

2022 New Laws

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This chart summarizes new laws passed by the California Legislature that may affect REALTORS® in 2022. For the full text of a law, click onto the legislative number or go to <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> for California laws. A legislative bill may be referenced in more than one section.

Topic	Description
<p>Consumer Protection: Pace Liens and Seniors</p>	<p>This law clarifies that relief under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act (CLRA) is available to seniors who have fallen victim to predatory Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) assessments via home solicitations. AB 790 provides much-needed clarification to PACE lenders from using technical arguments to evade their obligations. If a senior's home has been put at risk because of a PACE loan and the senior seeks relief under the CLRA, the senior is now eligible for relief.</p> <p>Assembly Bill 790 is codified as Civil Code 1770.</p> <p>Effective January 1, 2022.</p>
<p>Continuing Education: Implicit Bias Training</p> <p>Implicit bias training is added to the mandatory course work for licensing and license renewals.</p> <p>The operative date for which the new requirements apply is January 1, 2023</p>	<p>An applicant for a broker or salesperson license must take courses on implicit bias before sitting for the licensing exam.</p> <p>For license renewals, implicit bias course work is now added to the continuing education requirements. For subsequent renewals, brokers and agents must complete a survey course (as opposed to an 8-hour course under current law), beginning January 1, 2023, meaning, if a license is set to expire on or after January 1, 2023, then these new continuing education requirements must be met.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Implicit Bias refers to a person's relatively unconscious ideas and attitudes that are influenced by personal characteristics. Implicit bias training is for the purpose of recognizing and addressing one's own implicit biases.</p>

In December of 2019, *Newsday* published the results of a three-year, un in Long Island that found evidence of unequal treatment of Long Island the time against Asian Americans, 39% of the time against Hispanic Am the time against black Americans. Among other findings, the report stat agents frequently directed white customers to areas with the highest w and minority customers to more integrated areas. In response to this, in Association of Realtors (NAR) and the Perception Institute in New York c training workshop to help members avoid implicit bias.

Implicit bias training requirements

The course requirements for an applicant for a real estate broker or sales contain a component on implicit bias, including education regarding the bias, explicit bias, and systemic bias on consumers, the historical and social biases, and actionable steps students can take to recognize and address biases.

Also required for that applicant is a course on legal aspects of real estate a component on state and federal fair housing laws. As part of this course interactive participatory component during which the applicant shall role consumer and real estate professional.

For license renewals a two-hour implicit bias training course is added to requirements. Also, the fair housing course requirement for initial licenses include an interactive participatory component.

For subsequent renewals, the length of the survey course is increased to eight). This survey course will incorporate these new mandatory subjects existing requirements.

Senate Bill 263 is codified as Business and Professions Code §§ 10170.1-10170.5.

The new course requirements must be met for all licensees renewing within expiration date on or after January 1, 2023.

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driver's license issued to persons unable to provide their presence authorized under federal law), source of income, ancestry, disability including, but not limited to, HIV/AIDS status, cancer diagnosis characteristics), genetic information, or age. If a buyer or seller believes has been influenced by any of the above factors, the seller or information to the lender or mortgage broker that retained the appraiser a complaint with the Bureau of Real Estate at <https://www2.brea.ca.gov/complaint/> or call (916) 552-9000 for more information on how to file a complaint."

This notice as part of the Transfer Disclosure Statement law contains a right. However, AB 948 is ambiguous as to whether this notice must be provided on all real property purchase agreements or only those which require delivery of a copy of the appraisal report.

Additionally, this law includes the following changes:

1. Creates a simple form for the filing of a complaint. The form contains information that the complainant believes that the opinion of the value of the real estate appraisal is based on protected status information identifying the protected status of the complainant.
2. Prohibits an appraiser from basing their appraisal of the market value of the property on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, marital status, source of income, sexual orientation, familial status, employment status, or military status of either the present or prospective owners or occupants of the property, or of the present owners or occupants of the properties in the neighborhood, or on any other basis prohibited by the federal Fair Housing Act.
3. Mandates course work in cultural competency and elimination of bias (appraiser) renewal.
4. Requires the above referenced notice to be delivered by a licensed person, real estate broker or agent, who is refinancing a first lien purchase money loan on residential 1 to 4 property.

Assembly Bill 948 is codified as Business and Professions Code §§ 11142 and 11424; Civil Code § 1102.6g; and Government Code § 12955.

The new statutory notice is required after July 1, 2022. The effective date of the requirements is January 1, 2022, except for new continuing education requirements which are required beginning January 1, 2023.

C.A.R. supported legislation.

Disclosures: Discriminatory Restrictions

Requires real estate brokers or agents, who have actual knowledge of the existence of an unlawfully restrictive covenant in a declaration, governing document, or other instrument, to be directly delivered to the owner or buyer of such an

Restrictive Covenants: Modification Process

Requires real estate brokers or agents, among others, with actual knowledge of discriminatory restrictions to notify the owner or buyer of it and the removal process.

Makes the process of redacting racially restrictive language easier and faster.

Creates a program for carrying out the "redaction" of unlawfully restrictive covenants

owner or buyer to have it removed through the Restrictive Covenant process.

Makes it easier to redact racially restrictive language for homeowners, streamlining the recording process, and expanding who can file requests.

Creates a program requiring each county recorder to establish a program proactively "redact" unlawfully restrictive covenants.

Reasons for this law

Unlawfully discriminatory restrictive property covenants are provisions in property records that prohibit ownership, occupation, and use of the property by certain characteristics such as race and religion. Until they were ruled unlawful by the Supreme Court in 1948 (*Shelley v Kramer*), such covenants were primarily used to restrict African Americans, Asian-Americans, and Jewish people. In California, such covenants are common.

Although racially exclusionary covenants are now unenforceable, their effects are still felt. First, these covenants created housing segregation that ultimately led to financial, social, and geographic disparities which carry their own momentum. A significant amount of the racial inequality today can be directly traced to restrictive covenants, along with various other government-backed policies that encouraged their proliferation. Second, the actual racial covenants themselves – their offensive and hateful message – remain etched in property records throughout California. Californians examining property records are frequently subjected to stumbling upon such covenants, most commonly right as they are on the cusp of purchasing their home. The experience can be jarring for anyone, but it is especially traumatic for many homebuyers of color.

There are three parts to this law:

1. Disclosure obligations by agents, among others, for deeds or other grants that are being directly delivered.
2. Modification of the procedures for redacting unlawful covenants to facilitate those procedures.
3. The requirement that each county recorder's office establish a program to identify, catalog, and redact any unlawfully discriminatory restrictive covenants in the county's property records and authorizes the imposition, if approved by the county board of supervisors, of a fee to fund the program.

Disclosure obligation based on actual knowledge

Beginning July 1, 2022, if a real estate broker or agent (or county recorder or escrow company) has actual knowledge that a declaration, governing document, is being directly delivered to a person who holds or is acquiring an ownership interest in the property and that the property includes a possibly unlawful restrictive covenant, they shall not hold or is acquiring the ownership interest in the property of the existing owner and their ability to have it removed through the restrictive covenant mechanism. However, there is no presumption that a party providing a document has or has actual knowledge of its content.

Modification of the procedures for redacting unlawful covenants and the use of those procedures

Prior law allows an owner to record a Restrictive Covenant Modification (RCM) of an unlawful restrictive covenant, but only after review by the county recorder. AB 1466 requires the county council to complete the review within no more than 10 business days. Additionally, any person is authorized to record an RCM including a buyer, escrow company, county recorder, real estate broker, or real estate agent. Starting January 1, 2022, upon request before the close of escrow, AB 1466 requires the title company that is directly involved in the pending transaction to assist in the Restrictive Covenant Modification. A new statutory form has been created to streamline the process.

County recorder's redaction program

Requires the county recorder of each county to establish a "restrictive covenant redaction program" to assist in the redaction of unlawfully discriminatory covenants, including:

- a) Preparing, by July 1, 2022, a publicly available implementation plan with a timeline for completion;
- b) Identifying all unlawfully restrictive covenants in the records of the county recorder;
- c) Maintaining an index, updated at least biannually, of the location of all unlawfully restrictive covenants that the county recorder has identified, and making the index available to the public, as specified; and
- d) Redacting unlawfully restrictive covenants in the records of the respective county recorder's office.
- e) The county recorder may charge a \$2 fee on each single transaction involving the redaction of a restrictive covenant on real property.

Assembly Bill 1466 is codified as Government Code §§ 12956.1, 12956.2, 12956.3 and 27388.2.

Effective January 1, 2022. Disclosure obligations, inter alia, effective July 1, 2022.

<p>Escrows</p> <p>Extension of law granting escrows important safeguards vis-à-vis credit reporting companies</p>	<p>Extension of law until 2027 granting escrow agents important safe, crediting reporting companies, such as the right to receive a copy of reports produced by an escrow rating service, and the right to dispute and correct information.</p> <p>In 2013, the California Legislature enacted important protections for California escrow agents. "Escrow agent rating services" (Code Section 1785.28) were evaluated to ensure escrow agents to perform settlement services by examining credit information, filings, and other criteria. These companies were providing the services to vendors for lenders to assist with federal requirements to conduct due diligence on vendors. The 2013 law applied important protections from California's Civil Code to escrow agents, such as the right to receive a copy of any report produced by an escrow rating service, and the right to dispute and correct inaccurate information. Without these protections, escrow agents could literally be put out of business based on inaccurate information. This law merely extends these protections to January 1, 2027.</p> <p>Senate Bill 360 is codified as Civil Code § 1785.28.6</p>
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Fire Hazard Zones: Home Hardening and Defensible Space Areas Expanded

Extends home hardening and defensible space disclosures to high fire hazard zones within local responsibility area.

This law, among many other changes, expands the fire hazard zone home hardening and defensible space disclosure laws apply within responsibility area. The NHD statement can no longer be relied upon if the property is in such a zone.

Presently, existing law requires that an owner of property located in a fire hazard zone within a state responsibility area make various disclosures regarding home hardening and that in most circumstances the buyer and seller shall agree to comply with state defensible space laws or a local vegetation management plan one year after closing ("defensible space compliance"). This same law also applies to property located in a *very high fire hazard zone* within a local responsibility area.

SB 63 requires Cal Fire to now designate within local responsibility area *very high* fire hazard zones, as opposed to just *high* fire hazard zones. Not the intended effect, these new designations will require home hardening and defensible space compliance for properties that fall within both *very high* and *high* severity zones that are within a local responsibility area. Thus, expanding the disclosures apply.

Another result of this is that the NHD statement can no longer be relied upon to indicate whether a property is subject to home hardening disclosures and defensible space compliance, at least for properties that are within local responsibility area. If the NHD statement discloses two fire related zones. Although overbroad, there is a circumstance where a property would be subject to the home hardening and defensible space compliance and not be indicated on the NHD statement. This is possible since the NHD statement only discloses very high fire hazard zones within local responsibility areas. Accordingly, agents are advised to consult with the listing representative for guidance.

Senate Bill 63 and Assembly Bill 9 are codified as Government Code sections 51178.5, 51182, and 51189, Health and Safety Code § 13108.5, and Public Code of Regulations sections 4124.5, 4291, 4123.8, 4291.5, and 4291.6. Effective January 1, 2022

Foreclosure Sales (trustee's) for residential one to four properties: Owner Occupant Right of First Refusal Clean-up Bill

Closes loophole by disallowing an owner's related entity or other persons to purchase at a trustee's sale as a priority "owner occupant"

Background: Last year legislation was passed which created a category a foreclosure sale (trustee's sale) of residential one to four properties. A bidders with the highest priority was a prospective "owner occupant." Excluded from this category were the mortgagor or trustor; or the child of the mortgagor or trustor.

This legislation aims to close a loophole by expanding the category of eligible bidders who can claim to be an eligible priority "owner occupant" bidder. AB 175 states that an owner occupant bidder means a natural person that is not any of the following:

- (i) The mortgagor or trustor.
- (ii) The child, spouse, or parent of the mortgagor or trustor.
- (iii) The grantor of a living trust that was named in the title to the property and the notice of default was recorded.
- (iv) An employee, officer, or member of the mortgagor or trustor.
- (v) A person with an ownership interest in the mortgagor, unless the mortgagor is a publicly traded company.

AB 175 makes other technical changes regarding the sale of foreclosed property at a trustee's sale. To verify the identity of the bidders, information submitted to a trustee as an affidavit or declaration given under penalty of perjury prescribes with more detail the times by which bids are required to be submitted and the information that is to accompany them. AB 175 also extends the date that a bid is deemed perfected, when an eligible bidder submits a written notice of intent to bid, from 30 days to 60 days.

Relevant parts of **Assembly Bill 175** are codified as Civil Code 2924f effective January 1, 2022.

<p>Homeowner's Associations Owners: Notices and delivery of documents</p> <p>Requires an association to communicate with homeowners via email, if that is the homeowner's preferred method for communication,</p>	<p>SB 392 requires an association to communicate with homeowners via homeowner's preferred method of communication (for notices that delivered individually under the Davis-Sterling Act).</p> <p>Under prior law, an association was required to deliver documents to its mail, fax, or electronic delivery (email). But delivery of documents to homeowners was at the option of the association. This meant that an association could deliver various notices in hard copy only. However, electronic document delivery is more effective and reduces negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>SB 392 requires the following:</p> <p>For notices under the Davis-Sterling Act that must be delivered by "individual notice"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Associations must communicate with homeowners via email, if that is preferred method for communication, and 2) Property owners, not the association, are entitled to choose their two communication methods. <p>In particular, the annual budget report, annual policy statements and notices regarding assessments or delinquencies, among others, are notices that must be delivered "individually," and thus, the homeowner may require that they receive them individually.</p> <p>For notices under the Davis-Sterling Act that require "general delivery" of notices, an association may place general notices on the association's website if the association has an internet website for the purpose of distributing information to association members. Or the association may communicate its general notices through other means.</p> <p>Senate Bill 392 is codified as Civil Code §§ 4041, 4045, 4055, 5200, 5205, and 5320</p> <p>Effective January 1, 2022. However, the portion of the law mandating that notices be delivered at the option of the homeowner becomes effective January 1, 2023.</p> <p>C.A.R. sponsored law</p>
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Home Inspectors:

Sewer lateral

Plumbers may both inspect and perform repairs re sewer laterals

A plumbing contractor may inspect a sewer lateral pipe connecting business to a sewer system and also offer to or perform repairs if provided a specified disclosure before authorizing the home inspection.

Existing law defines a home inspection as a noninvasive, physical examination for a fee in connection with a transfer of real property, of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems or the structural and essential components of a residential dwelling. Existing law specifies that a home inspector is an individual who provides home inspection services.

Under existing law, it is an unfair business practice for a home inspector who is employed by a company that employs the inspector, or a company that is controlled by a company that has an interest in a company employing a home inspector, to perform specific repairs or to offer to perform for an additional fee, any repairs to a residential dwelling if the inspector, or the inspector's company, has prepared a home inspection report within 12 months.

This law declares that those provisions do not affect the ability of a plumber who holds a specified license to perform repairs pursuant to the inspection report if the plumber is inspecting a sewer lateral pipe connecting a residence or business to a sewer system if the consumer is provided a specified disclosure before authorizing the home inspection.

This disclosure states the following:

- (1)The same company that performs the sewer lateral inspection and repairs will perform the home inspection on the same property.
- (2)Any repairs that are authorized by the consumer are for the repairs identified in the sewer lateral inspection report and no repairs identified in the home inspection report are authorized or allowed except as specified in the sewer lateral inspection report.
- (3)The consumer has the right to seek a second opinion on the sewer lateral inspection report.

Senate Bill 484 is codified as Business and Professions Code 7197. Effective January 1, 2022.

<p>Housing: The California Surplus Land Unit</p>	<p>Establishes the California Surplus Land Unit with the primary purpose of the development and construction of residential housing on local surplus property.</p> <p>This law establishes the California Surplus Land Unit within the Department of Community Development to facilitate the development and construction of housing on local surplus property. Among other things this law will authorize the department to facilitate agreements between housing developers and local agencies to use local surplus land; provide advice, technical assistance, and consultative and technical assistance to local agencies with surplus land and developers that seek to develop housing on local surplus land; and collaborate with specified state agencies to assist housing developers and local agencies with obtaining grants, loans, tax credits, credit enhancements, and financing that facilitate the construction of housing on surplus land.</p> <p>SB 791 was amended to remove the provision that would have required subcontractors be charged with perjury if they did not comply with the skilled and trained workforce requirements. The bill was also amended to create a stakeholder group to provide recommendations as to whether the department should explore ownership of local surplus lands as a strategy to further the development of housing on surplus land.</p> <p>Senate Bill 791 is codified as Health and Safety Code, Part 17, commencing with Section 54900.</p> <p>Effective January 1, 2022.</p> <p>C.A.R. supported legislation</p>
<p>Housing: CEQA Exemption</p> <p>Allows local government to adopt voluntarily zoning process with CEQA exemption for certain areas</p>	<p>Creates a voluntary process for local governments to access a streamlined process for new multi-unit housing near transit rich or in urban infill areas, with up to 10 units per acre. The legislation simplifies the CEQA requirements for upzoning, giving local governments a tool to voluntarily increase density and provide affordable rental opportunities for Californians.</p> <p>“Transit-rich area” means a parcel within one-half mile of a parcel on a transit corridor or a major transit stop meaning a site containing any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) An existing rail or bus rapid transit station (b) A ferry terminal served by a transit service (c) The intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods <p>Senate Bill 10 is codified as Government Code 65913.5. Effective January 1, 2022.</p>

Housing: Development Fee Nexus Study

Under existing law, nexus studies have historically not been clear about services that jurisdictions provide and can set fees based on a higher level of jurisdiction hopes to eventually attain. In fact, nexus studies are currently an informal patchwork of guidelines and common practices, devoid of statutory authority. As introduced, AB 602 required special district and local jurisdictions' nexus studies to:

- 1) State their existing level of service;
- 2) Provide a capital facility plan for proposed expenditures; and
- 3) Comply with public notice and meeting requirements.

As amended, the measure only applies to local governments and tasks the Department of Housing and Community Development with developing a nexus study that supports AB 602 because it will codify nexus study methods in statute and ensure that fees are only being used to maintain existing service levels in jurisdictions with new development.

Assembly Bill 602 is codified as Government Code §§ 65940.1 and 65940.5 and Public Safety Code § 50466.5.

Effective January 1, 2022.

C.A.R. supported legislation

Housing: Duplexes and Lot Splits Permitted in Single-Family Zoning

Requires ministerial approval of a housing development of no more than two units in a single-family zone, and the subdivision of a parcel zoned for residential use into two parcels, or both

This law requires ministerial approval of a housing development of no more than two units in a single-family zone, and the subdivision of a parcel zoned for residential use into two parcels, or both. However, myriad rules, conditions and exceptions apply to implementation.

Background:

There are generally two types of housing projects:

- 1) Those that require discretionary vetting through public hearings and only "ministerial" approval by the city or county planning staff, without the involvement of elected officials.

Most large housing projects are not allowed ministerial review; instead, they are vetted through both public hearings and administrative review. On the other hand, projects that are reviewed ministerially require only an administrative review designed to be consistent with existing general plan and zoning rules, as well as meet minimum standards for building quality, health, and safety. Most housing projects that require ministerial approval are subject to review under CEQA, while projects permitted through ministerial approval generally do not thereby obviate the preparation of an environmental impact report.

What this law does

This law requires a city or county to *ministerially approve* either or both of the following (subject to exceptions and conditions):

- a) A housing development of no more than two units in a single-family zone;

b) The subdivision of a parcel zoned for residential use, into two approx ("lot split").

These rules would allow for the development of up to four homes on lots where only one exists. This theoretically could lead to the development of more housing units. More realistically, assuming that only five percent of the lots result in the creation of new two-unit properties, this law would result in 50,000 new homes.

This law contains a number of detailed conditions, exceptions and allows for the permitting of duplexes or lot splits or both. Perhaps the most significant exception does not apply to property located within a historic or landmark district, certain farmland or protected ecological zones.

Rules, conditions, exceptions and allowances

For both the duplex and lot split approval the following requirements otherwise indicated as to applying to only one or the other):

1) The duplex or parcel to be subdivided must be located within an urban cluster. More than 80% of the population of California live within an urban cluster. Urbanized areas are so designated by the United States Census Bureau as urban and rural at the block level. To view maps for urbanized areas or 2010 Census Urban Area or Cluster Maps on this site:
<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-urban-areas.html>

2) The property cannot be located on any of the following:

- a) Prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance;
- b) Wetlands;
- c) Land within the very high fire hazard severity zone, unless the developer meets state mitigation requirements;
- d) A hazardous waste site;
- e) An earthquake fault zone (unless seismic protection standards are met);
- f) Land within the 100-year floodplain or a floodway (unless FEMA flood requirements have been met);
- g) Land identified for conservation under a natural community conservation easement or under conservation easement;
- h) Habitat for protected species; or
- i) A site located within a historic or landmark district, or a site that has a landmark under state or local law

3) Prohibits demolition or alteration of an existing unit of rent-restricted housing that has been the subject of an Ellis Act eviction within the past 15 years and was occupied by a tenant in the last three years.

4) Prohibits demolition of more than 25% of the exterior walls of an existing structure if the local ordinance allows greater demolition or if the site has not been demolished in the last three years.

5) Prohibits a city or county from requiring more than one parking space for a proposed duplex or a proposed lot split. Prohibits a city or county from requiring a minimum lot size if the parcel is located within one-half mile walking distance of a quality transit corridor or a major transit stop, or if there is a car share station on one block of the parcel.

6) Prohibits a city or county from rejecting an application solely because the units are connected structures, provided the structures meet building code standards and are sufficient to allow separate conveyance.

7) Authorizes a city or county to impose objective zoning, subdivision, and setback standards that do not conflict with this law, except: a) A city or county may impose objective standards that would physically preclude the construction of a duplex if the standards would physically preclude either of the two units from being at least 800 square feet in area. A city or county may, however, require a setback of up to four feet from the rear lot lines. b) A city or county shall not require a setback for an existing structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as the proposed structure.

8) Authorizes a city or county to require a percolation test completed within the last 10 years, or, if the test has been recertified, within the last 10 years, as part of the permit to create a duplex connected to an onsite wastewater treatment system.

9) Authorizes a local agency to deny a housing project otherwise authorized by this law if a building official makes a written finding based upon the preponderance of the evidence that the housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact on public safety or the physical environment and there is no feasible method to mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact.

10) Requires a city or county to prohibit rentals of less than 30 days.

11) Provides that a city or county shall not be required to permit an ADU if the ADU is not a unit approved under this law.

12) Requires a city or county to include the number of units constructed applications for lot splits under this law, in its APR.

Additional rules and conditions governing lot splits:

13) Requires a city or county to ministerially approve a parcel map for a local agency determines that the parcel map for the urban lot split meets requirements, in addition to the requirements for eligible parcels that are and lot splits:

a) The parcel map subdivides an existing parcel to create no more than approximately equal size, provided that one parcel shall not be smaller area of the original parcel.

b) Both newly created parcels are at least 1,200 square feet, unless the a small minimum lot size by ordinance.

c) The parcel does not contain rent-restricted housing, housing where a exercised their rights under the Ellis Act within the past 15 years, or has tenants in the past three years.

d) The parcel has not been established through prior exercise of an urban

e) Neither the owner of the parcel, or any person acting in concert with previously subdivided an adjacent parcel using an urban lot split.

14) Requires a city or county to approve a lot split if it conforms to all requirements of the Subdivision Map Act not except as otherwise expressed in bill. Prohibits a city or county from imposing regulations that require development or the construction of offsite improvements for the parcels being created without approval.

15) Authorizes a city or county to impose objective zoning standards, lot standards, and objective design review standards that do not conflict with county may, however, require easements or that the parcel have access to or adjoin the public right-of-way.

16) Provides that a local government shall not be required to permit more than one lot split on a parcel.

17) Prohibits a city or county from requiring, as a condition for ministerial split, the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions.

18) Requires a local government to require an applicant for an urban lot split affidavit stating that the applicant intends to occupy one of the housing units as a principal residence for a minimum of three years from the date of the split.

unless the applicant is a community land trust, as defined, or a qualified corporation, as defined.

19) Provides that no additional owner occupancy standards may be imposed those contained within 18) above, and that requirement expires after five

20) Allows a city or county to adopt an ordinance to implement the urban requirements and duplex provisions, and provides that those ordinances under CEQA.

21) Provides that nothing in this law (as applied to both the duplex and duplex) supersedes the California Coastal Act of 1976, except that a local government required to hold public hearings for a coastal development permit applicable

Senate Bill 9 is codified as Government Code §§ 66452.6, 65852.21 as of January 1, 2022.

Please see our Q&A "**SB 9 Ministerial Urban Lot Splits and Duplex**" for an explanation of this law.

Housing: Equal Access

This law literally requires equal access to common entrances and amenities in mixed income multi-family properties

In mixed income multifamily structures, all occupants must have equal common entrances, areas and amenities as the occupants of market units.

Assembly Bill 491

1) Requires that, for mixed income multifamily structures, the occupant housing units within the mixed-income multifamily structure shall have the common entrances, areas and amenities as the occupants of the market units.

2) Prohibits a mixed-income multifamily structure from isolating the affordable units within that structure to a specific floor or an area on a specific floor.

3) This law defines "affordable housing unit" as any residential dwelling unit by deed or other recorded document as affordable housing for persons of low or moderate income.

4) Provides that this bill is declaratory of existing law. Current law already prohibits government from using public or private land use authorizations to discriminate against low or moderate income families or individuals. This prohibition applies to all projects, those that receive density bonus or are subject to an inclusionary zoning ordinance. Moreover, FEHA under disparate impact prohibits discrimination on a basis that correlates with low income.

Assembly Bill 491 is codified as Health and Safety § Code 17929. Effective January 1, 2022.

C.A.R. sponsored legislation

<p>Housing: Prohibition of Fees</p> <p>Prohibits affordable housing impact fees on a housing development's affordable units.</p>	<p>Prohibits affordable housing impact fees, including inclusionary zoning fees, from being imposed on a housing development's affordable units.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Existing law, known as the Density Bonus Law, requires a city or county developer that proposes a housing development in the city or county with other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income units to donate land within the development, if the developer agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low income, low-income households or qualifying residents, including lower income students.</p> <p>AB 571 prohibits affordable housing impact fees, including inclusionary zoning fees, from being imposed on a housing development's affordable units.</p> <p>C.A.R. sponsored AB 571 to prohibit local governments from imposing fees on deed restricted affordable units contained within a density bonus application to increase costs to construct deed restricted affordable housing, making it more difficult for developers to maximize the affordable unit set aside within their density bonus applications.</p> <p>Assembly Bill 571 is codified as Government Code § 65915.1. effect</p>
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Housing: Small Home Developments

Requires cities and counties to allow more dense development of single-family housing nearby traditional single-family zoned or other lower density housing.

This law facilitates the construction of inexpensive single-family homes ("starter homes") on sites surrounded by single-family or other low density housing in an attempt to ensure that it only applies to sites where single-family housing is the prevailing character of the area. However, this law only applies to sites already zoned for multi-family residential use.

This law generally requires cities and counties to approve applications for "small home lot development" as long as it meets the criteria. It does so by removing the requirement for agencies to require setback requirements between the units beyond that allowed by the State Building Code, establish a minimum home size, or require enclosure beyond that allowed by state density bonus law. It also establishes minimum and maximum average home sizes. It bans cities from requiring the creation of homeowners associations, which can drive up the cost, on sites developed pursuant to this law.

Development using the provisions of this law would be limited to sites zoned for single-family or other lower density housing in an attempt to ensure that this law only applies to sites where single-family housing is the prevailing character. Eligible sites are identified in the jurisdiction's housing element as a site to accommodate the jurisdiction's regional housing need for lower income households, which is consistent with the law does not undermine the ability to build housing affordable to lower income households. There are displacement prevention measures to ensure that the creation of small homes that promote homeownership are not created at the expense of other housing types.

Other criteria for a small home lot development: It must be located on a lot larger than 5 acres, is substantially surrounded by qualified urban uses including multifamily residential use. A small home lot development must meet a minimum density requirement and to consist of single-family housing units with an average floor space of 1,750 net habitable square feet or less. The units must comply with existing height and setback requirements applicable to the multifamily lot development must comply with any local inclusionary housing ordinance. Other types of housing developments are prohibited if it would require the demolition or alteration of existing housing types.

Assembly Bill 803 is codified as Government Code § 66499.40. Effective date: 1/1/2025.

Housing: Streamlined Approval Process

Prevents delaying tactics and loopholes that are used to frustrate the streamlined approval process

AB 1174 attempts to counter the legal tactics used to frustrate the approval process that was established in 2017. It specifies that the development or modifications is paused when a project is sued, an subsequent permit applications must only meet the objective stan place when the project was initially approved.

Background: Senate Bill 35, passed in 2017, created a streamlined appr projects with two or more residential units in localities that have failed housing to meet their regional housing needs allocation. Under SB 35 s are currently valid three years after the project is approved.

However, some jurisdictions have used lawsuits to extend the project ti window, and then revoke the streamlining provisions. Another issue ari require a project to comply with objective standards that were not in pl project approval. This can compel a project proponent to seek a modifi further delay or derail the project.

AB 1174 address these issues by specifying that a development or mod valid for 3 years from the date of the final judgment upholding the deve modification's original approval, if litigation is filed challenging that app requires local governments to consider the application for subsequent based on the objective standards and building codes that were in effect development application was submitted.

Assembly Bill 1174 is codified as Government Code § 65913.4. Effe 2021, as urgency legislation.

Landlord Tenant: Emotional Support Animals

Imposes restrictions on how health care practitioners may provide documentation relating to Emotional Support Animals.

AB 468 imposes restrictions on how health care practitioners may documentation relating to Emotional Support Animals (ESA). But it underlying federal or state law regarding reasonable accommodat housing.

AB 468 also requires a person that provides an emotional support that the dog does not have the special training required to be a gu dog; and requires a person that provides a certificate, tag, vest, le emotional support dog to give notice to the buyer that the materia emotional support dog to the rights and privileges afforded to a gu dog.

AB 468 prohibits a health care practitioner from providing documentati individual's need for an emotional support dog unless the health care p with specified requirements, including:

1. Holding a valid license

2. Establishing a client-provider relationship with the individual for at least 30 days before providing the documentation, and
3. Completing a clinical evaluation of the individual regarding the need for a support dog.

Comment: This law also states that this provision is not to be construed to limit existing federal and state law related to a person's rights for reasonable accommodations or equal access to housing. In general, this law places restrictions on the type of documentation the landlord may request to verify the request. In a recent guidance document "**Assessing a Person's Request to Hire a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act**" section entitled verifiers which includes a broad list of acceptable sources for ESAs.

Required notices

Two types of notices are required under AB 468. First, a person or business that provides a dog for use as an emotional support dog must provide a written notice to the buyer or recipient of the dog stating that the dog does not have the special qualifications to qualify as a guide, signal, or service dog and is not entitled to the rights accorded by law to a guide, signal, or service dog, and that knowingly and fraudulently representing oneself to be the owner or trainer of any canine licensed and identified as, a guide, signal, or service dog is a misdemeanor.

Second, a person or business that sells or provides a certificate, identification tag, or harness for an emotional support animal to provide a written notice to the recipient stating that the certificate does not entitle an ESA to the rights accorded by law to a guide, signal, or service dog; and that knowingly and fraudulently representing oneself to be an owner or trainer of a guide, signal, or service dog is a misdemeanor.

Assembly Bill 468 is codified as Health and Safety Code §§ 122317 through 122320, effective January 1, 2022.

Landlord Tenant: Eviction Moratorium Extension and The Housing Recovery Act

AB 832 extended the state eviction moratorium until September 30, 2021, landlords could demand the full amount of rent in advance but are required to apply for emergency rental assistance a **an unlawful detainer. This is a wide-ranging law affecting many aspects of landlord/tenant law.**

Initially AB 832 extended the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act (CTRA) (as established by SB 91) through September 30, 2021. However, on October 1, 2021, the CTRA returned to its pre-pandemic form. Instead, a new law, the COVID-19 Rent Relief Act, (the "Recovery Act"), took its place. Here are the key differences in the new procedures.

Exemptions for SFP and new construction to the just cause eviction

Under CTRA, all properties in California were subject to the just cause e single family properties. Beginning October 1, the standard exemptions eviction rules return, the most significant ones being for single family p of exemption, CAR form RCJC, has been integrated into the rental agree construction properties built within the last 15 years. An exempted proj allow the landlord to terminate tenancy without fault on 60- day notice. local eviction just cause rules may be more stringent.

For rent due prior to October 1, 2021, the 15-day notice is required prior to March of 2020)

In terms of demanding rent, a landlord, under CTRA, must provide a 15 or quit along with a declaration of COVID related financial hardship and notice. If the tenant returns the declaration, the landlord is precluded fi detainer, and further, can only demand 25% of the COVID rent (from Se the tenant is required to pay by September 30, 2021. If the tenant fails t September 30, then the landlord may proceed to file an eviction lawsuit complied with other provisions under the Recovery Act. See next parag procedures for pre-October rent remain in effect even after October 1. required based upon when the rent became due, and not when the not

Bottom line advice: To avoid confusion after October 1, if a tenant owec before October 1, 2021, it is highly recommended to use the appropriat the rent now.

Special 3-day notice commenced on October 1, 2021, through Marc requirement of applying for Emergency Rental Assistance

Beginning October 1, a landlord may demand the full amount of rent us notice to pay rent or quit for rent that became due on or after October notice requires the landlord to apply for emergency rental assistance. If the landlord do this prior to serving the 3-day notice. The landlord may lawsuit if the emergency rental assistance has been denied or if the ten cooperated in the application process for 20 days after service of the n to apply for emergency rental assistance applies to any eviction lawsuit October 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, including lawsuits for the 25% rer September 30, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

Bottom line advice: For any rent that is unpaid from March 2020 throug landlord should apply for emergency rental assistance

For tenancies commencing October 1, 2021, landlords are not requ emergency rental assistance as a precondition of filing an eviction

If the tenancy has commenced on or after October 1, 2021, then it will r apply for emergency rental assistance before filing an eviction lawsuit; I should nonetheless still use the special 3-day notice to pay rent or quit. mind. First, a "new" tenancy means that all of the occupants are new oc October 1. And second, the property may still be subject to the statewic rules since those rules, which came into effect on January 1, 2020, have the pandemic.

On November 1, 2021, the landlord may collect unpaid COVID rent 2020 through September 2021

<p>Landlord Tenant: Government Inspections for Lead Hazards or substandard building</p> <p>Requires local governments to respond to lead hazard and substandard building complaints from tenants and other parties.</p>	<p>Requires local governments to respond to lead hazard and substandard complaints from tenants and other parties and to provide free copies of reports and citations to the requestor and others who may be impacted.</p> <p>This law requires, beginning July 1, 2022, a city or county that receives a complaint about a lead hazard violation from a tenant, resident, or occupant to inspect the building, portion of a building, or premises of the building, document violations that would be discovered based upon a reasonably competent inspection of the property, and identify any building, portion of a building, or premises on which such a building is located that is substandard.</p> <p>"Substandard" is defined under Health and Safety Code 17920.3 and generally corresponds with typical uninhabitability standards.</p> <p>A city or county is not required to conduct an inspection in response to the following types of complaints: (1) A complaint that does not allege one or more substandard conditions; (2) A complaint submitted by a tenant, resident, or occupant who, within 90 days of the date the complaint was submitted, submitted a complaint about the same property that the chief building official reasonably determined, after inspection, was frivolous or unfounded.</p> <p>The city or county is required to advise the owner or "operator" of each action that is required to be taken to remedy the violation and to schedule a date to verify correction of the violations. A city or county must provide free, copies of the inspection report and citations issued, if any, to the complaining tenant or agent, and to all potentially affected tenants, residents, occupants, or other individuals. No fee can be charged for the inspection, unless the inspector determines there are more material lead hazard violations or deems and declares the proper action to be taken.</p> <p>Assembly Bill 838 is codified as Health and Safety Code § 17970.5. E</p>
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Landlord Tenant: Short Term Rentals: Higher Fines

Short term rentals face steeper fines when they threaten health and safety

Creates a new fine violation structure specifically for short term rentals as these rentals are threats to public health and safety. These new increased fines are in addition to already existed criminal sanctions.

Background:

According to the author of this bill: "Though short-term rentals offer a vantage point for tourism and earn owners some extra money, their recent proliferation has led to a proliferation of actors to use web platforms to advertise and secure homes for large parties, resulting in a violation of local ordinances. The Covid pandemic has led to an increase in short-term rentals to evade public health restrictions on large public gatherings. A study which tracks legal compliance among short-term rentals for 350 cities and counties has found that noise complaints as a result of parties have tripled since the start of the pandemic. These large gatherings have made some short-term rental properties unsafe due to underage drinking, brawls, noise complaints, and violence. In the last year, 11 people were shot inside or just outside a short-term rental property nationwide. Unfortunately, the fines cities are allowed to levy under current law are often insufficient to deter violations. Hosts can charge so much rent for big houses that the fines, which are a cost of doing business. In order to improve the safety of our citizens, this bill imposes fines that cities and counties are allowed to impose on short term rentals that violate local property rental laws. SB 60 would authorize imposed fines up to \$5,000 for a short-term ordinance."

This law provides that the violation of a short-term rental ordinance that is not punishable by the following:

- a) A fine not exceeding \$1,500 for a first violation;
- b) A fine not exceeding \$3,000 for a second violation of the same ordinance; and,
- c) A fine not exceeding \$5,000 for each additional violation of the same ordinance in any year of the first violation.

"Short term rental" is defined as a "residential dwelling", or any portion of a residential dwelling, that is rented to a person or persons for 30 consecutive days or more. The penalty limits set by this bill apply only to infractions that pose a threat to public health, safety, and do not apply to a first time offense of failure to register or pay a fee.

Senate Bill 60 is codified as Government Code §§ 25132 and 36900. This bill is an emergency legislation. Effective September 24, 2021.

Mobilehomes Rent Cap and Just Cause Eviction

Statewide rent cap and just cause eviction rules under the Tenant Protection Act (AB 1482) apply to mobilehome rentals owned by a mobilehome park.

Previously excluded, the owners of mobilehome rentals owned by will be now subject to the statewide rent cap and just cause evictio Tenant Protection Act (AB 1482). There is no exemption for newly k

Recap of the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (AB 1482): AB 1482 creat cap by limiting allowable rent increases to 5% plus CPI for any 12-month maximum increase. Along with the rent cap, a just cause provision was permissible reasons for termination of tenancy to a list of eleven fault a cause" reasons. However, AB 1482 excluded mobilehomes from its cov

New Law: While mobilehome parks are typically characterized by resid homes and paying rent on the space to the park, often the mobilehome number of units and rent them out directly. Under AB 978, the statewide cause eviction law now applies to renters who are tenants in a mobileh if a tenant resides in a mobilehome unit for at least 12 months, their ten terminated unless the reason is a qualified "just cause." Additionally, th tenants in a new mobile home, unlike AB 1482 which exempts tenancie within the last 15 years.

AB 978 also extends the statewide rent cap to renters in a mobilehome cap takes effect on January 1, 2022; however, the maximum rent cap wi include all rent increases from February 18, 2021. If the rent increase si the maximum allowable rent increase, rents will be automatically rolled maximum allowable rent is.

There is a special provision for mobilehome parks that span two cities. parks, the maximum rent increase will be 3% plus CPI not to exceed 5%

Assembly Bill 978 is codified as Civil Code §§ 1946.2 and 1947.12. Ef 2022, with rent increase look back period from February 18, 2021.

<p>Names: Use of Prior Surname</p> <p>Allows a person who has legally changed their name to continue to use the prior name in conducting real estate business.</p>	<p>A real estate licensee who is a natural person and who legally changes their license was originally issued may continue to utilize their former purpose of conducting business associated with their license so long as with the department.</p> <p>Use of a former surname does not constitute a fictitious name for the p 10159.5.</p> <p>Assembly Bill 44 codified, among other provisions, as Business and 10140.6. Effective January 1, 2022</p>
<p>Partition Actions: "Heirs Property"</p> <p>As part of a partition action involving heirs property, the court must first mandate an appraisal and grant co-tenants an option to buy. If a sale is ordered, it must be through the open-market by a broker, as opposed to an auction.</p>	<p>Enacts the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act which grants co property" the first option to buy at an appraised price in a partition property is property that is in part owned by or acquired from relative determine whether partition will be in kind or by sale, courts are not non-economic factors, such as the consequences of eviction and who has historic value. But if a sale is ordered, it must typically be an open through a brokerage, as opposed to a court ordered auction.</p> <p>How AB 633 works</p> <p>In any partition action the court must first determine whether the property If it is heirs property, the real property must be partitioned following the Act, unless all of the cotenants agree otherwise.</p> <p>What is "heirs property"?</p> <p>"Heirs property" means real property that meets all of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It is held in tenancy in common. b) Its partition is not governed by an agreement that binds all of the cotenants. c) One or more of the cotenants acquired title in the property from a relative or deceased. d) At least one of the following conditions applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Twenty percent or more of the interests in the property are held by cotenants who are relatives. ii) Twenty percent or more of the interests in the property are held by cotenants who acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased. iii) Twenty percent or more of the cotenants are relatives. <p>How does an action to partition heirs property proceed?</p> <p>A court will take the following steps in a partition action involving heirs property:</p> <p>1) Appraisal to determine fair market value. Determine the fair market value of the property generated through a disinterested real estate appraiser.</p>

2) Option to buyout. Provide an opportunity for all cotenants, other than the requesting party, to purchase the interests of the cotenants requesting sale at the appraised price.

3) Order in kind partition if no buyout. Absent such a purchase, the court shall order partition by kind unless the court finds that such a partition would cause "great prejudice" to the cotenants as a group. "Great prejudice" is statutorily defined to require the totality of the factors and circumstances involved, including how long the property has been held by the cotenant and prior owners, and a cotenant's attachment to the property.

Comment: Even under the terms of the Act, a property whose value is primarily due to improvements would ordinarily go to an open-market sale, rather than a partition in kind.

4) Order open market sale. If the court does not order partition in kind because of "great prejudice" to the co-tenants as a group, the court shall order a sale, unless sealed bids in an auction would be more economically advantageous. If a cotenant requested partition by sale, the court shall dismiss the action.

5) Appointment of broker. If the court orders an open-market sale and the parties do not agree on a broker within 10 days after the entry of the order, the court shall appoint a broker of California to offer the property for sale, the court shall appoint the broker on a reasonable commission.

If the parties do not agree on a broker, the court shall appoint a disinterested broker licensed in the State of California to offer the property for sale on a reasonable commission. The broker shall offer the property for sale in a reasonable manner at a price no lower than the determination of value established by the court.

Any purchase entitled to a share of the proceeds is entitled to a credit against the debt.

In a non-heirs property partition action, what is the standard for determining whether property is partitioned in kind or sold?

When one cotenant seeks partition, it is presumed that it is more equitable to partition the property physically and distribute a portion to each cotenant. The burden is on the party who seeks a sale, rather than a physical division, to prove that it is "more equitable" to sell the property rather than to divide it and distribute portions to the cotenants. In order to compel a sale rather than a physical division, it must be shown that either: (1) a division into subparcels of equal value cannot be made, or (2) the land would substantially diminish the value of each party's interest, such that the value received by each cotenant would be of substantially less value than the value of the property if sold. (Miller & Starr § 11;17)

Reasons for this law

C.A.R.'s statement in support:

"... real estate speculators have exploited the land holdings of heirs by forcing a partition action. The speculator is able to acquire the property in a court ordered partition sale for far less than its true value, and, in turn, depletes a family's inherited wealth. Property owners lack the financial means and the expertise needed to access estate planning att

to avoid the harsh consequences of a partition sale. But low to moderate otherwise disadvantaged heirs' property owners are vulnerable to these exploitive situations have classically occurred with rural landowners. In times, urban landowners have also found themselves subject to these

Assembly Bill 633 is codified as Code of Civil Procedure §§ 872.020 . 874.323.

Applies to actions filed on or after January 1, 2022, for partition of real property.

Probate Avoidance

Revocable transfer on death deed law extended until 2032

This law extends until 2032 the revocable transfer on death deed (RTOD) which allows a homeowner to transfer to a named beneficiary 1-4 upon the owner's death without a probate proceeding. Two witnesses are required to sign the deed. Stock cooperatives are excluded from the RTOD that may be transferred via RTODD but agricultural land with up to four dwelling units are now included.

This law extends until January 1, 2032, the RTOD deed law which allows property on the death of its owner without a probate proceeding through a deed.

This law applies to:

- Residential one to four properties
- Condominium units and
- Single tract agricultural land (40 acres or less) improved with a residential dwelling.
- Stock cooperatives are excluded.

The RTOD deed must be signed, dated and acknowledged before a notary public and be recorded within 60 days after execution.

Under SB 315, the deed is now required to be signed by two witnesses present when the RTODD was signed or acknowledged by the transferor. The witnesses be competent to provide evidence in an action to contest the RTODD. If a beneficiary of an RTODD also signs as a witness, the RTODD is presumed to be the product of fraud or undue influence.

During the owner's life, the deed does not affect his or her ownership and is considered part of the owner's state for purpose of Medi-Cal eligibility.

There are three ways to revoke this deed: One, fill out, have notarized a revocation form (the law creates a statutory form for this purpose); Two, notarized, and record a new RTOD deed; and; Three, sell or give away the property, transfer it to a trust, before you death and record the deed. A RTOD deed can be revoked by will.

The law may void a RTOD deed if, at the time of the owner's death, the property was held as joint tenancy or as community property with right of survivorship. The law provides a process for contesting the transfer of real property by a RTOD deed.

One remarkable aspect of this law is the list of statutory provisions that explains the law clearly and directly.

SB 315 also allows that property may be transferred via an RTOD deed without other changes.

Senate Bill 315 is codified as Government Code §§ 5600, 5608, 5624, 5644, 5652, 5660, 5674, 5682, 5690, and 5694, and Probate Code §§ 5600, 5658, 5659, 5677, 5678, 5681, and 5698.

SB 315 is effective January 1, 2022. But the changes in SB 315 do not apply to revocations that were signed before January 1, 2022.

<p>Tax: Extension of time based on disaster</p> <p>Extends by two years the time period for a taxpayer affected by a disaster declared by the Governor to transfer their base year value to a new residence</p>	<p>In regard to exemptions under Rev & Tax Code 69, extends by two years the time period for a taxpayer affected by a disaster declared by the Governor to transfer their base year value to a new residence when the deadline to transfer their base year value is on or before the COVID-19 emergency termination date, and the property was damaged within the same time period. RTC 69.5 allows for a 5-year window to build a new structure. With SB 303, this extended law does not pertain to extensions regarding sales and new construction replacement property under Prop 19.</p> <p>SB 303 enacts the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Extends by two years the time period for a taxpayer affected by a disaster declared by the Governor to transfer their base year value to a new residence if the property meets the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The last day to transfer their base year value was on or after the COVID-19 emergency termination date, or March 4, 2020, whichever is earlier. b) The property was substantially damaged or destroyed on or after the COVID-19 emergency termination date, or March 4, 2020, whichever is earlier. 2) Applies the determination of base year values retroactive to the 2015 base year value. 3) Contains a legislative finding stating that this retroactive treatment does not constitute a gift of public funds for a specific public purpose. 4) Defines two terms, including "COVID-19 emergency termination date" as the date the Governor proclaims the termination of the emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic that was proclaimed on March 4, 2020, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act of 1987. <p>SB 303 allows for an extended time period for new construction under RTC 69 already allows for a 5-year window to build a new structure. With SB 303, this extends the time to seven years. This does not extend the time for the sale and new construction of a principal residence under Prop 19. In fact, there are a host of laws regarding reassessment for construction after a disaster including RTC 69.3, 69.5, and 69.6, none of which are altered by SB 303.</p> <p>Senate Bill 303 is codified as Revenue & Tax Code 69.</p> <p>Effective immediately as urgency legislation.</p>
<p>Tax: Prop 19 implementing legislation</p>	<p>SB 539 clarifies the law regarding exemptions from reassessment as put forth in Proposition 19. It allows a homeowner to transfer their tax basis anywhere in the state if the property is of greater value (with an adjustment upward in such cases) than the value of the property at the time of the transfer of a tax basis of a principal residence for severely disabled and victims of natural disaster, as well as the tra</p>

Prop 19 implementing legislation clarifies the rules of exemptions from reassessment allowing for the portability of a homeowner's tax basis everywhere in the state even if the value of the property is greater (with an adjustment upward in such case). Rules regarding intergenerational transfer of property or family farms from parent to child, are also addressed and clarified. This law takes effect immediately upon signature of the Governor.

family farms from parent/grandparent to child/grandchild, are addressed. Most importantly, the purchase and sale of a homeowner's principal residence qualify for Prop 19 tax savings even if one leg of the transaction to April 1, 2021.

With the passage of Proposition 19, a homeowner who is 55 years of age or whose home has been substantially damaged by wildfire or natural cause can transfer the taxable value of their primary residence to:

- A replacement primary residence
- Anywhere in the state
- Regardless of the value of the replacement primary residence (with adjustments in the tax basis if "greater" in value)
- Within two years of the sale
- Up to three times (but without limitation for those whose houses were destroyed by fire)
- Proposition 19 supersedes the old rules which limited this exemption to the purchase of a principal residence within the same county (Proposition 90) -- but only if the replacement property is of equal or lesser value" and only one time.

SB 539 clarifies the implementation of Prop 19 including:

- A sale or purchase of a property may qualify for Prop 19 tax savings if the transaction closed prior to April 1, 2021, as long as the sale or purchase takes place within two years and on or after April 1, 2021.
- Accessory Dwelling Units do not count as multiunit dwellings as long as the homeowner occupies one of the units as occupied as a primary residence.
- A previous transfer of a homeowner's tax basis under Prop 60/90 can be used for one of the three transfers under Prop 19.
- If the full cash value of the replacement property is of equal or less than the original then the tax basis of the original transfers. "Equal or less" means the replacement dwelling can be 105% of the full cash value of the original property if the replacement property is purchased within one year after sale of the original or purchased within two years after sale of the original.
- If the replacement property is of "greater value" to the original property the taxable value of the replacement property is calculated by adding the difference between the full cash value of the original property and the full cash value of the replacement property to the taxable value of the original property.

In addition to the changes to portability rules, SB 539 has clarified Prop 19 rules for intergenerational transfers and when a property transferred from parent to child/grandchild is exempt from reassessment:

- The property is eligible for the exemptions when it "continues as the transferee," meaning that only one of the heirs need to actually live in the home to qualify for the exemption, even if there is more than one heir.
- The property also may qualify if it's a family farm. This exemption applies to a single parcel that constitutes a family farm.
- The homeowners' exemption (or disabled veterans' exemption) must be claimed within one year of the transfer to be eligible for the exemption.
- It is still necessary to file a claim for exemption within three years of the purchase (or prior to subsequent transferee, or if the child no longer lives on the property, whichever is earlier).
- The new tax basis represents a discount of \$1 million dollars off the taxable value of the property (but not less than its original taxable value).
- The \$1 million dollar exemption also applies to family farms. This exemption applies separately to the transfer of each legal parcel that makes up a family farm.

This component of Prop 19 went into effect on **February 16, 2021**.

SB 539 and accompanying regulations provide further detail, but generally follow the previous rules under Prop 60/90 with the exception of those specifically mentioned above. Please see our Q&A "Property Tax Exemptions from Reassessment" (reassessment) for details.

Senate Bill 539 is codified as Revenue and Tax Code §§ 63.2 and 69.1.

Effective September 30, 2021, as urgency legislation

See our Q&A "**Property Tax Exemptions From Reassessment Implementing Legislation**" for a complete explanation.

<p>Tax: Penalties on Property Tax</p> <p>Tax Collector may cancel property tax late payment penalties if due to a shelter in place order.</p>	<p>Tax Collector may cancel property tax late payment penalties if due to a shelter in place order if the principal payment for the proper amount of tax is made later than June 30 of the fiscal year in which the payment first became delinquent.</p> <p>Currently, property tax law requires the county tax collector to collect a tax bill that provides for the payment of taxes on the secured roll in 2 installments, payable on November 1 and February 1, respectively. Under existing law, the first installment becomes delinquent if unpaid on December 10, and the second installment becomes delinquent on April 10, at which point a delinquent penalty of 1% of the applicable installment. Existing property tax law authorizes a county auditor to cancel any penalty, costs, or other charges resulting from tax delinquency if the tax collector finds, among other reasons, that the failure to make a timely payment is due to a documented hardship, as determined by the tax collector, or a shelter-in-place order, if the principal payment for the proper amount of tax is made later than June 30 of the fiscal year in which the payment first became delinquent.</p> <p>Senate Bill 219 is codified as revenue and Taxation Code § 4985.2</p> <p>Effective July 23, 2021, as urgency legislation.</p>
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