the knowledge, skills, and abilities that will be tested. From there, questions (items) are written and then reviewed for quality. Ultimately, once items have been determined to be valid, they are used to construct the exam.

This lengthy process is, as you would imagine, quite labor intensive. And while DRE staff conduct much of the operational work for exam development, subject matter experts (SMEs) perform the heavy lifting related to content. Our SMEs are licensees who represent all parts of the real estate sector, as well as all of the components that make up California’s rich diversity. The exam needs to reflect not just today’s marketplace, but everybody’s marketplace.

Serving as a SME for the DRE is a tremendous way to give back to the profession and share your knowledge. If you receive an invitation to participate in either developing the occupational analysis or crafting exam items, please step up and volunteer – it is very rewarding work and applying your expertise to the exam is an excellent way to protect consumers. ■

 @DougMcCauleyDRE

DRE’s San Diego Office has Moved

As of December 2022, DRE’s San Diego district office and exam center have moved and consolidated into a single location:

San Diego District Office & Exam Center
8620 Spectrum Center Blvd.
Suite 301
San Diego, CA 92123

The major cross street is Kearny Villa Road and the closest freeway is the 163 between the Clairemont Mesa Blvd. and Balboa Ave. exits.

Onsite parking is available for an hourly fee of \$2 per hour (subject to change). And, San Diego MTS lines are within walking distance.

Exams are scheduled on an as-needed basis; DRE cannot accommodate walk-ins for an exam. ■

