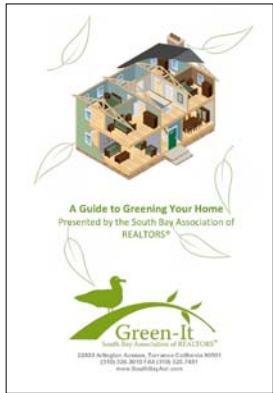


What's New in Government Affairs
December 11, 2009
www.SouthBayAOR.com



LOCAL

CONSERVATION BOOKLETS ARE HERE: REALTORS® in the South Bay have a new sales tool that can also help conserve our dwindling natural resources in Southern California. Use **“A Guide to Greening Your Home”** – published by SBAOR – while working directly with your clients and prospects on specific, realistic steps they can take to protect the environment while enhancing their home.

Booklets will be available shortly at SBAOR. For more information, contact SBAOR Government Affairs at (310)326-3010.

LIGHT RAIL ON TRACK TO THE SOUTH BAY: On December 10, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority voted unanimously to continue study of the Harbor Subdivision rail line and bring public transportation – like extending the Green Line – to the South Bay to help alleviate traffic. SBAOR supports this action and recognizes the need for solutions to our traffic congestion.

ADVOCACY AND YOU

Imagine for a moment that SBAOR and the California Association of REALTORS® did not have a Government Affairs Program or REALTOR® Action Fund...These threats could have affected you!

The California Association of REALTORS®:
DEFEATED 3% Independent Contractor Withholding
DEFEATED Transfer Taxes
DEFEATED Point-of-Sale Retrofits
PRESERVED Access to Property Profiles

SBAOR:
STOPPED Point-of-Sale in many cities
REVERSED Improper sign confiscations
PROTECTED Your right to farm your area
HELPED do our part to **Go Green**

Your generous, voluntary contributions make it happen! On your SBAOR dues bill, remember to include \$197, the “True Cost of Doing Business” to RAF. At a minimum, please consider contributing \$49 to the RAF with your 2010 dues.

Political contributions are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes. The “REALTOR® Action Fund” is a voluntary program as are contributions. Contributions are not limited to the suggested amounts. Contributions and/or participants will not be favored or disfavored by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

FEDERAL

SHORT SALES: After many months of advocating by NAR, on November 30 the Treasury Department finally released the guidelines and forms for its new Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives Program (HAFA). HAFA provides incentives in connection with a short sale or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure (DIL) used to avoid foreclosure on a loan eligible for modification. 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