Elderly affinity fraud

While the vast majority of real estate licensees conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner, it is an unfortunate reality that the Department’s Enforcement section often sees the opposite type of licensee behavior. When we do, it is our responsibility to remove those individuals from the ranks of the licensed industry. The following case illustrates a situation of a real estate licensee taking advantage of a client’s vulnerability for personal gain.

This case involved a licensee who acquired a listing on the property of an 83-year old woman who wanted to sell her home and move into an assisted care facility.

The licensee successfully negotiated the sale of the property, after which the seller received proceeds in the amount of $367,000 which were deposited into her checking account at Wells Fargo Bank. Up until this point, it was a pretty normal transaction. The home was sold, and the licensee received her commission.

Following the close of escrow, the seller moved into an assisted care facility, where our licensee continued to court her friendship and became involved in her financial affairs.

After the close of escrow, the seller received forms to invest $350,000 in Vanguard Mutual Funds. Our licensee was there to “assist” her in completing the paperwork. Without any informed consent of the seller, our licensee caused the forms to be changed to a $250,000 investment, reducing the amount that the seller wanted to invest by $100,000.00.

The licensee proceeded to forge two checks from the seller’s Wells Fargo account. The first check was in the amount of $50,000 and was made payable to a particular bank for a specified loan account number. Investigation revealed that the account number was for the licensee’s own secured loan which was delinquent at the time. The second check, also in the amount of $50,000, went to pay the licensee’s husband’s Mastercard account.

When the seller’s children found out what had occurred, they filed a complaint with the Department and the licensee ultimately surrendered her license. In addition, the licensee was criminally convicted for the embezzlement of the property of an elder or dependent adult, and for the subsequent intimidation of a victim.

In the end, the former licensee paid a considerable price for her misdeeds — losing her license, as well as her freedom. The Department is committed to removing unscrupulous individuals such as this from the business so that they are unable to use their credentials as a real estate licensee to prey upon an unsuspecting public.

Commissioner Davi's Column: Have we weathered the mortgage crisis storm?

On some fronts, we have turned the corner. Many of the issues that caused the crisis have abated, either by market corrections or regulatory efforts. DRE investigations revealed that stated income loans were used in the majority of cases that involved fraud. Such loans have all but disappeared from the market place. And with the passage of SB 385 last year and the recent reforms to Reg Z, lenders and brokers are or will be obligated to examine a borrower’s ability to repay any non-traditional or higher priced loan. And stiffer advertising rules preclude brokers from hiding the risky loan features in the small print.

But the aftermath of lax underwriting standards and deceitful practices of the past continues. License revocations are rising as the DRE continues to uncover fraudulent and questionable transactions. In the last two fiscal years the DRE has taken over 3,600 administrative disciplinary actions that have resulted in nearly 900 license revocations. With respect to mortgage loan specific cases, in the last two years there have been over 450 disciplinary cases that resulted in:

- 147 License Revocations or Surrenders
- 164 License Suspensions
- 11 License Denials
- 40 License Restrictions
- 11 License Suspensions
- 11 License Denials
- 11 Desist & Refrains
- 11 License Denials
- 40 License Restrictions
- 11 Desist & Refrains

In addition to the administrative actions, DRE has forged close relationships with law enforcement and attorneys. Joint investigations with the FBI have led to numerous federal indictments with the promise of many more to come. The DRE is also cooperating with the Attorney General and local District Attorneys in criminal investigations. The DRE is committed to ridding the industry of unscrupulous licensees and will continue to refer cases to law enforcement. And I would encourage all licensees to help in this important effort. Cooperate with investigators if asked, and, most importantly, keep letting us know about questionable transactions and practices.

And I would encourage all licensees to help in this important effort. Cooperate with investigators if asked, and, most importantly, keep letting us know about questionable transactions and practices.
A refresher for real estate brokers on the maintenance, retention, production, proper security, and disposal of records

Real estate brokers are required to maintain books and records (“records”) that were prepared in connection with all transactions for which a real estate license is required. The failure to do so constitutes a basis for disciplinary action against the broker’s license pursuant to §10148 of the Business and Professions (“B&P”) Code.

B&P Code §10148 requires a licensed real estate broker to retain copies of all listings, deposit receipts, canceled checks, trust records, and other documents executed by the broker, or obtained by the broker, in connection with any transactions for which a real estate broker license is required.

Brokers must retain these records for a period of three years from the close of the transaction, or from the date of the listing if the transaction was not consummated.

Storage of Records on Electronic Media

In complying with B&P Code §10148, some real estate brokers experience storage issues such as limited onsite storage space or costs, security, and accessibility issues related to use of off-site locations.

Commissioner’s Regulation 2729 provides an alternative. A real estate broker can avoid storage costs related to bulky transaction files and other real estate documentation, by use of electronic image storage media. Electronic image storage media may be used to retain and store copies of all documents executed or obtained by the broker in connection with any transaction for which a real estate broker license is required.

Copies of real estate documents such as listings, deposit receipts, canceled checks, trust records and any other type of real estate related documents can be stored on an electronic image storage media if the following requirements of Commissioner’s Regulation 2729(a)(1 through 6) are satisfied:

1. The electronic image storage shall be nonerasable “write once, read many” (“WORM”), that does not allow changes to the stored document or record.
2. The stored document or record is made or preserved as part of, and in the regular course of, business.
3. The original record from which the stored document or record was copied was made or prepared by the broker or the broker’s employees at or near the time of the act, condition or event reflected in the record.
4. The custodian of the record is able to identify the stored document or record, the mode of its preparation, and the mode of storing it on the electronic image storage.
5. The electronic image storage media contains a reliable indexing system.
Trust account withdrawals — Commissioner’s Regulation 2834

To be in compliance with Commissioner’s Regulation §2834 (Trust Account Withdrawals), an individual broker must be a signatory on his or her own trust account. In addition to the individual broker being a signatory on his or her own trust account, the individual broker may allow certain others to be authorized signatories on the account. Those others include a salesperson licensed to the broker and expressly authorized in writing to withdraw funds from the trust account; a broker who has entered into a written agreement pursuant to Commissioner’s Regulation §2726 with the broker/owner of the account and who has been expressly authorized in writing to withdraw funds from the trust account; or an unlicensed person employed by the broker who has fidelity bond coverage at least equal to the maximum amount of the trust funds to which the employee has access at any time.

In the case of a corporate broker, Regulation §2834(b) requires the Designated Officer (D.O.) to be a signatory on the corporate trust account if withdrawals from the corporate trust account may be made by a salesperson licensed to the corporation; a broker who has entered into a written agreement pursuant to Commissioner’s Regulation §2726 with the corporation; or an unlicensed person employed by the corporation who has fidelity bond coverage at least equal to the maximum amount of the trust funds to which the employee has access at any time.

There is no specific form or format for the express written authorization for an eligible employee to withdraw funds from a broker’s trust account, but the content of such written authorization should include words to the effect that the broker or D.O. has given the named person authorization to sign on the trust account. There may be other conditions included in the authorization, such as the number of signatures required for specific amounts on checks, or the maximum amount of withdrawal at any time.

Caution: When any signatory on a trust account terminates his or her employment with the broker or the corporation, the terminated employee should be deleted as a signatory on the trust account.

If a signatory on a broker’s trust account will be an unlicensed employee, the unlicensed employee signatory must be covered by a fidelity bond with “coverage at least equal to the maximum amount of trust funds to which the employee has access at any time.” The maximum amount to which the employee has access may be determined by the broker’s accountant or CPA, and could be adjusted (increased/decreased) from time to time depending on the responsibilities of the signatory, or increase/decrease in trust funds balances, etc. As with a licensed salesperson or broker employed by the corporation, express written authorization by the broker/D.O. to withdraw funds from the corporate trust account is also required for any unlicensed employee covered by a fidelity bond.

Caution: When any signatory on a trust account terminates his or her employment with the broker or the corporation, the terminated employee should be deleted as a signatory on the trust account.

While any unlicensed person covered by a fidelity bond remains a signatory on a trust account, the individual broker or D.O. should ensure that there is sufficient fidelity bond coverage at all times.

Some other issues of concern:

1) Deductibles

§2834 contains no language that allows for a deductible on the fidelity bond, nor is there any mention of any coverage other than a fidelity bond. An unlicensed employee can legally be a signatory on an individual or corporate broker’s trust account only if s/he is covered by a non-deductible fidelity bond.

2) Wire Transfers

Allowing individuals to make wire transfers from the trust account will be considered as if that person is a signatory on the trust account and the conditions discussed above will apply.

3) Trust Fund Beneficiaries as Signatories

- The broker’s principal/beneficiary must not be a signatory on a real estate broker’s trust account. For example, an owner of a rental property must not be a signatory on the trust account which is used by the broker to handle trust funds for that property. The integrity of the trust account must be protected by the broker.
- The broker should make sure that all written authorizations are current and s/he should review the trust account bank signature cards on a regular basis to make sure that the signatories are up to date and correct.
- Withdrawals may be made from an individual or corporate real estate broker’s trust account only upon the signature of one or more of the persons permitted by Commissioner’s Regulation §2834, as described above.
The recovery account — DRE's victim's fund

The Department of Real Estate’s Recovery Account is a victim’s fund which began operating on July 1, 1964. The purpose of the Recovery Account is to provide limited reimbursement to consumers for losses sustained in real estate transactions because of the fraudulent acts of licensed real estate brokers or salespersons. The Recovery Account is funded from a portion of the license fees paid to the Department of Real Estate by brokers and salespersons, and from monies paid into the account from Orders following disciplinary actions. The body of law governing the administration of and qualification for payment from the Recovery Account is found in California Business & Professions Code sections 10470 through 10481; and in Title 10, California Code of Regulations, sections 3100 through 3109. Between July 1, 1964 and June 30, 2007, the Recovery Account has paid out approximately $36,600,000 to 2,300 victims, or 56% of the 4,100 victims who have applied for payment.

When the Recovery Account was first established, it was intended that only those consumer losses caused by a licensee’s intentional fraud be compensated, assuming all other requirements were met. In 1984, a California Court of Appeal held that the Recovery Account was liable for not only intentional fraud, but also for a licensee’s negligent misrepresentation. (Andrepon v. Meeker (1984) 158 CA3d 878.) Following that decision, an audit of the Recovery Account was ordered to determine whether it could meet the potential liability which would be caused by the lesser standard, rather than intentional fraud. It was determined that, without somehow limiting the liability of the Recovery Account, it would become insolvent under the new rule. Effective July 1, 1987, the Legislature amended the Recovery Account law to provide for liability only for intentional fraud or conversion of trust funds, and to clarify its intent that the Recovery Account is not an insurance policy, but a fund of last resort created to provide limited benefits.

Can victims in criminal cases qualify for payment?

In 1997 the law defining a “qualifying judgment” was amended to include a criminal restitution order. When a criminal conviction of a licensee is for a crime with elements similar to intentional fraud or conversion of trust funds, such as fraud or embezzlement, and the sentence includes restitution to one or more of the licensee’s victims, the criminal conviction, or judgment, may qualify for payment from the Recovery Account. Over the past several years, the Department’s Recovery Account Unit has received an increasing number of applications from victims who have been awarded restitution in criminal cases.

What are the requirements to qualify for payment?

In general, individuals and business entities, with exceptions, may qualify. An applicant for payment from the Recovery Account must obtain a final judgment against one who was licensed by the Department of Real Estate at the time of the transaction which resulted in the loss. That judgment must be based on intentional fraud or conversion of trust funds (meaning the theft of a principal’s money in a transaction requiring a license) and must be rendered by a California state court or a federal court located within the State of California. The judgment could be the result of a civil case, a criminal case, certain arbitration matters, or a federal civil, criminal or bankruptcy case.

The transaction in which the victim was defrauded must have been one in which the licensee was doing something which required a real estate license. In other words, the licensee must have been acting as an agent in connection with an independent buyer and/or seller, borrower and/or lender, or property owner and/or lessee. If the licensee was acting as a principal in the transaction, (for example, the licensee was the seller of the property, or the direct borrower of the funds), he or she did not really require a real estate license to participate in the transaction. He or she was not really acting as a licensee, or as an agent, but as a party to the transaction. A licensee's judgment based on unpaid commissions does not qualify for payment from the Recovery Account.

The victim, now a judgment creditor, must then make reasonable efforts to collect on the judgment against all defendants found liable in the transaction. At a minimum, that requires the applicant for payment from the Recovery Account to demonstrate that the licensee, now a judgment debtor, and all other persons found liable to the victim in the transaction in question do not have assets, such as an interest in any real property within California, with sufficient equity which could be attached by proper court processes, to satisfy all or part of the judgment.

The applicant must also serve a copy of the entire application on the judgment debtor / licensee by methods prescribed in the Business & Professions Code, but not those set forth in the Code of Civil Procedure, as in civil court cases.

Finally, the application must be received by the Department of Real Estate no later than one year after the qualifying judgment became final. That calculation requires an understanding of the specific time limits for that particular judgment to be appealed. Those time limits differ from state courts to federal courts, including bankruptcy court.

How much can a qualifying victim recover?

If all of the requirements of the law are met, the Commissioner of the Department of Real Estate will grant the application up to a maximum of $20,000 for one transaction, and possibly up to a maximum of $100,000 per licensee, if there are multiple qualifying transactions. 1

Since the Recovery Account’s $100,000 limit of liability as to one licensee is absolute, when there are multiple claims filed against one licensee, those funds must be prorated among all of the victims who submit timely qualifying applications. Those victims who desire to participate in any proration of

Continued on page 10
**Disciplinary Action: March 08 - May 08**

- 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 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](http://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.

### Commissioner’s Regulations

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<th>Violation Description</th>
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<td>Failure to submit proof of completion of continuing education</td>
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<tr>
<td>2715</td>
<td>Licensee's failure to maintain current business or mailing address with DRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2725</td>
<td>Failure of broker to exercise reasonable supervision over the activities of his or her salespersons</td>
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<td>2726</td>
<td>Failure to have broker-salesperson agreements</td>
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<td>2731</td>
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<td>2752</td>
<td>Broker's failure to notify DRE of salesperson employment</td>
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<td>2753</td>
<td>Broker's failure to retain salesperson's license at main office or return the license at termination of employment</td>
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<td>2801.5</td>
<td>Sale of subdivision interest without public report</td>
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<td>2831</td>
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<td>Inadequate separate trust fund beneficiary records</td>
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<td>Failure to reconcile trust account</td>
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<td>Failure to comply with trust fund handling provisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2832(a)</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>2832(d)</td>
<td>Failure of broker holding trust funds contingent on offer of acceptance to properly place funds within 3 days of acceptance</td>
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<tr>
<td>2832.1</td>
<td>Failure to obtain permission to reduce trust fund balance in a multiple beneficiary account</td>
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<td>2834</td>
<td>Trust account withdrawals by unauthorized or unbonded person</td>
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<td>2951</td>
<td>Improper record keeping for broker handled escrows</td>
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### Business and Professions Code

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>480(a)(3)</td>
<td>Performance of act which would have been grounds for disciplinary action</td>
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<tr>
<td>490</td>
<td>Substantially related criminal conviction</td>
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<td>498</td>
<td>License obtained by fraud or misrepresentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10130</td>
<td>Act without license</td>
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<tr>
<td>10131(a)</td>
<td>Performing acts for which a real estate license is required</td>
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<td>10132</td>
<td>Salesperson working without a broker</td>
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<td>10137</td>
<td>Unlawful employment or payment of compensation</td>
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<td>10145</td>
<td>Trust fund handling</td>
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<td>Trust fund handling</td>
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<td>10148</td>
<td>Failure to retain records and make available for inspection</td>
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<td>10159.2</td>
<td>Failure by designated officer to supervise licensed acts of corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10159.5</td>
<td>Failure to obtain license with fictitious business name</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Financial Code

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Violation Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4975 et seq.</td>
<td>Violation of covered loan requirements</td>
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REVOKE LICENSES

FRESNO REGION
Cardenas Investments Group, Inc. (REC)
3201 F Street, Bakersfield
Effective: 4/22/08
Violation: 10148, 10176(b), 10177(d)(j)

Cardenas, Jesus Cruz (REB)
3901 Kempsey Ct., Bakersfield
Effective: 4/22/08
Violation: 10148, 10176(b), 10177(d)(j)

Cutierrez, Abram David (RES)
1661 W. Wall Ln., Porterville
Effective: 3/5/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Whitefield, Dennis Felton (RES)
1011 Sycamore Ave., Modesto
Effective: 3/5/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

LOS ANGELES REGION
Adamy, Gayane (RES)
1341 N. New Hampshire Ave., Los Angeles
Effective: 5/19/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Amashvili, George (REB)
423 Santa Barbara, Irvine
Effective: 3/13/08
Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2832, 2832.1, 2834, 10137, 10145(a), 10160, 10176(a), 10177(d)(g), 10240, 10256

Andebe, Oren Mbat (RES)
1800 E. Aroma Dr. #126, West Covina
Effective: 3/3/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Anorga, Alejandro Felix (RES)
PO Box 1004, Rancho Cucamonga
Effective: 3/18/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Blunt, Candace Lee (RES)
14801 Quezada Way, Santa Clarita
Effective: 5/22/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Bramantes, Tanisclado J. (RES)
4221 Wilsbury Blvd. #170-6B, Los Angeles
Effective: 5/19/08
Violation: 2742, 10177(d)(f)(g)

Coburn, Angelica Michele (REC)
c/o Century 21, 17563 Ventura Blvd., Encino
Effective: 5/5/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Colonial National Bancorp (REC)
17822 East 17th St., Ste. 412, Tustin
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 2731, 2752, 2831, 2832, 2832.1, 10137, 10145(a), 10160, 10176(a), 10177(d)(g), 10240, 10256

Coto, Walter Gonzalez (REC)
305 S. Second Ave. #253, Upland
Effective: 3/18/08
Violation: 10130, 10177(d)(j)

Co, Dennis William (REB)
1811 W. Katella Ave., Ste. 205, Anaheim
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 101592, 10177(d)(g)(b)

Densmore, Michael (REC)
1041 Regatta Run, Costa Mesa
Effective: 4/29/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Depert, Denise (REC)
PO Box 15373, Beverly Hills
Effective: 5/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Elad, Omar Adam (RES)
1940 General St., Rancho Palos Verdes
Effective: 5/13/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Flores, Jose Julian (RES)
1411 N Avenue 47, Los Angeles
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Frias, Manuel Adrian (REB)
8635 E. Florence Ave. #105, Downey
Effective: 5/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Galaviz, Jose Angel (RES)
670 N Arrowhead Ave. #A, San Bernardino
Effective: 5/13/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Garner McSweeney, Carole E. (RES)
5153 Irvington Place, Los Angeles
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 10177(f)

Gravina, Gail Ann (REB)
701 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood
Effective: 5/7/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Guevara, Seitha Faye (RES)
9140 Morehart Ave., Arleta
Effective: 3/26/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Han, Duk Kyu (RES)
20836 Missionary Ridge Rd., Walnut
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Head Financial Services, Inc. (REC)
961 N. citrus Dr., La Habra
Effective: 5/5/08

Hill, Helena Faye (RES)
PO Box 40913, Pasadena
Effective: 5/13/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Hollister, Mandy Nichole (RES)
2200 W. Palmynra #30, Orange
Effective: 5/29/08

Hosseini, Azadeh (RES)
26109 Veja Way, Calabasas
Effective: 5/7/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Kennedy, Mary Leigh (RES)
100 W. Valencia Mesa Dr., Fullerton
Effective: 5/7/08
Violation: 10130, 10177(d)(j)

Li, Da (RES)
49 E. Colorado Blvd., Arcadia
Effective: 3/10/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Lin, Cheng Tsung (RES)
4303 Mohawk, Claremont
Effective: 4/23/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Lu, Trang (RES)
31 Whispering Willow Ct., Azusa
Effective: 5/5/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Lyle, Michael Owen (RES)
26022 Topper Ct., Stevenson Ranch
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Lyons, Robert Emmet (RES)
2641 Vanderhoof Dr., West Covina
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Mallett-Corrigan, Kimberly Ann (RES)
6046 Via Naranjo, La Verne
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Maris, Brenda Michelle (RES)
210 62nd St. #271, Newport Beach
Effective: 5/1/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Markovich, Mark Anthony (RES)
9 San Anselmo, Rancho Santa Margarita
Effective: 3/19/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Moreno, Paolo A. (RES)
9461 Charvelle Blvd. #595, Beverly Hills
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Ortega, Robert John (RES)
458 N. Maclay, San Fernando
Effective: 4/3/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Page, Ray Andrew (RES)
1403 N. Tustin Ave. #380, Tustin
Effective: 5/19/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Pak, Huong (RES)
6415 E. Nance Cir, Orange
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Payne, Derick Whitfield (REB)
11090 Artesia Blvd., Ste. E, Cerritos
Effective: 4/28/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Phelan, Mervyn Austin (REB)
13902 Gershon Place, Santa Ana
Effective: 5/22/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Rapelian, Rafii (RES)
c/o First Banker Mortgage Corp. 17563 Ventura Blvd., Encino
Effective: 5/8/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Rethorn, Hans-Werner (RES)
2911 S. Bristol St., Santa Ana
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Reynoso, Vincent Guadalupe (RES)
PO Box 23662, Santa Ana
Effective: 4/23/08
Violation: 10177(b)

Rodriguez, James (RES)
PO Box 291256, Los Angeles
Effective: 4/29/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Sahagun, Mayra Belen (RES)
755 West 15th St., San Pedro
Effective: 3/27/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Salazar, Domingo Jr. (RES)
1670 Pleasant Hill Dr., Chino Hills
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Shagar, Harry Clark Jr. (REB)
1811 W. Katella Ave., Ste. 205, Anaheim
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 101592, 10177(d)(g)(h)

Siever, Daniel Bernard (REB)
4875 E. La Palma Ave. #608, Anaheim
Effective: 5/19/08
Violation: 490, 498, 10177(a)(b)

Skinner, Darren Fredrick (RES)
10850 Bennett Dr., Fontana
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Slater, Vernon O. (RES)
436 West 62nd St., Los Angeles
Effective: 5/20/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Malanga, Carmine Rocco (RES) 
2754 W. Canyon Ave., San Diego
Effective: 5/29/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Ng, Ramon Casimiro (RES) 
69 H Street, Chula Vista
Effective: 5/2/08
Violation: 10176(i), 10177(j)

Tallamante, Eileen (RES) 
3539 Aztec Dr. #30, La Mesa
Effective: 5/20/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)

Welcome Home Realty (REC) 
4499 Calavo Dr., La Mesa
Effective: 4/21/08
Violation: 2710, 2752, 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 2834, 2832.1, 2950 (d)(g), 2951, 10145, 10160, 10161.8, 10176(i), 10177(d)(j)

REVOURED WITH A RIGHT TO A RESTRICTED LICENSE

LOS ANGELES REGION

Adams, Richard David (RES) 
17070 San Bruno, Apt. 1-9, Fountain Valley
Effective: 5/19/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Barbera, John Robert (RES) 
311 E. Meda Ave. #5, Glendora
Effective: 4/23/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Beglayan, Karen Gary (RES) 
600 N. Brighton St., Burbank
Effective: 4/22/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Cazarez, Jennifer Alice (RES) 
PO Box 2356, Hawaiian Gardens
Effective: 5/27/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Cherney, Michael Joseph (REB) 
20951 Brookhurst, Huntington Beach
Effective: 5/29/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Devol, Lawrence John (RES) 
2150 Hathaway Ave., Thousand Oaks
Effective: 3/19/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)(j)(n)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Erskine, Mark Anthony (REB) 
801 S. Broadway #14, Santa Maria
Effective: 3/12/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Pomeroy, Neil S (RES) 
10050 Sepulveda Blvd., Encino
Effective: 5/28/08
Violation: 10130, 10177(d)(g)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

York, Susan Ann (RES) 
29441 Christiansen Way, Laguna Niguel
Effective: 3/11/08
Violation: 490, 498, 10177(b)(a)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

OAKLAND REGION

Childs, John T. (RES) 
165 Chadbourne Dr., Danville
Effective: 5/27/08
Violation: 490, 10177(b)
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Duncan, Clay Edward (REB)  
950 John Daly Blvd., Ste. 200, Daly City  
Effective: 4/22/08  
Violation: 10159.2, 10177(d)(g)(h)  
Right to RREB license on terms and conditions

Gage, Gerald Bernard (RES)  
Huang, Yajen (RES)  
Ramirez, Carlos Manuel (REB)  
Duncan, Clay Edward (REB)  
Effective: 4/22/08  
Violation: 10177(b)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Hall, Juan Mario (REB)  
1511 Myrtle St., Ste. 101, Oakland  
Effective: 4/21/08  
Violation: 2831, 2832, 2835, 10145, 10177(d), 10240, 10241  
Right to RREB license on terms and conditions

Harvey, Elliot Jerome (RES)  
1271 Washington Blvd. #118, San Leandro  
Effective: 4/23/08  
Violation: 490, 10177(b)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Ramirez, Carlos Manuel (REB)  
577 Second St., Ste. 200, San Francisco  
Effective: 4/23/08  
Violation: 490, 10177(b)  
Right to RREB license on terms and conditions

Saxe Mortgage & Financial Services, Inc. (REC)  
950 John Daly Blvd., Ste. 200, Daly City  
Effective: 4/22/08  
Violation: 2731, 2831, 2831.1, 2832, 2832.1, 2950, 10145, 10159.5, 10177(d), 10231.2, 10232.4, 10238(b)(2), 10238(k)(3), 10238(k)(4)  
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Smith, Greg A. (RES)  
4385 Sandalwood Dr., Pleasanton  
Effective: 4/29/08  
Violation: 490, 10177(b)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Vargas, Charlie A. (RES)  
850 Ventura St., Richmond  
Effective: 5/29/08  
Violation: 490, 10177(b)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

SUSPENDED WITH STAY

FRESNO REGION

Prasad, Bahu (REB)  
2701 Marlboro Pl., Modesto  
Effective: 4/17/08  
Violation: 2831, 2832, 2835, 10145, 10176(e), 10177(d)  
Suspended for 30 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

LOS ANGELES REGION

Belson, Jay Michael (REB)  
23586 Calabasas Rd., Calabasas  
Effective: 3/6/08  
Violation: 10177(d), 10177.4  
Suspended for 90 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Boulevard Brokerage Group, Inc. (REC)  
23586 Calabasas Rd., Ste. 102, Calabasas  
Effective: 3/6/08  
Violation: United Real Estate Brokers  
Officer of: 10177(d)(g), 10177.4  
Suspended for 90 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Love, Steve (REB, REO)  
8335 Winnetka Ave. #103, Winnetka  
Effective: 5/5/08  
Violation: 10137, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 120 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Platinum Equity Corp. (REC)  
23449 Sandstone, Mission Viejo  
Effective: 3/5/08  
Violation: Venture Strategy Group  
Officer of: 10137, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Rawitch, Lawrence Daniel (REB, REO)  
342 Ambroise, Newport Coast  
Effective: 5/29/08  
Violation: 2715, 10162, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 30 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Samtin, Inc. (REC)  
1441 Brea Blvd., Fullerton  
Effective: 5/7/08  
Violation: California Harwood, Inc  
Officer of: 10137, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Scholl, Sandra P. (REB, REO)  
1205 Cedar Ave., Redlands  
Effective: 5/19/08  
Violation: 2831, 2831.1, 2832, 2832.1, 2834, 10238(d), 10238(k)(3), 10159.2, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Trueblood, Mark Christopher (REB, REO)  
1025 N. Brand Blvd. #300, Glendale  
Effective: 3/21/08  
Violation: 2832(a), 2832.1, 10145, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

United Real Estate Brokers (REC)  
20422 Beach Blvd., Ste. 235, Huntington Beach  
Effective: 3/17/08  
Violation: Platinum Equity Corp.  
Officer of: 10137, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Williams, Steven Todd (REB, REO)  
23449 Sandstone, Mission Viejo  
Effective: 3/24/08  
Violation: Home Bancorp International, Inc.  
Officer of: 10177(d)  
Suspended for 90 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

SACRAMENTO REGION

Amaradio, Kenneth William (REB)  
22070 Palo Way #2, Palo Cedro  
Effective: 4/2/08  
Violation: 2832, 2832.1, 10145, 10177(d)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Huang, Yajen (RES)  
720 Taylor St., Folsom  
Effective: 4/21/08  
Violation: 10130, 10137, 10177(d)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

RRES license suspended for 30 days

Witte, Thomas (RES)  
8137 Sunset Ave., Ste. 110, Fair Oaks  
Effective: 4/30/08  
Violation: 10177(d)(g)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Yarak Realty, Inc. (REC)  
6806 Fallsbrook Ct., Ste. 1, Granite Bay  
Effective: 5/2/08  
Violation: 2801.5, 10177(d), 11018.1, 11018.2  
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Yarak, Thomas Robert (REB)  
6806 Fallsbrook Ct., Ste. 1, Granite Bay  
Effective: 5/2/08  
Violation: 2801.5, 10177(d), 11018.1, 11018.2  
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

SAN DIEGO REGION

Kicy & Kruise, Inc. (REC)  
3110 Camino Del Rio South #311, San Diego  
Effective: 4/21/08  
Violation: 2831, 2832, 2832.1, 2834, 2950(d)(g), 2951, 10145, 10176, 10177(d)  
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Kruse, Patrick Eugene (REB)  
3110 Camino Del Rio South #311, San Diego  
Effective: 4/21/08  
Violation: 10159.2, 10177(d)(g)(h)  
Right to RREC license on terms and conditions

Tiso, Anthony Julius (RES)  
33152 Vermont Rd., Temecula  
Effective: 5/12/08  
Violation: 490, 10177(b)  
Right to RRES license on terms and conditions

Suspended for 90 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Hacker, William Edmund (RES)  
30699 Russell Ranch Rd. Ste. 100, Westlake Village  
Effective: 5/12/08  
Violation: 10176(a)  
Officer of: Samtin, Inc.  
Officer of: 10176(a)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Holborn, Ronald (REB, REO)  
1441 Brea Blvd., Fullerton  
Effective: 5/7/08  
Violation: 10137, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Home Bancorp International (REC)  
12740 Central Ave., Chino  
Effective: 5/5/08  
Violation: 10137, 10177(d)  
Suspended for 120 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

Irvin, Jack D. (RES)  
5550 East 7th St., Long Beach  
Effective: 3/24/08  
Violation: 10177(d)  
Suspended for 90 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions
Effective: 3/5/08
Violation: 10137, 10177(d)
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**OAKLAND REGION**

**BSM Enterprises, Inc. (REC)**
201 Miller Ave., Mill Valley
Effective: 5/23/08
Violation: 2726, 2831, 2831.1, 2832, 2832.1, 10145, 10177(d)
Suspended for 30 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Freeman, Jon Orville (REB)**
4300 Stevens Creek Blvd. #275, San Jose
Effective: 5/27/08
Violation: 2725, 10130, 10137, 10176(h), 10177(d)
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Kiwi & Co. (REC)**
4300 Stevens Creek Blvd. #275, San Jose
Effective: 5/27/08
Violation: 10137
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Liu, Sun Yuen (REB)**
12175C Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd., Saratoga
Effective: 4/25/08
Violation: 2725, 10177(h)
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Reinstra, Teresa Ann (REB)**
44865 Fremont Blvd. #1, Fremont
Effective: 3/4/08
Violation: 2731, 2831, 2831.2, 2832, 10145, 10177(d)
Suspended for 90 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**United American Investments, Inc. (REC)**
12175C Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd., Saratoga
Effective: 4/25/08
Violation: 2753, 10240, 10241
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Yuan, Gloria Kwang-Yu (RES)**
1180 Countess Ct., San Jose
Effective: 4/25/08
Violation: 10130, 10131(a), 10132, 10137, 10177(d)
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**SACRAMENTO REGION**

**Bell-Zehnder, Jennifer Philips (REB)**
3017 Douglas Blvd. #300, Roseville
Effective: 4/23/08
Violation: 2725, 10177(d)(h)
Suspended for 100 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Brown, Tracy Lynn (REB)**
10840 Woodring Dr, Mather
Effective: 5/29/08
Violation: 10159.2, 10177(h)
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**TBROWN Real Estate Group, Inc. (REC)**
10840 Woodring Dr, Mather
Effective: 5/29/08
Violation: 2831.2, 2832, 2832.1, 2905, 10145, 10148, 10177(d)
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**Yarak, Virginia Ann (RES)**
6806 Fallbrook Ct., Ste. 1, Granite Bay
Effective: 5/2/08
Violation: 2801.5, 10177(d), 11018.1, 11018.2
Suspended for 150 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**SAN DIEGO REGION**

**Aragon, Steve Lance (REB)**
3322 Sweetwater Springs Blvd. #103, Spring Valley
Effective: 3/6/08
Violation: 2801.5, 10177(d), 11018.1, 11018.2
Suspended for 60 days—stayed for 2 years on terms and conditions

**United Funding Solutions, Inc. (REC)**
10685 Magnolia Ave., Riverside
Effective: 3/17/08

**Levesque, Fred (REB)**
66290 2nd St. #B, Desert Hot Springs
Effective: 5/6/08

**INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS**
(under Recovery Acct. provisions)

**Los Angeles Region**

**Galindo, Michele (RES)**
1518 Valley Park Dr., Oxnard
Effective: 4/02/08

**American Liberty Funding (REC)**
11 Golden Shore, #110, Long Beach
Effective: 4/17/08

**Gold, Stephen Ward (REC)**
15720 Ventura Blvd., #400, Encino
Effective: 4/17/08

**Hamari, Roy Donald (RES)**
4011-2H Calle Sonora, Laguna Hills
Effective: 4/23/08

**Records Retention**
Continued from page 2

System that provides ready access to a desired document or record, appropriate quality control of the storage process to ensure the quality of imaged documents or records, and date ordered arrangement of stored documents or records to assure a consistent and logical flow of paperwork to preclude unnecessary search time.

6. Records copied and stored under this section shall be retained for three years pursuant to §10148 of the B&P Code.

Additionally, Commissioner’s Regulation 2729 does require the broker to maintain at the broker’s office a means of viewing copies of documents or records stored pursuant to this Regulation. Also, the broker shall provide, at the broker’s expense, a paper copy of any document or record requested by the Department of Real Estate (“DRE”).

Regulation 2729 thus allows a real estate broker to utilize current technology while at the same time complying with B&P Code §10148. Done properly, a real estate broker can maintain real estate documentation as required while saving...
Records Retention
Continued from page 9

valuable office space or reducing the concerns about the high storage costs and adequate protection of his or her real estate files at an offsite facility.

Production of Records

The DRE has the right to examine, inspect and copy a real estate broker’s records upon reasonable notice. Although the law on this subject is clear, there are brokers who refuse to produce records when requested to do so. The failure to do so also constitutes a basis for disciplinary action against the broker’s license pursuant to B&P Code §10148.

When a representative from the DRE requests records in connection with a specific transaction, audit, or office survey, the best course of action is to comply. Further, the records produced must be full, complete and unaltered. To do less could establish a basis for disciplinary action.

Safeguarding and Non-Abandonment of Records

Since the downturn in the California real estate market, some brokerages have closed their operations and simply abandoned records. In certain cases brought to the attention of the DRE, hundreds of files were left behind and/or scattered about in vacated offices. Many of those files contained private, personal, sensitive and confidential information and documents. Such abandonment of records demonstrates a flagrant and inexcusable disregard for the privacy rights of the principals and other individuals to whom the records are related.

Despite the closing of an office, a real estate broker is still required to retain and maintain records for the period required by law. It is clearly unacceptable for, and a dereliction of duty by, a broker, when ceasing the broker’s business operations, to simply leave behind records containing personal information. The failure by a broker to adequately address privacy and security issues with respect to the treatment of records of personal information can have very harmful consequences for the individuals to whom this information relates.

The abandonment of records can raise a whole host of problems for the real estate broker, including forming the basis for disciplinary action by the DRE and possible civil liability under federal and state law.

California Civil Code §1798.81.5 requires businesses that collect specified personal information (name plus social security number, driver’s license or state identification number, financial account number, or medical information) on California residents to use reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect it from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. A good source of information about personal information security and privacy protection is the California Office of Information Security and Privacy Protection (www.oispp.ca.gov). It offers guidance and advice on best practices for businesses, security breach notification, privacy laws and the like.

The point that must be underscored here is that brokers have a duty to ensure that records of personal information are retained, safeguarded, returned/transferred, and ultimately disposed of in a secure and confidential manner.

Victim’s Fund
Continued from page 4

funds may have to pay additional court filing fees (in a civil or bankruptcy case, but not in a criminal case) if it is determined that a formal court proration action is required.

In one recent case, there were approximately 90 victims included in a criminal restitution order against a real estate broker and a salesperson, both of whom were convicted of fraud. The total amount of restitution ordered was approximately $2,200,000. In that case, both the broker and the salesperson committed their own acts of intentional fraud, and so there were two “limits” of $100,000 each available from the Recovery Account, for a total of $200,000. Of the 90+ victims included in the restitution order, 78 filed applications for payment from the Recovery Account. The amounts paid to those 78 victims ranged from $162.26 to $16,327.81.

What is the effect of payment from the Recovery Account on a real estate licensee?

When an application for payment from the Recovery Account is granted, any license or license rights held by the licensee / judgment debtor will be suspended immediately upon payment, and will remain suspended until the amount paid from the Recovery Account is paid back with 10% interest.

Where can I get more information?

The staff of the Recovery Account Unit is located in the Department’s Sacramento office. Their task is to process applications and to make sure that each applicant provides all of the information required by law to qualify for payment. Information about the process of filing an application for payment from the Recovery Account. The application and other required forms are available on the Department of Real Estate’s website at http://www.dre.ca.gov under the “Consumers” tab. You can find the forms at http://www.dre.ca.gov/frm_recovery.html. If you have any further questions about the Recovery Account, you can contact the Recovery Account Unit directly at 916-227-3947.

1. As of June 1, 2008, Assembly Bill 2454 is pending in the California Legislature. If enacted as law, it will increase the liability of the Recovery Account for qualifying applications filed on or after January 1, 2009 to $50,000 for one transaction and $250,000 for one licensee.
### Real estate publications

#### Ordering information

DRE publications are available:

**On the Internet** — All DRE publications are available free of charge on the DRE Web site at [www.dre.ca.gov](http://www.dre.ca.gov).

**In person from District Offices** — Complete Parts A, B, and C (if appropriate). Offices are located in Sacramento, Los Angeles, Oakland, Fresno, and San Diego.

**By mail** — Photocopy or remove this page from your Bulletin. Complete Parts A, B, and C (if appropriate). Mail it with the proper fee to:

Department of Real Estate
Book Orders
P.O. Box 187006
Sacramento, CA 95818-7006

**By fax** — Complete Parts A, B, and C. Fax form to (916) 227-0361.

**By phone** — Have credit card information ready, then call Book Order desk at (916) 227-0852.

#### Acceptable payment methods

- Personal check, cashier’s check or money order should be made payable to: Department of Real Estate.
- VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards may be used to purchase DRE publications.
- Cash is acceptable only if purchasing in person and only if it’s the exact amount of purchase.

#### California sales tax

Use 7.25% tax rate, unless purchase location or delivery address is in the following counties: Alameda (8.25%), Fresno (7.875%), Los Angeles (8.25%), Marin (7.75%), Sacramento (7.75%), and San Diego (7.75%). Requests and fees will be returned if the appropriate sales tax is not included.

#### Miscellaneous information

- Publications noted as free are limited to one copy; DRE grants requestor permission to reproduce these publications for complimentary distribution only.
- Prices are subject to change.
- Orders received with incorrect payments will be returned.
- **All sales are final — no refunds.**
- Allow 4–6 weeks for delivery.
- Volume discounts are available. Call DRE at (916) 227-0852 prior to ordering.

### PART A PUBLICATIONS

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### PART B SHIPPING INFORMATION

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#### SUBTOTAL $ ________

**CA SALES TAX** $ ________

(Tax rate used* ______ %)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** $ ________

* See tax information above.

### PART C CREDIT CARD PURCHASE

**To purchase publication by credit card, complete the following:**

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**ACCOUNT NUMBER**

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West Nile virus and neglected swimming pools: information for real estate licensees

Due to the inherent risk of mosquitos carrying the harmful West Nile Virus, the California Department of Health requests that real estate licensees and any other professionals who regularly access unoccupied or foreclosed homes report “green” pools to their local mosquito and vector control agency. “Green” swimming pools can breed thousands of potentially disease-carrying mosquitoes. The increase in unoccupied and foreclosed homes has resulted in more green pools. These important sources of mosquito production are difficult for mosquito and vector control personnel to locate because they are in privately-owned backyards.

A “green” pool is characterized by abundant organic matter, bacterial growth, leaves, and other debris resulting in green or blackish colored water. These pools are not properly maintained with filtration and chemicals and are generally neglected. Green pools are an ideal place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs because they have standing water.

Swimming pools are not the only source of standing water that you may find at a home. Other sources which can turn into mini green pools include trash cans, bird baths, boats, aquariums, hot tubs, and baby pools.

If you identify a source of standing water, you are encouraged to dump and turn over any small standing water sources, and notify your local mosquito and vector control agency. To find out if your area has a local agency, you can visit California’s West Nile Virus Web site, [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or call 1-877-968-2473 (1-877-WNV-BIRD). In cases where there is not a local agency in your area, report the green pool to your local health or environmental health department. Reports can be filed anonymously.