

What's New in Government Affairs
August 21, 2009
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LOCAL

ALERT! POINT-OF-SALE MEASURES ON THE RISE IN THE SOUTH BAY: The City of Hawthorne is considering a code-enforcement point-of-sale mandate, and Redondo Beach is looking at an inspection requirement for sewer laterals. Meanwhile, Lomita may make its existing point-of-sale Residential Property Report even more stringent.

SBAOR remains concerned about point-of-sale and is addressing each of these cities. Point-of-sale not only hurts our business but *does not help cities accomplish their worthy goals*. Watch this space for more information on how you can help on this issue. Call SBAOR Government Affairs for more information.

TORRANCE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: In 2012, Torrance celebrates its Centennial Anniversary. The City of Torrance invites community members to apply to the Torrance Centennial Committee. The Committee will plan and recommend fun-filled and educational events and activities in celebration of the City's first 100 years. Applicants need not be Torrance residents in order to be considered. *The deadline to apply is August 26, 2009.* check out <http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us> for more information.

STATE

SUCCESS! 3% WITHHOLDING NOT IN BUDGET: The Governor and legislative leaders reached agreement this week to bridge the \$26.3 billion state budget gap, which was approved by both houses of the legislature on Friday. The agreement does NOT include the 3 percent independent contractor withholding proposal. C.A.R. aggressively opposed this over withholding scheme. The agreement includes about \$15.5 billion in state budget cuts, as well as \$1.2 billion in cuts to prisons, and another \$4.7 billion in cuts to, and borrowing from, local governments.

FEDERAL

HUD RELEASES FAQs ON NEW RESPA RULE: On August 13 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its first series of "frequently asked questions" (FAQs) that help to explain multiple aspects of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) final rule published November 17, 2008. Nearly 90 FAQs, organized by subject, cover multiple topics ranging from questions concerning effective dates to filling out the new GFE and HUD-1 forms. While some provisions of the final rule went into effect on January 16, 2009, the majority of the provisions, including mandatory use of the new GFE and HUD-1 forms will go into effect on January 1, 2010. Go to www.REALTOR.org for more information.

Why Government Affairs?

Every city makes decisions on taxes, point-of-sale, signs, rent control, property rights, and more. This impacts your client's ability to buy, sell, or develop their properties and your ability to do business. The South Bay Association of REALTORS® Government Affairs Program protects and advocates for you. For more information, call SBAOR Government Affairs at (310)326-3010 ext. 715