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Department of Real Estate 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 Telephone: (213) 576-6982 (office)

FILED

APR 3 0 2009

DEPARTMENT OF PEAL ESTATE

BY: Dowy

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of

No. H-34945 LA

EVANS/SIPES INC., doing business as Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors; and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, individually and as designated officer of Evans/Sipes Inc.,

STIPULATION

AND

AGREEMENT

Respondents,

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It is hereby stipulated by and between Respondents

EVANS/SIPES INC., and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, individually and as

designated officer of Evans/Sipes Inc. (sometimes collectively

referred to as "Respondents"), represented by Frank M. Buda, Esq.

and the Complainant, acting by and through Elliott Mac Lennan,

Counsel for the Department of Real Estate, as follows for the

purpose of settling and disposing of the Accusation

("Accusation") filed on May 19, 2008, in this matter:

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1. All issues which were to be contested and all evidence which was to be presented by Complainant and Respondents at a formal hearing on the Accusation, which hearing was to be

held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), shall instead and in place thereof be submitted solely on the basis of the provisions of this Stipulation and Agreement ("Stipulation").

- 2. Respondents have received, read and understand the Statement to Respondent, the Discovery Provisions of the APA and the Accusation filed by the Department of Real Estate in this proceeding.
- pursuant to Section 11506 of the Government Code for the purpose of requesting a hearing on the allegations in the Accusation.

 Respondents hereby freely and voluntarily withdraw said Notice of Defense. Respondents acknowledge that they understand that by withdrawing said Notice of Defense they thereby waive their right to require the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a contested hearing held in accordance with the provisions of the APA and that they will waive other rights afforded to them in connection with the hearing such as the right to present evidence in their defense and the right to crossexamine witnesses.
- 4. This Stipulation is based on the factual allegations contained in the Accusation. In the interest of expedience and economy, Respondents choose not to contest these allegations, but to remain silent and understand that, as a result thereof, these factual allegations, without being admitted

or denied, will serve as a prima facie basis for the disciplinary action stipulated to herein. The Real Estate Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence to prove said factual allegations.

- 5. This Stipulation is made for the purpose of reaching an agreed disposition of this proceeding and is expressly limited to this proceeding and any other proceeding or case in which the Department of Real Estate ("Department"), the state or federal government, or any agency of this state, another state or federal government is involved.
- Estate Commissioner may adopt this Stipulation as his Decision in this matter thereby imposing the penalty and sanctions on Respondents' real estate licenses and license rights as set forth in the "Order" herein below. In the event that the Commissioner in his discretion does not adopt the Stipulation, it shall be void and of no effect and Respondents shall retain the right to a hearing and proceeding on the Accusation under the provisions of the APA and shall not be bound by any stipulation or waiver made herein.
- 7. The Order or any subsequent Order of the Real
 Estate Commissioner made pursuant to this Stipulation shall not
 constitute an estoppel, merger or bar to any further
 administrative or civil proceedings by the Department of Real
 Estate with respect to any matters which were not specifically

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alleged to be causes for Accusation in this proceeding but do constitute a bar, estoppel and merger as to any allegations actually contained in the Accusations against Respondent herein.

- 8. Respondents understand that by agreeing to this Stipulation, Respondents agree to pay, pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 10148, the cost of the audit. The amount of said cost for the audit is \$9,974.69.
- 9. Respondents have received, read, and understand the "Notice Concerning Costs of Subsequent Audit". Respondents further understand that by agreeing to this Stipulation, the findings set forth below in the Determination of Issues become final, and the Commissioner may charge Respondents for the cost of any subsequent audit conducted pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 10148 to determine if the violations have been corrected. The maximum cost of the subsequent audit will not exceed \$9,974.69.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

By reason of the foregoing, it is stipulated and agreed that the following determination of issues shall be made:

I.

The conduct, acts or omissions of <u>EVANS/SIPES INC.</u> and <u>MICHAEL GRANT SIPES</u>, as described in Paragraph 4, above, are in violation of Section <u>10145</u> of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") and Sections <u>2832(e)</u> and <u>2950(d)</u> of Title 10, Chapter 6 of the California Code of Regulations ("Regulations") and is a

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basis for discipline of Respondents' license and license rights 1 as violation of the Real Estate Law pursuant to Code Sections 2 10177(d) and 10177(g). 3 II. The conduct, acts or omissions of MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, as described in Paragraph 4, above, constitutes a failure to keep 6 EVANS/SIPES INC. in compliance with the Real Estate Law during 7 the time that he was the officer designated by a corporate broker 9 licensee in violation of Section 10159.2 of the Code. 10 conduct is a basis for the suspension or revocation of 11 Respondent's license pursuant to Code Section 10177(h). 12 ORDER 13 WHEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDER is hereby made: 14 15 The license and licensing rights of Respondent 16 EVANS/SIPES INC. under the Real Estate Law, are suspended for a 17 period of sixty (60) days from the effective date of this 18 Decision; provided, however, that thirty (30) days of said 19 suspension shall be stayed for two (2) years upon the following 20 terms and conditions: Respondent shall obey all laws, rules and 22 regulations governing the rights, duties and responsibilities of 23 24 a real estate licensee in the State of California. 25 That no final subsequent determination be made, 26 after hearing or upon stipulation, that cause for disciplinary

action occurred within two (2) years of the effective date of this Decision. Should such determination be made, the Commissioner may, in his discretion, vacate and set aside the stay order and reimpose all or a portion of the stayed suspension. Should no such determination be made, the stay imposed herein shall become permanent. 6 The remaining thirty (30) day portion of said sixty (60) day suspension shall commence on the effective date of this Decision; provided, however, that if Respondent petitions, said 10 suspension shall be stayed upon condition that: 11 1. Pursuant to Section 10175.2 of the Business and 12 Professions Code, Respondent shall pay a monetary penalty of One 13 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per day or Three Thousand Dollars 14 (\$3,000). 15 Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's 16 check or certified check made payable to the Recovery 17 Account of the Real Estate Fund. Said check must be received 18 by the Department prior to the effective date of the Decision. 19 No further cause for disciplinary action against 20 the real estate license of Respondent occurs within two (2) years 21 from the effective date of the Decision in this matter. 22 4. If Respondent fails to pay the monetary penalty in 23 accordance with the terms and conditions of the Decision, the 24 Commissioner may, without a hearing, order the immediate execution of all or any part of the stayed suspension in which 27

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event Respondents shall not be entitled to any repayment nor credit, prorated or otherwise, for money paid to the Department under the terms of this Decision.

5. If Respondent pays the monetary penalty and provide evidence as required, above, and if no further cause for disciplinary action against the real estate licenses of Respondent occurs within two (2) years from the effective date of the Decision, the stay hereby granted shall become permanent.

II.

- A. The license and licensing rights of Respondent

 MICHAEL GRANT SIPES under the Real Estate Law, are suspended for
 a period of ninety (90) days from the effective date of this

 Decision; provided, however, that sixty (60) days of said

 suspension shall be stayed for two (2) years upon the following
 terms and conditions:
- 1. Respondent shall obey all laws, rules and regulations governing the rights, duties and responsibilities of a real estate licensee in the State of California.
- after hearing or upon stipulation, that cause for disciplinary action occurred within two (2) years of the effective date of this Decision. Should such determination be made, the Commissioner may, in his discretion, vacate and set aside the stay order and reimpose all or a portion of the stayed suspension. Should no such determination be made, the stay

imposed herein shall become permanent.

B. The initial thirty (30) day portion of said sixty

(60) day suspension shall commence on the effective date of this

Decision; provided, however, that if Respondents petition, said suspension shall be stayed upon condition that:

1. Pursuant to Section 10175.2 of the Business and

- 1. Pursuant to Section 10175.2 of the Business and Professions Code, Respondents shall pay a monetary penalty of Sixty Six dollars and Sixty Six cents (\$66.66) per day or Two Thousand Hundred Dollars (\$2,000).
- 2. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Recovery Account of the Real Estate Fund. Said check must be received by the Department prior to the effective date of the Decision.
- 3. No further cause for disciplinary action against the real estate license of Respondents occur within two (2) years from the effective date of the Decision in this matter.
- 4. If Respondents fail to pay the monetary penalty in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Decision, the Commissioner may, without a hearing, order the immediate execution of all or any part of the stayed suspension in which event Respondents shall not be entitled to any repayment nor credit, prorated or otherwise, for money paid to the Department under the terms of this Decision.
- 5. If Respondents pay the monetary penalty and provides evidence as required, above, and if no further cause for

disciplinary action against the real estate licenses of

Respondent occurs within two (2) years from the effective date of
the Decision, the stay hereby granted shall become permanent.

III.

Pursuant to Section 10148 of the Business and

Professions Code, Respondents EVANS/SIPES INC. and MICHAEL GRANT

SIPES shall pay the Commissioner's reasonable cost for (a) the audit which led to this disciplinary action (b) a subsequent audit to determine if Respondents are now in compliance with the Real Estate Law. The cost of the audit which led to this disciplinary action is \$9,974.69. In calculating the amount of the Commissioner's reasonable cost, the Commissioner may use the estimated average hourly salary for all persons performing audits of real estate brokers, and shall include an allocation for travel time to and from the auditor's place of work. Said amount for the prior and subsequent audits shall not exceed \$19,949.38.

Respondents shall pay such cost within 60 days of receiving an invoice from the Commissioner detailing the activities performed during the audit and the amount of time spent performing those activities.

The Commissioner may suspend the license of Respondents pending a hearing held in accordance with Section 11500, et seq., of the Government Code, if payment is not timely made as provided for herein, or as provided for in a subsequent agreement between the Respondent and the Commissioner. The suspension shall remain

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in effect until payment is made in full or until Respondents enter into an agreement satisfactory to the Commissioner to provide for payment, or until a decision providing otherwise is adopted following a hearing held pursuant to this condition.

IV.

GRANT SIPES are indefinitely suspended unless or until Respondent provides proof satisfactory to the Commissioner, of having taken and successfully completed the continuing education course on trust fund accounting and handling specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 10170.5 of the Business and Professions Code. Proof of satisfaction of this requirement includes evidence that respondent has successfully completed the trust fund account and handling continuing education course within 120 days prior to the effective date of the Decision in this matter.

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19	DATED: _	10-6-08	c7~
20	_		ELLIOTT MAC LENNAN, Counsel for the Department of Real Estate
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EXECUTION OF THE STIPULATION

We have read the Stipulation and discussed it with our counsel. Its terms are understood by us and are agreeable and acceptable to us. We understand that we are waiving rights given to us by the California Administrative Procedure Act (including but not limited to Sections 11506, 11508, 11509 and 11513 of the Government Code), and we willingly, intelligently and voluntarily waive those rights, including the right of requiring the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a hearing at which we would have the right to cross-examine witnesses against us and to present evidence in defense and mitigation of the charges.

MAILING AND FACSIMILE

Respondents (1) shall <u>mail</u> the original signed signature page of the stipulation herein to Elliott Mac Lennan: Attention: Legal Section, Department of Real Estate, 320 W. Fourth St., Suite 350, Los Angeles, California 90013-1105. Additionally, Respondents shall also (2) <u>facsimile</u> a copy of signed signature page, to the Department at the following telephone/fax number: (213) 576-6917, Attention: Elliott Mac Lennan.

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A facsimile constitutes acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of this stipulation. Respondents agree, acknowledge and understand that by electronically sending to the Department a facsimile copy of Respondents' actual signatura as it appears on the stipulation that receipt of the facsimile copy by the Department shall be as binding on Respondents as if the Department had received the original signed stipulation.

DATED: 10-7-08

evans/sipes inc. à corporate real estate broker,

BY: MICHAEL GRANT-SIPES D.O.,

Respondent

MICHAEL GRANT SIPES Andividuand as designated officer of Evans/Sipes Inc., Respondent

FRANK M, BUDA,

Attorney for Respondents Approved as to form

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The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement is hereby adopted as my Decision as to Respondents EVANS/SIPES INC. and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, individually and as designated officer of Evans/Sipes Inc., and shall become effective at May 29 2009. 12 o'clock noon on IT IS SO ORDERED JEFF DAVI Real Estate Commissioner

ELLIOTT MAC LENNAN, SBN 66674 Department of Real Estate 320 West 4th Street, Ste. 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105

Telephone: (213) 576-6911 (direct) (213) 576-6982 (office) -or-

FILED

MAY 1 9 2008

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of

EVANS/SIPES INC., doing business as Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors; and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, individually and as designated officer of Evans/Sipes Inc.,

Respondents.

No. H-34945 LA

ACCUSATION

The Complainant, Maria Suarez, a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of California, for cause of Accusation against EVANS/SIPES INC. dba Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors; and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, individually and as designated officer Of Evans/Sipes Inc.

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The Complainant, Maria Suarez, acting in her official capacity as a Deputy Real Estate Commissioner of the State of

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California, makes this Accusation against EVANS/SIPES INC. and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES.

2.

All references to the "Code" are to the California
Business and Professions Code and all references to "Regulations"
are to Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations.

LICENSE HISTORY

3.

A. At all times mentioned, EVANS/SIPES INC. ("ESI") was licensed or had license rights issued by the Department of Real Estate ("Department") as a real estate broker. On April 14, 1997, ESI was originally licensed as a real estate broker.

B. At all times mentioned, MICHAEL GRANT SIPES ("SIPES") was licensed or had license rights issued by the Department as a real estate broker. On October 02, 2000, SIPES was originally licensed as a real estate broker. On January 22, 2005, SIPES was licensed as the designated officer of ESI; and,

C. At all times material herein, ESI was licensed by the Department of Real Estate of the State of California (hereinafter "Department") as a corporate real estate broker by and through SIPES, as the designated officer and broker responsible, pursuant to Code Section 10159.2 of the Business and Professions Code for supervising the activities requiring a real estate license conducted on behalf ESI of by ESI's officers, agents and employees, including SIPES.

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RESIDENTIAL RESALE BROKERAGE

4.

At all times mentioned, in the City and County of Ventura, ESI and SIPES acted as real estate brokers and conducted licensed activities within the meaning of:

- A. Code Section 10131(a). ESI operated a residential resale brokerage dba Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors; and
- B. In addition, ESI conducted broker-controlled escrows through its escrow division, under the exemption set forth in California Financial Code Section 17006(a)(4) for real estate brokers performing escrows incidental to a real estate transaction where the broker is a party and where the broker is performing acts for which a real estate license is required.

RESIDENTIAL RESALE AND BROKER ESCROW AUDIT

·5.

On January 18, 2007, the Department completed an audit examination of the books and records of ESI pertaining to the residential resale and broker escrow activities described in Paragraph 4, that require a real estate license. The audit examination covered a period of time beginning on March 30, 2006 to September 28, 2007. The audit examination revealed violations of the Code and the Regulations as set forth in the following paragraphs, and more fully discussed in Audit Report LA 070114 and LA 070145 and the exhibits and workpapers attached to said audit report.

TRUST ACCOUNTS

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At all times mentioned, in connection with the

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Ventura, California

County Commerce Bank

activities described in Paragraph 4, above, ESI accepted or

received funds including funds in trust (hereinafter "trust funds") from or on behalf of actual or prospective parties to

transactions handled by ESI and thereafter made deposits and or disbursements of such funds. From time to time herein mentioned

during the audit period, said trust funds were deposited and/or

maintained by ESI in the bank accounts as follows:

"Evans/Sipes Inc. dba Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors Ventura Escrow Division Trust Account

Account No. 901006411" County Commerce Bank

Ventura, California

"Evans/Sipes Inc. dba Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors Escrow Division Trust Account

Account No. 901004978" County Commerce Bank

Ventura, California

"Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors Escrow - Estate of Curtiss Anderson Account No. 1454721222"

Bank of Ventura (now First Bank & Trust) Ventura, California

("T/A #3")

("T/A #1")

("T/A #2")

"Evans/Sipes Inc. dba Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors -Susan & Robert Bayer

Account No. Certificate No. 8213"

("T/A #4")

VIOLATIONS OF THE REAL ESTATE LAW RESIDENTIAL RESALE and BROKER ESCROW AUDIT

7.

In the course of activities described in Paragraph 4 and 6, above, and during the examination period described in Paragraph 5, Respondents ESI and SIPES, acted in violation of the Code and the Regulations in that Respondents:

- (a)(1) Failed to maintain an accurate or complete control record in the form of a columnar record in chronological order of trust funds received for T/A #1 through T/A #4, as required by Code Section 10145 and Regulations 2831, 2950(d) and 2951; and
- (a)(2) Maintained interest-bearing accounts in a savings account for the Estate of Curtis Anderson, T/A #2, and a certificate of deposit for Robert Bayer, T/A #4, in violation of Code Section 10145(d)(5).
- (b) Permitted Glen Sipes, a revoked licensee, Phyllis Yanagihara, an unlicensed person not employed by ESI, and David Bryson, a real estate broker not employed by ESI to be authorized signatories on the T/A #3; permitted Diane Allen, an unlicensed person and Greg Ricci, a real estate salesperson not employed by ESI, to be authorized signatories on the T/A #4; and additionally, ESI's fidelity bond in the amount of \$100,000, was insufficient and, did not cover ESI's employees, as required by Code Section 10145 and Regulations 2834, 2950(d) and 2951.

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(c) While acting in the capacity of an escrow holder in 1 two purchase and sale transactions, to wit, Tristano Solari and Anthony Furino, failed to place trust funds, including earnest money deposits, accepted on behalf of another into the hands of the owner of the funds, a neutral escrow depository or into a trust fund account in the name of the broker at a bank or other financial institution not later than the next business day 7 8 following receipt of the funds by the broker or by the broker's salesperson, as required by Code Section 10145 and Regulations 10 2832(e), 2950(d), 2950(f) and 2951. 11 (d) Failed to retain the salesperson license 12 certificate for real estate broker John Lawrence aka Dennis, in 13 violation of Code Section 10160 and Regulation 2753. 14 (e) Changed, closed, sold, relocated or moved some of 15 ESI's addresses, including ESI's Santa Paula, Fillmore, Moorpark, 16 Newberry Park, Port Hueneme, and Oxnard offices, without, 17 notification to the Department, as required by Code Section 10162 18 and Regulation 2715. 19 (f) Intentionally or by negligent misrepresentation EIS 20 misrepresented to sellers that EIS held earnest money deposits 21 for the buyers set forth below, in violation of Code Sections 22 23 10176(a) and/or 10177(g): 24 /// 25 ///

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Richard Gano - 2831 Diamond Dr., Camarillo 1 William Batelaan - 2734 E. Landen St., Camarillo 2 Lin Benson Trustee - 412 Mariposa Dr., Camarillo 3 4 David Wilson - 1964 Hillcrest Lane, Ventura 5 (g) Employed or compensated the unlicensed corporations 6 listed below a total of \$117,221.63, for activities requiring real estate licenses, in violation of Code Section 10137: Lanell Williamson Inc. 10 Eric Evarts RE Inc. 11 LP Real Property Inc. 12 Davis Pearce Inc. 13 The Guillen Group 14 8. 15 The conduct of Respondents ESI and SIPES, described in 16 Paragraph 7, above, violated the Code and the Regulations as set 17 forth below: 19 PARAGRAPH PROVISIONS · VIOLATED 20 Code Section 10145 and Regulations 7(a)(1) 21 2831, 2950(d) and 2951 23 7(a)(2) Code Section 10145(d)(5) 24 25 7(b) Code Section 10145 and Regulations 26 2834, 2950(d) and 2951 27

Code Section 10145 and Regulations 7(c) 2 2832(e), 2950(d), 2950(f) and 2951 7 (d) Code Section 10160 and Regulation 2753 6 7 8 7(e) Code Section 10162 and Regulation 9 2715 10 11 7(f) Code Sections 10176(a) and/or 12 10177 (g) 13 14 7 (g) Code Section 10137 15 16 The foregoing violations constitute cause for the suspension or 17 revocation of the real estate license and license rights of ESI 18 and SIPES, under Code Sections 10176(a), 10177(d) and/or 19 10177(g). 20 9. 21 The overall conduct of Respondents ESI and SIPES 22 constitutes negligence. This conduct is cause for the suspension 23 or revocation of the real estate license and license rights of 24 said Respondents pursuant to Code Section 10177(g). 25 /// 26 27

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The overall conduct of Respondent SIPES constitutes a

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failure on his part, as officer designated by a corporate broker licensee, to exercise the reasonable supervision and control over the licensed activities of ESI as required by Code Section 10159.2 and Regulation 2725, and to keep ESI in compliance with the Real Estate Law, and is cause for the suspension or revocation of the real estate license and license rights of SIPES pursuant to the provisions of Code Sections 10177(d), 10177(g) and 10177(h).

PRIOR DEPARTMENT ACTION

11.

On May 25, 2005, in Case No. H-31957 LA, an Accusation was filed against Respondent ESI, inter alia, that resulted in discipline for Respondent ESI, for violations of Code Section 10145(a) and Regulations 2831.1 and 2831.2.

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WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a hearing be conducted on the allegations of this Accusation and that upon proof thereof, a decision be rendered imposing disciplinary action against the license and license rights of Respondents EVANS/SIPES INC. and MICHAEL GRANT SIPES, individually and as designated officer of Evans/Sipes Inc., under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code) and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other applicable provisions of law.

Dated	at Los	Angeles,	Californ:	ia		1 .		
this	1689	day of	1 May	,200	8 //		Ma	
			· · · · · ·	Deputy	Real	Estate	Commis	oner

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cc: Evans/Sipes Inc..

c/o Michael Grant Sipes D.O.

Maria Suarez

Sacto

Audits - Surender Bhatia