

Local Government Forum

Steve Delmartini

Not as riveting a meeting as usual as there were no real controversial items out there that the Government Affairs Directors and local associations were fighting such as parcel tax issues, licensing fees, point of sale requirements and the like.

There were reports from:

1. The California for Homeownership Foundation: The CAR foundation that is set up to challenge those cities, counties and community service districts that resist the development of housing by not conforming to state law and/or makes it almost impossible in a timely fashion to get through the process to obtain a permit. We heard about this foundation in a number of committees this week.
2. A report from Smart Coast California, again heard in a few committees this week.
3. An attempt at passing a Vacancy Taxes in Los Angeles which I believe was also attempted and/or passed a while ago in northern Calif. This would place a tax on residential/commercial properties that are left vacant. I think an attempt to get more people into housing as well as filling in long term commercial vacancies.
4. There was a Fair Housing and Local Advocacy Presentation. Again much of what you have heard outside this forum.