

What's New in Government Affairs

March Madness Edition!

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LOCAL

POINT-OF-SALE IN MANHATTAN BEACH? On March 16, the City Council heard proposals for sustainable building, including Green building guidelines, stormwater retention, water/energy efficiency, renewable energy, and waste management. While these are worthy goals, we oppose one of the proposals: *to mandate installation of low-flow toilets at the time of sale.*

Not only does this practice put your business at risk, but it will not help the City reach its own critical goals for water conservation. The City will shortly create a Task Force with city staff and REALTORS® to propose a plumbing retrofit program that works. Watch this space for upcoming details. For more information, call SBAOR Government Affairs at (310)326-3010.

LA COUNTY ASSESSOR RETIRING: SBAOR congratulates and sends warm wishes to Rick Auerbach, upon his retirement as the Assessor of Los Angeles County. Auerbach has dedicated many years to this important position and to the people of Los Angeles County, and he has shown leadership through efforts such as the Citizen's Advisory Committee Realtors Panel, which was created by his office. A new Assessor for Los Angeles County will be chosen by the voters in an upcoming election.

STATE

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION EFFORTS CONTINUE: With generous support from NAR's foreclosure prevention grant program, C.A.R. has teamed up with local Associations of REALTORS® and various nonprofit housing counseling agencies to conduct foreclosure prevention events around California. Homeowners who are at high risk of foreclosure may attend these free events where they will have access to loan counselors and representatives from some of the major lending institutions. Counselors and lenders will work with them privately, one-on-one, to initiate a process of modifying their loans so that they can keep their homes.

Planning for future events is underway around California, including Los Angeles and Orange Counties. To find out more, please contact Rick Laezman at richardl@car.org or (213) 739-8273.

FEDERAL

PERMANENT LOAN MODS INCREASE TO 170,000 HOMEOWNERS: As of the end of February, permanent loan modifications were granted to 170,000 homeowners through the Obama administration's Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury and the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced. An additional 91,800 permanent modifications were approved by servicers and pending borrower acceptance.

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