

Providing Service, Protecting You

MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER DAVI

The Benefit of the Doubt



The recently formed Broker Supervision Task force was established in order to examine the laws, regulations and policies that shape a supervising broker's responsibilities in

overseeing the activities of the brokerage and its employees. The notion behind this endeavor is to determine how existing requirements can be improved upon to ensure that consumer protections are maximized while giving supervising brokers guidance in discharging their duties.

The task force consists of leaders from the industry along with legal and enforcement staff from the DRE. While relatively new, the group has been extremely productive. One of the ideas that has been put into practice on a trial basis is the "Benefit of the Doubt Program". The idea is simple - establish clear protocols that allow the broker who fires an employee for cause to notify the DRE without fear that the DRE will automatically investigate the broker for lack of supervision. Existing law requires that a broker notify the DRE when the broker discharges an employee for a violation of the Real Estate Law. The law also requires the broker provide the DRE a detailed written description of the reasons the employee was fired. However, based on the small number of notifications received by the DRE, it is clear few brokers are notifying the DRE when they let a rogue agent go.

The Benefit of the Doubt program will make certain that the reporting broker will not automatically be named as a suspect. All cases involving brokers who notify the DRE of the termination of a licensed employee for cause will be centralized from Sacramento reviewing evidence and facts through a single lens. This will ensure consistency and promises that statewide investigative and compliance standards will be employed.

The program also provides for an isolated investigation focusing on alleged salesperson misconduct unless the facts warrant investigation expansion. The Benefit of the Doubt process guarantees that investigators will review the agent's history with prior brokers and look at any new current broker as well.

This program also introduces a reporting broker discipline hierarchy. If the reporting broker is found to be without gross negligence or fault, no DRE action would be taken against him or her. A reporting broker may receive a corrective action letter, which is not a public record, if technical compliance issues are uncovered despite the fact that the broker properly supervised agents either directly or through office manager designations, took actions to remedy problems, has office procedures and controls in place, and personally or through the designated office manager reviewed business activities and management reports.

Formal disciplinary action against the reporting broker would be considered when circumstances exist, such as active broker participation in unlawful acts, or when guilty knowledge is substantiated, if the reporting broker is routinely absent from the office without designating an office manager, the broker fails to oversee the office manager, no office procedures are established, or there is a demonstrated lack of oversight. Additional factors include ignoring prior corrective action letters, or if a rent-a-broker situation exists.

Prior brokers, or in some cases, new current employing brokers, will be included in the investigation process to determine if a pattern exists which can lead to a maximum penalty against the agent. New employing brokers may also be contacted to establish the applicable disciplinary action proceedings against the previous broker, to substantiate and support reporting broker findings, to promote broker reporting, and to deter agent misconduct.

The specific governing laws and regulations for this program are Business and Professions Code Sections 10178, 10179, and 10177(h), and Section 2725 of the Regulations of the Real Estate Commissioner. Further information can be found in the Broker Compliance Evaluation Manual available on our Web site, http:// www.dre.ca.gov/pdf_docs/brkrcomp.pdf.

It is my sincere hope this program is a success. We all win, the public and industry, when the bad or incompetent agents are put out of business.

One more update on the SAFE Act!

In previous issues of the Real Estate Bulletin we discussed the implementation of the SAFE Act. Specifically, real estate licensees who meet the definition of a residential mortgage loan originator (MLO) must meet the requirements outlined in the SAFE Act by December 31, 2010. For real estate licensees, this entails obtaining a MLO License Endorsement to their salesperson or broker licenses. The endorsement application process starts with registering with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry (NMLS&R).

As of March 1, 2010, the NMLS&R began allowing real estate

licensees to register and start the process to obtain a MLO License Endorsement. Applicants for the MLO License Endorsement should complete the following items through the NMLS&R by September 15, 2010 to allow the Department sufficient time to review and approve the endorsement. The following information provides an overview of the requirements to obtain a Mortgage Loan Originator License Endorsement. DRE anticipates issuing the endorsements before this Fall.

1. Online Application – To be completed and

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The Department of Real Estate Bilingual Outreach and Advocacy Team

In order to better address the needs of consumers, the Department is pleased to announce the creation of the Bilingual Outreach and Advocacy Team (BOA). The DRE created this special unit to assist the non-English speaking consumer who has been a target of real estate or mortgage fraud, has questions about the real estate law, or needs assistance in filing a complaint. The BOA is also actively involved in public outreach activities in underserved communities.

The BOA serves all of Southern California and is part of the Los Angeles South Regional Office. The unit is overseen by District Manager María Suárez and is comprised of certified bilingual staff. In addition to María Suárez, the staff members are: Amelia Núñez, Edgar Sarmiento, Ray Gino Dagnino, Jesús Muñoz, Paul Mim Mack, and Veronica Kilpatrick. The BOA is proactively attending Scam Stopper town hall meetings, general real estate information forums, and, in a partnership with Channel 34 Univision, participated in real estate telethons. In addition, the BOA currently has a monthly segment on Radio Luz FM 105.3, a Sacramento based radio talk show. These partnerships make up a forum to cover issues and topics that are relevant to non-English speaking consumers. Additionally, the BOA is tasked to act as interpreters to translate correspondence and provide input for the "En Español" section of DRE's Web site.

This unit is charged with timely investigating complaints involving an array of real estate misrepresentations and real estate fraud. In sum, the BOA is dedicated to assist, educate, and advocate for those individuals who are not able to effectively access or maneuver through the process of obtaining government assistance and intervention. To this end, the DRE is committed to providing opportunities for all California residents to have easy access to our services and to promote consumer protection. For further information, please contact the Bilingual Outreach and Advocacy Team at (213) 576-6878.



The Bilingual Outreach and Advocacy Team is made up of (Back left to right) Jesús Muñoz, Ray Gino Dagnino, Edgar Sarmiento, Paul Mim Mack, (Front left to right) Amelia Núñez, María Suárez, and Veronica Kilpatrick

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Broker supervision: The buck stops here

All too often, the disciplinary cases the Department of Real Estate investigates and prosecutes stem from complaints about real estate transactions in which the designated broker-officer responsible for supervising the sales force was an absentee or pro forma "rent-a-broker." A "rent-abroker" refers to a broker who is the broker of record on the Department's records, but who abdicates all actual responsibility

to another individual, usually the true owner of the company, who may or may not be licensed or qualified to manage a real estate business. While there are legitimate ways to delegate some

legal responsibility for supervision to other licensees, California's Real Estate Law requires that the designated brokerofficer of a real estate corporation, and the employing broker of salespersons in a sole proprietorship, supervise the sales force.

Under the Real Estate Law, broker supervision is key to achieving maximum protection for the public who engage in



real estate transactions. In hiring and managing the sales force, reviewing and disseminating advertisements, protecting and accounting for trust funds, and handling escrows, brokers ensure that strict standards are adhered to, and that only trustworthy, competent individuals will be privy to the sensitive financial information and matters involved in buying, selling, leasing and mortgaging of real property.

Broker supervision is key to achieving maximum protection for the public who engage in real estate transactions

> The Real Estate Law is set forth primarily in Business and Professions (B&P) Code Section (§) 10000 et seq. and in the related rules set forth in the Regulations of the Real Estate Commissioner, Title 10, Chapter 6 of the California Code of Regulations (Regulations). The following is a discussion of some sections of the B&P and Regulations relating to the supervision requirement.

Broker's Obligation to Supervise

A licensed real estate broker must supervise the real estate salespeople who are employed under the broker. This is true for corporate brokers and for "sole proprietor" brokers alike. There are no exceptions to this law. Moreover, it is never acceptable for an unlicensed individual to supervise a licensed real estate salesperson, or to conduct licensed acts.

Specifically, B&P \$10159.2 sets forth the primary broker supervision requirement

by Martha Rosett, Real Estate Counsel III in which the designated licensed broker is responsible for exercising sufficient supervision and control over his or her employees necessary to achieve full compliance with the Real Estate Law. Where there are other corporate officers who hold broker licenses and wish to act in a supervisory capacity, they may do so providing that the corporation enacts a corresponding corporate resolution, and

the resolution is promptly filed with the DRE.

Regulation 2743 provides the verylimited and specific criteria that must be followed for the delegation of supervisory responsibility to

other broker-officers of a corporation. The corporate resolution assigning supervisory responsibility over salespersons licensed to a corporate broker must make reference to a specified business address or addresses of the corporate broker, rather than by the listing of the names of salespersons subject to the supervision. In this way, a broker may use the services of brokers and salespersons to assist in supervising salespersons so long as the broker does not relinquish overall responsibility for supervision of the acts of salespersons licensed to the broker. Ultimately, it remains the designated broker's responsibility to ensure that only qualified personnel are allowed to supervise the sales force and to ensure that the brokerage operates in compliance with the Real Estate law. What happens, for example, if a real estate salesperson who is being supervised by an officer other than the designated officer does something wrong which is within the scope of his or

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Advertising requirements for brokers handling escrow

In our Spring 2010 Real Estate Bulletin, we discussed compliance of the laws and regulations when a real estate broker is acting as an agent in a transaction and also handles the escrow pursuant to the exemption from the Escrow law contained in Section 10076(a)(4) of the Financial Code. In this article, we will address the advertising criteria as set forth in Section 2731(d) of the Regulations of the Real Estate Commissioner for brokers handling their own escrows.

When a broker has an in-house escrow division and has been issued a license with a fictitious business name containing the term "escrow", or any term which implies that escrow services are provided, the broker is required to include the term "a non-independent broker escrow" in any advertising, signs, or electronic material. This term provides full disclosure to the public that they are not dealing with an independent escrow company, and that available services are limited.

In addition to the above, to renew a real estate broker license with a fictitious business name containing the term "escrow", or any term which implies that escrow services are provided, the fictitious business name will not be issued or

renewed by the Department unless the fictitious business name itself includes the term, "a non-independent broker escrow." Renewing real estate brokers will need to file a new fictitious business name statement (FBN's), containing the now required language, with the county in which their main office is located and submit the FBN's along with the renewal application.

For further information and instructions on deleting or renewing a fictitious business name, please review the Department's RE 282 Fictitious Business Name Information, available on our Web site at http://www.dre. ca.gov/pdf_docs/forms/re282.pdf. 🔊

Disciplinary action: December 2009 — February 2010

- A list of actions is not published in this *Bulletin* until the 30-day period allowed for court appeal has expired or, if an appeal is filed and the disciplinary action is stayed, until the stay is dissolved. Names of persons to whom licenses are denied on application are not published.
- Licensees are listed alphabetically by the District Office region of responsibility.
- The license type is listed in parentheses after the licensee's name. [REB – Real Estate Broker; RREB – Restricted Real Estate Broker; RES – Real Estate Salesperson; RRES – Restricted Real

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS

2715	Licensee's failure to maintain current business or mailing
	address with DRE
2725	Failure of broker to exercise reasonable supervision over the
	activities of his or her salespersons
2726	Failure to have broker-salesperson agreements
2731	Unauthorized use of fictitious business name
2731(a)	Failure to obtain fictitious business name license
2753	Broker's failure to retain salesperson's license at main office
	or return the license at termination of employment
2763(a)(1)	Violation of license examination rules
2831	Failure to keep proper trust fund records
2831.1	Inadequate separate trust fund beneficiary records
2831.2	Failure to reconcile trust account
2832	Failure to comply with trust fund handling provisions
2832(a)	Failure of broker to place trust funds into hands of owner,
	into neutral escrow depository or trust fund account within
	three business days of receipt
2834	Trust account withdrawals by unauthorized or unbonded person
2840	Failure to give approved borrower disclosure
2842.5	Mortgage loan disclosure statement violation
2848	Violation of mortgage loan advertising rules
2950	Violation of broker-controlled escrow requirements

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

123	Subversion of real estate examination
475(a)	Making a false statement in license application
480(a)	Denial of license on grounds of conviction of crime,
	dishonest or fraudulent act, or act which would warrant
	suspension or revocation of license.
480(c)	Denial of license on grounds of false statement in license
	application
490	Substantially related criminal conviction
10085	Failure to submit advance fee materials
10130	Acting without license
10137	Unlawful employment or payment of compensation
10140.6	Failure to disclose license status in advertising of acts for
	which a license is required
10145	Trust fund handling
10145(a)(1)	Failure of broker to place trust funds into neutral escrow
	depository, the hands of the principal or a trust fund account
10145(c)	Failure by salesperson to deliver trust funds to broker
10148	Failure to retain records and make available for inspection
10159.2	Failure by designated officer to supervise licensed acts of
	corporation
10159.5	Failure to obtain license with fictitious business name
10161.8	Failure of broker to notify Commissioner of salesperson
	employment

Estate Salesperson; PRLS – Prepaid Rental Listing Service; RPRLS – Restricted Prepaid Rental Listing Service; REO – Real Estate Officer; REC – Real Estate Corporation]

- Below are brief summaries of various regulations and code sections. The full text of the sections is available on the DRE Web site www.dre.ca.gov under Real Estate Law and/or Regulations.
- Disciplinary actions that are "stayed" means there is "a delay in carrying out" all or part of the recommended discipline.

10162	Failure to maintain a place of business
10165	Failure to comply with specified B&P code sections
10176(a)	Making any substantial misrepresentation
10176(b)	Making false promise
10176(c)	Continued & flagrant course of misrepresentations through
	salespersons
10176(d)	Failure to disclose dual agency
10176(e)	Commingling trust funds with brokers funds
10176(f)	Exclusive listing agreement without definite termination date
10176(g)	Secret profit or undisclosed compensation
10176(h)	Secret profit under option agreement
10176(i)	Fraud or dishonest dealing in licensed capacity
10177(a)	Procuring a real estate license by misrepresentation or
	material false statement
10177(b)	Conviction of crime
10177(c)	False advertisement
10177(d)	Violation of real estate law or regulations
10177(e)	Willfully using term "Realtor" or any trade name or insignia of
	membership in any real estate organization of which the
	licensee is not a member
10177(f)	Conduct that would have warranted denial of a license
10177(g)	Negligence or incompetence in performing licensed acts
10177(h)	Failure to supervise salespersons or licensed acts of corporation
10177(i)	Improper use of government employment giving access to
	confidential records
10177(j)	Fraud or dishonest dealing as principal
10177(k)	Violation of restricted license condition
10177(n)	Violation of real estate syndicate provisions of corporate
	securities law
10177.5	Civil fraud judgment based on licensed acts
10232.4	Failure to give lender/purchaser disclosure
10234(a)	Failure to record trust deed in name of beneficiary
10235	False advertising in mortgage loan activities
10236.4	Failure to include license number or DRE License
	Information telephone number in documents
10238(a)	Failure of broker to notify Commissioner within 30 days of
	1st multi-lender transaction or of any material change in
	required notice
10238(f)	Violation of restriction to sell notes in excess of 10 to
	qualified persons
10238(h)	Exceeding loan-to-value limits
10240	Failure to provide mortgage loan disclosure statement
10241	Improper mortgage loan disclosure statement
TINIANO	

FINANCIAL CODE

4973(b)(1)	Violation of covered loan prohibitions regarding negative
	amortization and installment payment totals.
4973(f)	Covered loan violation
4975 (k)(1)	Failure to provide covered loan consumer notice

REVOKED LICENSES

Effective:

12/14/09

FRESNO REGION

Amarillas, Maria P. (RES) 204 Vineyard Dr., Greenfield Effective: 12/23/09 490, 10177(b) Violation: Baltazar, Oscar F. (RES) 5060 California Ave., Ste. 1000, Bakersfield Effective: 2/16/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Hatton, Michael Orby (RES) PO Box 580345, Modesto Effective: 2/22/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) La Nore, Val (RES) PO Box 546, Soquel Effective: 12/7/09490, 10177(b) Violation: Pena, Daniel Richard (RES) 1105 Glen Ave., Modesto 12/9/09 Effective: *Violation*: 490, 10177(b) Reyes, Cristina Madrigal (RES) 749 La Mesa Dr., Salinas Effective: 2/25/10 10177.5 Violation: Vega, Roberto (RES) 710 Armand Ave., San Miguel 2/23/10 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b)

LOS ANGELES REGION

Ajugwo, Kenneth Arinze (REB) 18745 Strathern Ave., Reseda Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Alvarez, Cecilia (RES) 11742 Glencove Dr., Garden Grove Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b)(k) Astillero, Christopher De Taza (RES) 3050 E. Birch St., Brea Effective: 1/25/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Avila, Diana (RES) 1049 Eubank Ave., Wilmington Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Becerra, David (RES) 9642 Planter St., Pico Rivera Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b)(k) Berman, Teresa Ann (RES) 327 E. Victoria C, Santa Barbara Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Camacho, Alejandro (RES) 33 Via Madera, Rancho Santa Margarita Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Chao, Stephanie Hsing-Yun (RES) 7095 Hollywood Blvd. #339, Hollywood

Violation: 490, 10177(b) Connelly, Nadeze (RES) 9624 Redfern Ave., Inglewood Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Cooper, Robert Bruce Nicholson (REB) 927 Deep Valley Dr., Ste. 215, Rolling Hills Estates Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 10176(a)(c)(i), 10177.5 Do, Tim (REB) 17011 Beach Blvd. #900, Huntington Beach Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2832, 2840, 10145, 10176(e) (g), 10177(d)(g), 10240 Ehtibaryan, Levon (RES) 1550 N. Hobart Blvd. #203, Los Angeles Effective: 1/6/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Euzarraga, David Henry (REB) 31461 Rancho Viejo Rd. #203, San Juan Capistrano Effective: 2/10/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Flores Wheeler, Adriana (RES) 35746 County Line Rd., Yucaipa Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Gluhareff, Eugene E. (REB) 2669 Myrtle Ave., Ste. 211, Signal Hill Effective: 1/25/10 *Violation*: 490, 10177(b) Hermosillo, Richard Reyes (RES) 3241 Abbey Lane, Palmdale Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Israel, Manoochehr (RES) 21801 Roscoe Blvd. #236, Canoga Park Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Javid, Abe (RES) PO Box 27907, Anaheim Effective: 2/22/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Jimenez, Sofia Toledo (RES) 12209 Hesperia Rd., Ste. G, Victorville Effective: 1/26/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Lundin, Randy Richard (REB) 2014 1/2 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Martin, Kerry L. (RES) 18016 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Marzullo, James Harold (RES) 3134 Federal Ave., Los Angeles Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) McGee, Paul Edward (REB) 5622 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles

Effective: 1/25/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Mellas, David Eugene (RES) PO Box 66, Glendale Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Montrief, Michael Royce (REB) 34031 Silver Lantern #1, Dana Point Effective: 1/11/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Neuman, Michael Richard (RES) 872 Charleston Way, Brea 12/28/09 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b) Padilla, Silvano (RES) 10983 Oneida Ave., Pacoima Effective: 2/22/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Plascencia, Francisco (RES) 3950 Via Real #68, Carpinteria Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Rahming, Phyllis Ann (RES) PO Box 5673, San Clemente Effective: 12/30/09 Violation: 10176(i) Ratliffe, Chad A. (RES) 618 Litchfield Ave., Santa Barbara Effective: 1/25/10 *Violation:* 490, 10177(b) Reese, Laurie Ann (RES) 10505 Cole Rd., Whittier Effective: 2/22/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Schutmaat, Derk Wayne (REB) No. 58508 PO Box 515381, Los Angeles Effective: 1/12/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Tse, Anna Oi Na (RES) 1990 Santa Anita Ave., South El Monte 12/17/09 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b) Valino, Armando Corpuz (REB) 4157 Eagle Rock Rd. Unit 8, Los Angeles Effective: 2/1/10 475(a), 480(a), 490, Violation: 10177(b)(f) Vallejo, Anna Bianca (RES) 1213 Riderwood Ave., Hacienda Heights Effective: 1/13/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Vasconez, Wilson Oswaldo (RES) 9230 Appleby St., Downey 12/14/09 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b) Vinh, Hai (RES) 2166 W. Broadway #806, Anaheim Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Yun, Erica C. (RES) 100 W. Valencia Mesa Dr., Fullerton 1/19/10 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b)

OAKLAND REGION

Alexander Anthony & Brown, Inc. (REC) 14375 Saratoga Ave. #202, Saratoga Effective: 12/28/09 2726, 2731(a), Violation: 10159.5, 10161.8(a), 10177(d), 10240 Arnold, Kim (RES) 1617 Carl Ave., Milpitas Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 10176(a)(i) Assifi, Farshid Jeff (REB) 6601 Owens Dr., Ste. 155, Pleasanton Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 2725, 2742, 10130, 10137, 10159.2(a), 10177(d)(h) Bhogal, Kuljeet Singh (RES) 38208 Guava Dr., Newark Effective: 12/30/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Brown, Terrance (REB) 14375 Saratoga Ave. #202, Saratoga Effective: 12/28/09 Violation: 2742(c), 10159.2, 10177(d)(g)(h) Brownlee, Audrey Elaine (RES) 1539 Wellesley Ave., Santa Rosa Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 10176(a)(i) California Mutual Real Estate Investments, Inc. (REC) 6601 Owens Dr., Ste. 155, Pleasanton Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 2742, 10130, 10137, 10148(a), 10177(d) CFS Realty & Mortgage, Inc. (REC) PO Box 39, San Ramon Effective: 2/15/10 2715, 2742(c), 10162, Violation: 10165, 10177(d) Espinoza, Raymond (RES) 431 E. McKinley Ave., Sunnyvale Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) First Financing Group, Inc. (REC) 2570 San Ramon Valley Blvd. #A-201, San Ramon Effective: 2/15/10 Violation: 2753, 2831, 10160, 10177(d), 10236.4(b), 10240(a) Fode, Amanda Dee (RES) 1224 Kenilworth Rd., Hillsborough Effective: 12/23/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Fong, David Joe (RES) 3535 Savage Ave., Pinole Effective: 12/23/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Gilak, Zahra R. (RES) 5000 Acacia Way, Penngrove Effective: 2/1/10Violation: 490, 10177(b) Harmer, Robert Chase (RES) 1920 Hicks Ave., San Jose

2/18/10 Effective: 490, 10177(b) Violation: Ledesma, Fred Elizardo (RES) 8459 Larch Ave., Cotati Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Liu, Samuel Xin Yang (RES) 3128 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 12/14/09 Effective: 490, 10177(b) Violation: Lopez, Kristine Leigh (RES) 2233 Hampshire Dr., Byron Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 10176(a)(c)(d)(i), 10177(j) Luna, Gerardo (RES) 970 Summer Place Dr., San Jose Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Luque, John Joseph Jr. (RES) 39180 Liberty St., Ste. 101, Fremont 1/19/10 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b) McCowan, Shavoyne Delice (RES) 2601 Nuestra Castillio Ct. #6307, San Jose Effective: 2/3/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Meeker, Elvis Angel (RES) 205 Hillside Rd., Antioch Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Mojaddedi, Nasira (REB) 401 Camberly Ct., San Ramon Effective: 2/25/10 10130, 10137, Violation: 10176(a)(i), 10159.2, 10177(d)(g)(h)(j) Nguyen, Kenneth Khoa Van (REB) 142 N. Milpitas Blvd. #255, Milpitas Effective: 12/2/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Pjanic, Emir (RES) 661 Hermitage Way, San Jose Effective: 1/20/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Rai, Kamaldeep Singh (RES) 4050 Hammingway Common, Fremont Effective: 1/25/10 480(c), 490, 10177(a) Violation: Roberts, Joyce Isi (REB) 2033 Gateway Place 5th Floor, San Jose 2/3/10 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b) Rodriguez, Dora T. (RES) 3438 Mt. Prieta Dr., San Jose Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Rosales, Wilbert Ezequiel (RES) 7207 Via Colina, San Jose Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Saad, Bianca (RES) 25200 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward Effective: 2/1/10 490, 10177(b)

Violation:

Sadarangani, Sagar Lal (RES) 4475 MacBeth Cir., Fremont Effective: 2/3/10 490, 10177(b) Violation: Smith, Michael Jose (REB) 5859 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 10148(a), 10177(d) Suppe, Ray C. (RES) PO Box 1045, Alamo Effective: 12/31/09 490, 10177(b) Violation: Turner, Robert L. (REB) 2410 Camino Ramon, Ste. 125, San Ramon 2/15/10 Effective: 2715, 10159.2(a), Violation: 10162, 10165, 10177(d)(h) Vucetic, Miodrag (RES) 1170 Fairview Ave., San Jose Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Walker, James Brent (RES) 3039 Peralta Blvd., Fremont Effective: 12/31/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) SACRAMENTO REGION Baxter, Lamarr Andre (RES) 4801 Laguna Blvd., Ste. 105-203, Elk Grove Effective: 12/28/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Costa, James Dennis (RES) PO Box 816, Corning Effective: 12/15/09 Violation: 10130, 10176(a)(b)(c) (i), 10177(d)(g)(j), 10240, 10232.4 Dhillon, Balbir Singh (REB) 679 N. Palora Ave., Ste. C, Yuba City Effective: 2/25/10 Violation: 10177.5 Ford, Shannon Elaine (RES) 1070 Montclair Dr., Redding Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Ghent, Jaret Lonnie (RES) 3210 E. Chinden Blvd., Ste. 115, Eagle, ID Effective: 1/25/10 10130, 10177(d)(f)(j) Violation: Hyman, Daniel Abraham (RES) 1002 Monterey Ct., Roseville Effective: 1/11/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Jan, Mohammad (RES) 152 Cabana Ct., Tracy Effective: 12/2/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Khouri, Nidal R. (RES) 811 Regency Park Cir., Sacramento Effective: 1/25/10 2832, 10145(a)(1), Violation: 10176(a)(i), 10177(d)

(g)(j)

Merrill, Brian Douglas (RES) 5807 Baldwin St., Valley Springs Effective: 1/20/10 *Violation*: 490 Moradi, Ahmad Shah (RES) 9672 Nature Trail Way, Elk Grove Effective: 12/31/09 *Violation*: 490, 10177(b) Roper, J. Travis (RES) 905 S. Pleasant Ave., Lodi Effective: 2/15/10 Violation: 10145(c), 10176(a)(e) (i), 10177(d)(g)(j) Vital, Jaime (RES) 2915 Patwin Place, Fairfield Effective: 12/14/09 10130, 10176(a), Violation: 10177(d) SAN DIEGO REGION Aguilar, Beth (RES) 8404 Protea Dr., Lakeside Effective: 2/23/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Cunningham, Richard W. (RES) 23465 Via Solana, Moreno Valley Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Henderson, David Lee (RES) 29946 Redwood Dr., Canyon Lake 1/6/10 Effective: Violation: 490, 10177(b) Marin, Sergio Ernesto (RES) 7197 Midnigh Rose Cir., Corona Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Rivero, Richard Jesus (RES) 527 Encinitas Blvd. #100, Encinitas Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b)

REVOKED WITH RIGHT TO A RESTRICTED LICENSE

FRESNO REGION

Eanes, Kevin Scott (REB) 55 Shaw Ave., Ste. 208, Clovis 12/9/09 Effective: Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832(a), 10148, 10176(e)(i), 10177(d) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

LOS ANGELES REGION

Barragan, Salvador (RES) 750 River St., Fillmore Effective: 1/6/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Bedrosian, Jeanie (RES) 11693 San Vicente Blvd. #202, Los Angeles Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Chavez, Rodrigo (RES) 7038 Cascade Ave., Hesperia Effective: 2/2/10 *Violation*: 10165, 10176(i), 10177(d)(g) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Hwang, Kyung Hee (REB, REO) 4311 Wilshire Blvd., #110, Los Angeles Effective: 12/21/09 Officer of: 100 Los Angeles Real Estate, Inc. Violation: 10159.2, 10177(h) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Lotter, Gerald Juergen (REB) 3330 Harbor Blvd., Third Floor, Costa Mesa 1/27/10 Effective: *Violation*: 10137 Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Morehouse, Thomas Jay (REB) 21049 Devonshire St., Chatsworth Effective: 1/25/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Right to RREB license on terms and conditions Morris, Richard Leon (REB) 3100 E. Cedar St., Ste. 11, Ontario Effective: 2/18/10 Violation: 10159.2, 10177(h) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Ngo, Loann Myly (RES) 3844 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos Effective: 12/28/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Rivera, Salomon Martin (REB) 2317 S. Garfield Ave., Monterey Park Effective: 1/13/10 Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2840, 10137, 10145, 10176(a)(e)(g), 10177(d)(g)(h), 10236.4(b), 10240 Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Tull, Nicholas Adam (RES) 6371 Mar Vista Dr., Huntington Beach Effective: 1/11/10 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Williamson, Jason Paul (REB) 16818 Redwood St., Fountain Valley Effective: 12/14/09 *Violation*: 490, 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Yoon, Crystal Ji Hyun (RES) 20620 Anza Ave. #29, Torrance Effective: 2/1/10

3358 30th St., San Diego

Effective:

Violation:

Effective:

Violation:

conditions

Murrieta

Effective:

Violation:

conditions

Effective:

Violation:

conditions

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El Cajon

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Violation:

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Effective:

Violation:

conditions

and conditions

12/10/09

10177(h)

Right to RREB license on terms

41082 Cour Citran, Temecula

26496 Arboretum Way #1502,

2826 Copley Ave., San Diego

4134 Karst Rd., Carlsbad

1306 Main St., Ramona

1521 Kimberly Woods Dr.,

1/6/10

Right to RRES license on terms and

1/11/10

Right to RRES license on terms and

1/11/10

Right to RRES license on terms and

2/3/10

Right to RRES license on terms and

12/22/09

Right to RRES license on terms and

17148 Crestpeak Court, Riverside

1/27/10

Right to RRES license on terms and

490, 10177(b)

490, 10177(b)

490, 10177(b)

490, 10177(b)

10130, 10137

490, 10177(b)

1/26/10

Right to RRES license on terms and

490, 10177(b)

10162, 10177(d)(g),

10176(a)(b)(i) Violation: SAN DIEGO REGION Right to RRES license on terms and Burrell, James Patrick (REB) conditions Zepeda, Antonio (REB) 2334 N. Sierra Hwy., San Bernardino Effective: 2/8/10 Violation: 10145, 10176(i)(e), Curran, Deron Patrick (RES) 10177(d)(g)(h) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions **OAKLAND REGION** Dakin, Loren Joseph Jr. (RES) Kilbourne, Jennifer L. (RES) 160 Lowell St., Redwood City Effective: 2/24/10 Violation: 10176(a), 10177(g) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Griffiths, John Piper (RES) 1311 Blewett Ave., San Jose Nelson, Devi Jean (RES) Effective: 12/21/09 Violation: 490(a), 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Lozano, Juan Ramirez (REB) 5980 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 122, Richard, Brian Edward (RES) Pleasanton Effective: 12/2/09 10177(a) Violation: Right to RREB license on terms and conditions Lucania, John Michael (RES) Spann, Ginger Rea (REB) 212 Gates St., San Francisco Effective: 1/5/10 Violation: 490(a), 10177(b) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Romero, John Napoleon (REB) Taggart, Lawrence William (REB) 1419 Burlingame Ave. #R, Burlingame Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 480(c), 10177(a) Right to RRES license on terms and conditions Sabeh, Joseph George (REB) Yahya, Hassan Mohamed-Adib (RES) 43625 Mission Blvd. #102, Fremont Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 490, 10177(b) Right to RREB license on terms and conditions Smith, Charles Edward Jr. (REB) 2414 Sacramento St., Berkeley Effective: 12/14/09 Violation: 10177(f)(g) Right to RREB license on terms and conditions SACRAMENTO REGION Dickson, Regina Cheree (REB) PO Box 1733, Laytonville 12/22/09 Effective: Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2,

10177(d), 10232.4,

10234(a), 10238(a)(f)

(h), 4973(b)(1), 4973(f),

4975(a)(1), 4975(k)(1)

Right to RRES license on terms and

conditions

SUSPENDED LOS ANGELES REGION Eadoin Mortgage Network, Inc. (REC) 1147 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach Effective: 1/6/10 Violation: 10177(g) Suspended for 30 days Lett, John L. Sr. (REB) 14540 Hamlin St., Ste. A, Van Nuys Effective: 2/2/10Violation: 10137, 10177(d) Suspended for 90 days

SUSPENDED WITH STAY

FRESNO REGION

Lopez, John Anthony (REB) 5323 N. Valentine Ave. #151, Fresno Effective: 1/11/10 Violation: 2715, 10162, 10165, 10177(g) Suspended for 90 days-stayed for one year on terms and conditions

LOS ANGELES REGION

Alaniz, Luis Cesar (REB, REO) 15218 Summit Ave., Ste. 300 734, Fontana Effective: 2/2/10 Officer of: Mountain Side Lending Corporation Violation: 10137, 10177(d)(g), 10240, 10241 Suspended for 120 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Cote, Brenda Angelica (REB) 5925 Ball Rd., Cypress Effective: 1/4/10 Violation: 10177(g) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Donathan, Robert Henry (REB, REO) 12 Journey, Ste. 12, Aliso Viejo Effective: 12/21/09 Emerald Bay Officer of: Financial of Southern California, Inc. Violation: 2715, 10162, 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days---stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Duran, Ramon Estrada (REB, REO) 2901 W. Beverly Blvd., Montebello Effective: 1/5/10 Violation: 2831, 2831.2, 2832, 2832.1, 2834, 10177(d)(g)(h) Suspended for 5 days-stayed for one year on terms and conditions Dynamic Brokers, Inc. (REC) 2901 W. Beverly Blvd., Montebello Effective: 1/5/10 Violation: 2831, 2831.2, 2832, 2832.1, 2834, 10177(d)(g) Suspended for 5 days-stayed for one year on terms and conditions **Emerald Bay Financial of Southern** California, Inc. (REC) 801 N. Parkcenter Dr., Ste. 106, Santa Ana Effective: 12/21/09 Violation: 2715, 10162, 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions M & H Partners, Inc. (REC) 5911 Heil Ave., Ste. B & C, Huntington Beach Effective: 12/9/09

Violation:

2715, 2848, 10140.6,

10235 Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Mejia, Teresa (RES) PO Box 187, Montclair Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 10130, 10177(d) Suspended for 120 days-90 days stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Mohr, Richard Peter (REB) 305 E. Grove, Orange Effective: 12/9/09 Violation: 10137, 10161.8(a), 10177(d)(g) Suspended for 90 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Moore, Joseph Michael (REB, REO) 5911 Heil Ave., Ste. B & C, Huntington Beach Effective: 12/9/09 Officer of: M & H Partners, Inc. Violation: 2715, 2848, 10140.6, 10162, 10177(d)(g), 10235 Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Murillo, Esteban Raoul (REB, REO) 1147 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach Effective: 1/6/10 Eadoin Mortgage Officer of: Network, Inc. 10177(g) Violation: Suspended for 30 days-stayed for one year on terms and conditions Purcell, Danielle H. (REB) 1268 Glenneyre St., Laguna Beach Effective: 1/8/10 Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 10145, 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Quintero, Ronald Claude (REB) 26081 Meritt Circle, Ste. 1119, Laguna Hills Effective: 2/1/10 Violation: 10085, 10159.5, 10177(d)(g) Suspended for 90 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Thacher, Robert Morton (REB) 7144 Airway Ave., Yucca Valley Effective: 1/20/10 Violation: 10177(g) Suspended for 30 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

OAKLAND REGION

Baycal Financial Corporation (REC) 111 Anza Blvd. #308, Burlingame Effective: 1/7/10 Violation: 2831, 10176(e), 10177(d) Suspended for 100 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Ibis Universal Corporation (REC) 1754 Technology Dr., Ste. 234, San Jose 1/11/10 Effective: Violation: 2726, 10177(d), 10240, 10241 Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions JBC Financial Services, Inc. (REC) 1650 S. Amphlett Blvd., Ste. 114, San Mateo Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 2752, 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832, 2842.5, 10177(d) Suspended for 30 days-stayed on terms and conditions McGovern, Thomas B. (REB) 1650 S. Amphlett Blvd., Ste. 114, San Mateo Effective: 1/19/10 Violation: 2752, 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832, 2842.5, 10159.2(a), 10177(d)(h) Suspended for 30 days-stayed on terms and conditions Murphy, Matthew Peter (REB) 4341 Piedmont Ave., Oakland Effective: 1/5/10 Violation: 2725, 10159.2, 10177(g)(h) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Pacific Capital Holdings, Inc. (REC) 4341 Piedmont Ave., Oakland Effective: 1/5/10 Violation: 2726, 2753, 2831. 2831.2, 2832, 2835, 10145, 10160, 10176(e), 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Pierce, Robert Steven (REB) 39500 Stevens Pl. #108, Fremont Effective: 1/5/10 Violation: 2725, 10159.2, 10177(g)(h) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Tsia, Anthony C.K. (REB) 111 Anza Blvd. #308, Burlingame Effective: 1/7/10Violation: 10177(h) Suspended for 100 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

SACRAMENTO REGION

Cohen, Brian (REB) 611 Arbutus Ave., Chico *Effective:* 1/4/10 *Violation:* 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832, 2834, 10145, 10176(e), 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days—30 days stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Goss, Roger Lathrop (REB) 103 Placerville Dr., Placerville 12/28/09 Effective: Violation: 2831, 10130, 10177(d), 10240 Suspended for 60 days—30 days stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Norcal Gold, Inc. (REC) 11290 Point East Dr., Ste. 140, Rancho Cordova Effective: 12/7/09 Violation: 2731, 2831, 2831.2, 2832, 2834, 10130, 10137, 10145, 10159.5, 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Romanishin, Tanya (RES) 1420 E. Roseville Pkwy., Ste. 140 130, Roseville Effective: 1/11/10 Violation: 2763(a)(1), 123, 10177(a)(d) Suspended for 6 days-stayed for one year on terms and conditions Verdeo Funding, Inc. (REC) 4168 Douglas Blvd., Ste. 200, Granite Bay Effective: 1/21/10 Violation: 2832, 2970, 10085, 10145, 10146, 10177(d) Suspended for 30 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Williams, David Meredith (REB) 4168 Douglas Blvd., Ste. 200, Granite Bay Effective: 1/21/10 Violation: 10159.2, 10177(h) Suspended for 45 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions Winders, Paul Russell (REB) 560 First St. #C103, Benicia Effective: 2/11/10 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, Violation: 2832, 10145, 10176(e) (i), 10177(d) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for one year on terms and conditions Yee, Timothy Craig (REB) 11290 Point East Dr., Ste. 140, Rancho Cordova Effective: 12/7/09 Violation: 10159.2, 10177(d)(h) Suspended for 60 days-stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

LICENSE SURRENDERED

FRESNO REGION

MacKenzie, Stephen Dustin (REB) 915A North Main St., Salinas Effective: 2/25/10

LOS ANGELES REGION

Ali, Riasat (RES) 3537 East Ave. H13, Lancaster *Effective:* 11/24/09 Allen, Angela Lorraine (REB) 3040 Linden Ave., Long Beach Effective: 12/14/09 Cavero, Luis Enrique (RES) 13151 Yorba Ave., Apt. 150, Chino Effective: 12/14/09 Central American Mortgage Co., Inc. (REC) 14 N. Central Ave., Upland Effective: 12/14/09 Chiuminatta, Jeffrey Alan (REB, REO) 7525 Irvine Center Dr., Ste. 200, Irvine Effective: 2/24/10 Öfficer of: Green Credit Solutions, Inc. Grand Masters Lending, Inc. (REC) 16742 Orange Way, Fontana Effective: 2/8/10 Green Credit Solutions, Inc. (REC) 7525 Irvine Center Dr., Ste. 200, Irvine Effective: 2/24/10 Hasson, Ronald (RES) 16055 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 1200, Encino 12/21/09 Effective: Key Lenders, Inc. (REC) 16133 Ventura Blvd., Penthouse H, Encino Effective: 12/2109 Levan, Paul (RES) 9166 Cerritos Ave. #42, Anaheim Effective: 12/14/09 Melone, Curtis James (RES) 7525 Irvine Center Dr., Ste. 200, Irvine Effective: 2/24/10 Menendez, Mario (REB, REO) 13601 E. Whittier Blvd., Ste. 409, Whittier 12/14/09 Effective: Officer of: Pegaso Realty, Inc., Central American Mortgage Co., Inc. Oganesyan, Elita (REB) 12107 Gerald Ave., Granada Hills Effective: 1/12/10 Pegaso Realty, Inc. (REC) 14 N. Central Ave., Ste. A, Upland Effective: 12/14/09 Pitts, Diana Marie (PRLS) 18538 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach Effective: 12/14/09 Previti, James Peter (REB, REO) 3536 Concours St., Ste. 300, Ontario Effective: 2/16/10 Razi, Negar Nicole (RES) 23032 Vose St., West Hills Effective: 12/14/09 Young, Gerald Thomas (RES) 15252 Seneca Rd., Unit 183,

Victorville

Effective:

12/7/09

OAKLAND REGION

Jeter, Raymond Lorenzo (REB) 2570 N. First St., Ste. 200, San Jose 12/21/09 Effective: Luu, Hoa Lisa (REB) 2323 Trinity Hills Ct., San Jose Effective: 1/26/10 Peavey, William Benson Jr. (REB) 202 Alta Vista Dr., South San Francisco Effective: 9/14/09 Schaefer, Paul Adam (REB) 4795 Old Redwood Hwy., Ste. B, Santa Rosa Effective: 1/25/10 Stein, Clement Joseph Jr. (REB) 10 Commodore Dr., Emeryville Effective: 12/22/09 Ting, Sen (RES) PO Box 875, Millbrae Effective: 1/7/10 Whitfield Financial Services, Inc. (REC) 900 E. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 100, Campbell Effective: 12/21/09

SACRAMENTO REGION

Bingham, Lisa Maria (RES) 700 Gibson Dr. #1821, Roseville Effective: 12/31/09 Daugherty, Carl Patrick (RES) 2087 Morley Way, Sacramento Effective: 1/11/10 Loan Review, Inc. (REC) 1430 Blue Oaks Blvd. #250, Roseville Effective: 12/10/09

SAN DIEGO REGION

AJPROP.COM, Inc. (REC) 3358 30th St., San Diego *Effective*: 12/10/09 Bridge Harbor Mortgage Services, Inc. (REC) 11716 Mira Lago Way, San Diego *Effective*: 12/10/09 Mocan, Daniela (RES) 808 Allegre Circle, Corona *Effective*: 12/28/09

INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS

(under Recovery Acct provisions)

FRESNO REGION

Landers, Rhonda Faye (RES) 2308 S. Waldby Ave., Fresno *Effective:* 1/22/10 **Tullos, Bonnie Ilene (REB)** 955 Via Solano, Arroyo Grande *Effective:* 12/28/09, 12/31/09, 1/22/10, 1/29/10, 2/1/10, 2/22/10

Indefinite Suspensions Cont'd

LOS ANGELES REGION

Castillo, Antonio (REB) 8504 Firestone Blvd., #380, Downey Effective: 2/12/10 Ehlert, Georg Bruno (RES) 276 S. Parker St., Orange Effective: 2/22/10 Laureano, Donald (REB) 19301 Plummer St., Northridge 12/08/09 Effective: On Line Funding (REC) 3915 W. 102ND St., Inglewood 12/31/09 Effective: Zepeda,Leobardo Mendoza, Jr. (RES) 1641 N. Elm Ave., Santa Maria Effective: 2/9/10

OAKLAND REGION

Bullard, Rodney Alonzo (REB) 4935 Bridle Way, Antioch *Effective*: 12/28/09 Tran, Yem Dang (REB) 289 Ascente Commons, San Jose *Effective*: 12/31/09

Are appraisal fees and credit report fees trust funds?

Generally, a broker who collects fees in advance (advance fees), for the purpose of arranging a loan, must comply with all of the advance fees laws and regulations (Business and Professions Code (B&P) §10026, 10085 & 10146 and Commissioner's Regulations 2970 & 2972).

But, there are instances where the broker collects monies for performing a service such as an appraisal or obtaining a credit report-in these instances, the Department does not interpret these payments as advance fees, as the broker collects an amount equal to the cost of performing such services (the actual appraisal cost and/or the cost of the credit report). Any excess funds above and beyond the cost to perform these services would be considered advance fees. Despite not being treated as advance fees, appraisal and credit report fees are considered to be trust funds.

Depending on the situation, there are ways that appraisal fees and/or credit report fees must be handled by the broker:

- 1. They can either be collected directly from the borrowers up front, or
- 2. They can be collected at the close of escrow.

Credit report and appraisal fees *are* trust funds; they *are not* broker's funds.

Collected Directly from Borrowers Up Front

When a broker receives a check in his/her name for credit report and/or appraisal fees (trust funds), the trust funds should be deposited into a bank account in the name of the broker as trustee (a trust account), no later than three business days following receipt of the funds.

The broker must have a columnar record for all trust funds received and disbursed, and a separate record for each beneficiary should be maintained. The broker would need to maintain a written monthly reconciliation of the columnar record to the separate records.

According to B&P §10145(a)(1), "A real estate broker who accepts funds belonging to others in connection with a transaction subject to this part shall deposit all those funds ... into a trust fund account maintained by the broker in a bank or recognized depository in this state. All funds deposited by the broker in a trust fund account shall be maintained there until disbursed by the broker in a cordance with instructions from the person entitled to the funds." Also see Commissioner's Regulations 2832(a), 2831 (a) (b)(c), 2831(e), 2831.1(a), and 2831.2

Collected at the Close of Escrow

When credit report and appraisal fees are collected at the close of

escrow, and if the broker has already paid for the services with his/her own money prior to receiving these funds at the close of escrow, the broker is just getting a reimbursement. These are not trust funds.

However, if the broker receives a check from the escrow company, payable to the broker, for credit report and appraisal fees, and he/ she has not paid for the services, they are not broker's



funds. They are trust funds and have to be treated as such. They should not be deposited into the broker's general account. When a broker deposits trust funds in the general account, the broker is commingling trust funds with broker's funds in the general account, which violates B&P §10176(e) and 10145 along with the Commissioner's Regulation 2832.

B&P §10176 states that "The commissioner may, upon his or her own motion, and shall, upon the verified complaint in writing of any person, investigate the actions of any person engaged in the business or acting in the capacity of a real estate licensee within this state, and he or she may temporarily suspend or permanently revoke a real estate license at any time where the licensee, while a real estate licensee, in performing or attempting to perform any of the acts within the scope of this chapter has been guilty of any of the following:

(e) "Commingling with his or her own money or property the money or other property of others which is received and held by him or her."

If the credit report and appraisal fees are included in the broker's commission check (from escrow), the entire check would need to be deposited into the trust account and the part of the funds belonging to the broker should be disbursed not later than twenty-five days after their deposit.

Regulation 2835 states that "Commingling" as used in B&P \$10176(e) is prohibited except as specified in this section. For purposes of Section 10176(e), the following shall not constitute "commingling":

2835(b) "The deposit into a trust account maintained in compliance with subdivision (d) of funds belonging in part to the broker's principal and in part to the broker when it is not reasonably practicable to separate such funds, provided the part of the funds belonging to the broker is disbursed not later than twentyfive days after their deposit and there is no dispute between the broker and the broker's principal as to the broker's portion of the funds. When the right of a broker to receive a portion of trust funds is disputed by the broker's principal, the disputed portion shall not be withdrawn until the dispute is finally settled."

(d) "The trust fund account into which the funds are deposited is maintained in accordance with the provisions of §10145 and the regulations of this article."

Credit report and appraisal fees paid up front are not usually treated as advance fees, however, they are trust funds and must comply with trust fund handling laws and regulations.

The Buck Stops Here Continued from page 3

her employment? Depending on the facts and circumstances and the nature of the violation, the designated broker-officer may still be responsible along with the officer to whom supervision was delegated.

The supervision requirement in B&P \$10159.2 is supported by B&P \$10177(h). Enacted in 1955, this subsection authorizes two causes for disciplinary action:

(1) for any broker who fails to exercise "reasonable supervision" over the salespersons practicing under his or her license, and

(2) for any designated corporate broker licensee who fails to exercise reasonable supervision and control of the activities of the corporation for which a real estate license is required.

Hence, a broker's failure to provide adequate supervision can lead to disastrous consequences not only for the affected consumers, but also for the broker's future as a real estate licensee.

In exercising reasonable supervision over the activities of their salespersons, Regulation 2725 requires that brokers establish policies, rules, procedures and systems to review, oversee, inspect and manage:

(a) Transactions requiring a real estate license.

(b) Documents which may have a material effect upon the rights or obligations of a party to the transaction.

(c) Filing, storage and maintenance of such documents.

- (d) Handling of trust funds.
- (e) Advertising of any service for which a license is required.

(f) Familiarizing salesperson with the requirements of federal and state laws relating to the prohibitions against discrimination.

(g) Regular and consistent reports of licensed activities of salespersons.

The form and extent of such policies, rules, procedures and systems must take into consideration the number of salespersons employed and the number and location of branch offices. In other words, a designated broker should keep track of who is working for the company, what the license status is of employees, and out of which office they are working. A broker also must have a system in place to monitor the overall policies, rules, procedures and systems. Brokers may use the services of other brokers and salespersons to assist in administering these supervisory policies and procedures, so long as the broker does not relinquish overall responsibility for supervision of the acts of salespersons licensed to the broker.

Ensuring License Requirements are Met

Any person, individual or corporation,



who engages in the business of, or advertises as, a real estate broker or a real estate salesperson must first obtain a real estate license from the Department. It is therefore incumbent upon brokers to hire licensed agents, and ensure that only employees who are licensed perform activities requiring a real estate license. It is the employing brokers and/or the designated broker officers of corporations who are responsible for ensuring that agents are properly licensed and that unlicensed employees do not perform activities requiring a real estate license. In this way, supervising brokers ensure that the sales force is licensed and has the basic requisite knowledge, skills, experience and character to represent members of the public in real estate transactions.

Because corporations are "persons" under the Real Estate Law, corporations may obtain real estate broker licenses. However, a licensed corporate broker may act only through a designated corporate officer who is a licensed broker. B&P \$10211 requires that the corporation designate a supervising broker in its application for a real estate license. If there is no licensed officer designated as the supervising broker for the corporation, the corporation cannot perform licensed activities. A designated broker-officer of a corporation is, while so employed, licensed only to act for and on behalf of the corporation as an officer. However, a designated broker-officer may also hold a separate license through which he or she may act as an individual broker. A corporate licensee engaging in the real estate business when there is no designated broker-officer is acting in an unlicensed capacity. This may subject the corporation to discipline by the Department as well as to criminal penalties.

In addition, in order to be licensed by the Department of Real Estate and to do business as a corporate real estate broker, the corporation must be in good standing with other agencies of the State. If a corporation, for example, has its corporate status suspended or revoked, it is no longer a corporation in good standing. The designated broker officer of a corporation is responsible for ensuring compliance with this provision of the Real Estate Law.

Among the express administrative duties of supervision are the requirements that the broker physically possess the licenses of the salespeople he or she employs. The salesperson license must reflect the current employing broker. In addition, brokers must notify the DRE when hiring or terminating a salesperson. Brokers must maintain written agreements between the broker and each Continued on page 11

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accessed through the NMLS&R

- MU1 form for companies-This form is completed on behalf of a licensed real estate corporation or on behalf of a soleproprietor license real estate broker.
- MU2 form for officers-This form will be completed for the broker or officers (licensed and non-licensed) of the company identified in the MU1 form.
- MU3 form for branches-This form is completed for each licensed mortgage loan branch office location.
- MU4 form for individuals-This form will be completed by each mortgage loan originator who will take a mortgage loan application, or who will negotiate or offer to negotiate a residential property mortgage loan. This includes brokers, salespersons, and independent or contract loan processors or loan underwriters. If a MLO License Endorsement application is filed for a corporation, the corporation licensed broker officer must also file this form.

2. Qualifying Tests

Two tests are given by the NMLS&R. One is a national component ,and one is a state component. If a passing score is not obtained, the test can be retaken after 30 days. If a passing score is not obtained after the first 3 attempts, then the test can be retaken again after 180 days.

3. Prelicensing Education

Existing DRE licensees can either take 20 hours of education through NMLS course providers OR have the prelicensing education waived by meeting the following requirements:

- 1. Register on NMLS and file a MU4 form by August 31, 2010.
- 2. Pay a \$15 fee when requested by email.

3. Maintain an active DRE license through July 1, 2010 (or through August 1^{st} , 2010 if applying after July 1^{st}).

4. Criminal Background

New fingerprints are required. Review of criminal background information will result in denial of the mortgage loan originator license endorsement when there has been a felony conviction in the last 7 years or if there has been any conviction for a felony involving an act of fraud, dishonesty, breach of trust, or money laundering.

5. Credit Report Authorization

The Buck Stops Here Continued from page 11

salesperson. The agreements must address the broker's supervision of licensed activities. Brokers must have and maintain a definite place of business in California where licenses are displayed and where consultations with clients take place. Fictitious business names and the location of branch offices must also be on record with the Department to be lawful. In addition, alternative business names (doing business with a fictitious business name, or "dba") and the location of branch offices must be on record with the Department to be lawful. In the case of a corporate broker, it is the duty of the designated broker to ensure compliance with these rules. These latter examples of administrative duties are part of the more general duties of supervision of an individual broker's employees or the designated supervising broker's duty to supervise the acts of a licensed corporation and its employees and agents.

The supervising broker is also responsible for properly handling trust funds, and for maintaining trust account records, transaction records, and records of

Credit scores will not be the key to the state evaluation of financial responsibility. However, an applicant may be precluded from obtaining a mortgage loan originator license endorsement where his or her personal history includes any liens or judgments for fraud, misrepresentation, dishonest dealing, and/or mishandling of trust funds, or other liens, judgments, or financial or professional conditions that indicate a pattern of dishonesty on the part of the applicant. The credit report will be used to validate MU Application disclosures.

6. Disclosures

The application forms will include disclosure questions about the applicant's background and will require him or her to forward copies of these disclosures to the Department's licensing section with attached copies of any evidence, explanation, or clarification that may be appropriate.

7. Fees

Pay the required fees through the NMLS registry system. All fees are non-refundable.

Loan Processors and Underwriters

The SAFE Act requires that independent or contract loan processors and underwriters must also register with the NMLS&R as Mortgage Loan Originators. The MLO License Endorsement will be added to the DRE Broker License as an MLO Endorsement. Processors or underwriters who do not already have a DRE Broker License will have to obtain one by December 31, 2010, or before doing any activities as an independent or contract loan processor or underwriter after December 31, 2010.

Arranging Seller Carry-Back Transactions

Licensees who enter into a listing agreement to sell property and help the seller arrange carry-back terms for the sale but are not compensated by a lender for originating the loan will not be required to obtain an MLO License Endorsement.

Department of Corporations Applicants

Applicants for an MLO License Endorsement who will be working for a Department of Corporations (DOC) licensee may be able to request certification of the 20 hours of pre-licensing education if they currently hold a DRE license. Contact the DOC for instructions.

For frequently asked questions and the most current information, please visit the DRE's Web site at www.dre.ca.gov.

payments, on behalf of the corporation

Ensuring that all employees act with the utmost honesty and integrity and adhere to their duties as fiduciaries is an inherent part of the supervising broker's responsibility. The decision to serve as a supervising broker, either of a sole proprietorship or of a corporate brokerage, should not be taken lightly. If any violations occur in the name of the corporation, the designated broker may suffer the consequences. The buck stops with that individual.



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