Lead Committee: Transactions and Regulatory
Level of Government Committee: Legislative

12/15/2013

BRE COLLECTION OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

THE QUESTION: Should C.A.R. sponsor legislation to allow the Bureau of Real Estate (BRE) to require a working email address from licensees as part of the license process?

ACTION REQUIRED? Optional

POSSIBLE POSITIONS

1. Sponsor legislation to allow e-mail collection.
2. Support the BRE ability to collect e-mails, but not sponsor legislation.
3. Other
4. Take no action

DISCUSSION: The BRE is empowered to require licensees to supply their mailing address as part of the license process. However, they are not empowered to require e-mail addresses. In discussions with the BRE, the regulator's staff has expressed concern that they cannot cost effectively communicate with licensees in the modern world without the use of e-mail.

Because of state budget constraints, the BRE no longer mails out the Real Estate Bulletin to licensees, and instead posts it on the website and e-mails it to the available addresses. Unfortunately, the BRE estimates that it has only between 10,000 and 15,000 valid e-mails -- out of a licensee population of over 400,000. This means that only a tiny portion of the licensee base can be effectively reached with warnings, bulletins and information about disciplined licensees.
If the BRE had such a requirement in place it could require licensees to notify it of changes of e-mail address just as it now requires notice of changes of physical address

<u>Should C.A.R. sponsor legislation to allow the BRE to build an e-mail address requirement into its licensing requirements in the same way that it now requires a physical address?</u>