



NEWS RELEASE

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California Department of Real Estate Deploys Electronic Exams in Fresno *Agents Can Get To Work Sooner*

SACRAMENTO – The California State Department of Real Estate (DRE), the state regulator that issues licenses to real estate professionals and protects consumers in real estate transactions, has deployed an electronic examination system in its Fresno office. This system gives the DRE the ability to immediately issue a real estate salesperson or broker license to an examinee upon the successful completion of the license exam. Fresno is the second of the department's 5 regional testing centers to implement electronic exams; the Oakland office launched electronic examinations this past summer.

The benefits of the electronic exam system are many. It allows the department to update test questions more efficiently and it cuts down on exam abuses by giving the department the ability to present each examinee with a different approved version of the examination. But most importantly, examinees will be able to get to work sooner.

"Prior to the implementation of electronic exams, an applicant may have to wait weeks in order to obtain a license after passing the exam, but now the issuance of a license can be done nearly instantaneously," DRE Commissioner Jeff Davi said. "As the real estate market recovers, it will be vital to get people to work as quickly as possible and the electronic exam system will do just that."

Traditionally, real estate license applicants would first have to apply for and pass the real estate license exam before applying for a license. In anticipation of the launch of the electronic exam system and to improve efficiencies, in 2005 the DRE introduced the combination application. Under this process, an applicant may apply for the license exam and real estate license at the same time. By applying for the exam and application at the same time, it allows the DRE to perform the necessary licensing background checks on the applicant, including obtaining any criminal information on the applicant from the Department of Justice, during the period the applicant is scheduled for the real estate exam. With the early completion of the background checks coupled with electronic exams, the DRE is able to issue licenses more quickly than any time in its history.

With the successful deployment of the electronic exam system in Oakland and Fresno the DRE has begun the process to renovate its remaining testing centers in Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego.

For more information about electronic exams visit http://www.dre.ca.gov/exm_eep_notice.html. For more information on DRE and its programs visit www.dre.ca.gov.

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