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DEPT. OF REAL ESTATE

By_

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * *

In the Matter of the Accusation of

REAL ESTATE OF THE PACIFIC INC; VALARIE SUSAN SWANSON, individually and as designated officer of Real Estate of the Pacific Inc; KELLEN TIMOTHY PORTER, individually and as former branch manager of Real Estate of the Pacific Inc's branch office located at 16915 Avenida de Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe, California; OLIVIA MARIE DUNHAM; NORTH COUNTY BROKER NETWORK INC; BRIAN JOHN WILLIAMS, individually and as designated officer of North County Broker Network Inc; and JOHN LAWRENCE MCKENZIE,

No. H-05813-SD

ACCUSATION

Respondents.

Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Supervising Special Investigator for the Department of Real Estate ("Department" or "DRE") of the State of California, acting in her official capacity as a Supervising Special Investigator, makes this Accusation against the following Respondents: REAL ESTATE OF THE PACIFIC INC ("REOTPI"); VALARIE SUSAN SWANSON ("SWANSON"), also known as Valarie Swanson, individually and as designated officer of REOTPI; KELLEN TIMOTHY PORTER ("PORTER"), individually and as former branch manager of REOTPI's branch office located at 16915 Avenida de Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067 ("Avenida de Acacias Branch Office"); OLIVIA MARIE DUNHAM ("DUNHAM"), formerly known as

Olivia Marie Geilman; NORTH COUNTY BROKER NETWORK INC ("NCBNI"); BRIAN JOHN WILLIAMS ("WILLIAMS"), individually and as designated officer of NCBNI; and JOHN LAWRENCE MCKENZIE ("MCKENZIE"). Respondents REOTPI, SWANSON, DUNHAM, NCBNI, WILLIAMS, and MCKENZIE are referred to collectively herein as "Respondents." Complainant, for cause of Accusation against Respondents, is informed and alleges in her official capacity as follows:

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

LICENSE HISTORY

- 2. REOTPI has been licensed as a real estate corporation ("REC"), DRE real estate license identification number ("License ID") 01767484, from on or about August 26, 2006, to the present, with REOTPI's license scheduled to expire on or about October 14, 2026, unless renewed. REOTPI has been licensed through the real estate broker ("REB") license of SWANSON, License ID 01803552, from on or about September 10, 2020, to the present, and SWANSON is REOTPI's designated officer ("D.O."). REOTPI was previously licensed through the REB license of Richard Leon Hagen, License ID 01177122, from on or about April 29, 2009, until on or about September 10, 2020. REOTPI maintains multiple fictious business names ("dba(s)"), licensed with the DRE, including Pacific Sotheby's International Realty ("PSIR"), which has been active from on or about October 25, 2010, to the present. REOTPI also maintains multiple branch offices, including the branch office located at 16915 Avenida de Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067 ("Avenida de Acacias Branch Office"), which has been active from on or about April 4, 2014, to the present. Based on DRE records to date, REOTPI currently maintains five (5) licensed dbas, and 15 branch offices, and employs 59 broker associates and 491 salespersons.
- 3. SWANSON has been licensed as a REB, License ID 01803552, from on or about December 10, 2013, to the present, with SWANSON's license scheduled to expire on or about December 9, 2025, unless renewed. SWANSON was previously licensed as a real estate salesperson ("RES") from on or about April 19, 2007, to on or about December 9, 2013.

4. PORTER has been licensed as a RES, License ID 01906594, from on or about May 31, 2012, through the present, with PORTER's license scheduled to expire on or about August 2, 2027, unless renewed. PORTER was employed by REOTPI from on or about February 26, 2021, to on or about August 1, 2023, and from on or about August 3, 2023, to on or about December 16, 2024. From on or about December 21, 2021, to August 1, 2023, PORTER was appointed by REOTPI to be the branch manager for REOTPI's Avenida de Acacias Branch Office, and PORTER was responsible for supervising the licensed activities of licensees assigned to REOTPI's Avenida de Acacias Branch Office. According to DRE records to date, PORTER was branch manager for the following 11 REOTPI branch offices between the start and end dates listed:

REOTPI Branch Office	Porter's Start Date	End Date
1. 155 S Highway101 Ste 1-3, Solana Beach, CA	12/21/2021	03/13/2022
2. 687 S Coast Hwy Ste 103, Encinitas, CA	12/21/2021	08/01/2023
3. 687 S Coast Hwy Ste 102, Encinitas, CA	12/21/2021	08/01/2023
4. 2742 State St Ste 101, Carlsbad, CA	12/21/2021	08/01/2023
5. 1111 Prospect St, La Jolla, CA	12/21/2021	08/01/2023
6. 16915 Avenida De Acacias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA	12/21/2021	08/01/2023
7. 6024-D Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA	12/21/2021	08/01/2023
8. 810 W Washington St, San Diego, CA	12/21/2021	10/25/2023
9. 16077 San Dieguito Rd Suite B1-B2, Rancho Santa Fe, CA	12/21/2021	11/22/2023
10. 330 S Cedros Ave Ste 203, Solana Beach, CA	12/21/2021	06/03/2024
11.888 W Ash St, San Diego, CA	02/212023	08/01/2023

5. DUNHAM has been licensed as a RES, License ID 01856517, from on or about December 29, 2008, through the present, with DUNHAM's license scheduled to expire on or about February 4, 2026, unless renewed. DUNHAM is currently employed by REC Orchard Brokerage of California, Inc., License ID 02219388. According to DRE records to date, DUNHAM has been employed by the following eight (8) responsible brokers:

Dates of Employment	Name of REC	DRE License ID
1. 02/12/2025 to present	Orchard Brokerage of California, Inc.	02219388
2. 08/01/2023 to 02/11/2025	Lifestyles Realty Group, Inc.	02048992
3. 11/14/2022 to 07/31/2023	Real Estate of the Pacific Inc.	01767484
4. 06/15/2022 to 11/13/2022	Big Block Realty, Inc.	01885775
5. 11/02/2020 to 06/14/2022	Real Estate of the Pacific Inc.	01767484
6. 08/25/2020 to 11/01/2020	FHL Realty, Inc.	02085208
7. 08/24/2019 to 08/24/2020	Lifestyles Realty Group, Inc.	02048992
8. 04/18/2019 to 08/22/2019	Compass California, Inc.	01991628

According to SWANSON, DUNHAM was associated with REOTPI's Avenida de Acacias Branch Office.

- 6. NCBNI has been licensed as a REC, License ID 01875005, from on or about December 23, 2009, to the present, with NCBNI's license scheduled to expire on or about December 22, 2025, unless renewed. NCBNI has been licensed through the REB license of WILLIAMS, License ID 01387853, from on or about December 23, 2009, to the present, and WILLIAMS is NCBNI's D.O. NCBNI has a mortgage loan originator license ("MLO") endorsement from the DRE, and is licensed through the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System & Registry ("NMLS"), NMLS No. 338671. Based on DRE records to date, NCBNI currently maintains the following two (2) licensed dbas: The Broker Network ("TBN"), active as of April 12, 2013, and Home Financing Specialists, active as of December 3, 2018. Based on DRE records to date, NCBNI currently maintains one (1) branch office, and employs three (3) broker associates and 15 salespersons.
- 7. WILLIAMS has been licensed as a REB, License ID 01387853, from on or about February 22, 2006, to the present, with WILLIAMS's license scheduled to expire on or about February 21, 2026, unless renewed. WILLIAMS has an MLO endorsement from the DRE, and is licensed through NMLS, NMLS No. 244235. WILLIAMS was previously licensed as a RES from on or about June 26, 2003, to on or about February 21, 2006.
- 8. MCKENZIE is currently licensed as a RES, License ID 00961100, with no broker affiliation, or NBA. Because MCKENZIE is licensed NBA, MCKENZIE's license is currently in a non-working status. MCKENZIE was originally licensed as a RES on or about June 3, 1987, and MCKENZIE has license rights through the present, with MCKENZIE's license scheduled to expire on or about October 18, 2028, unless renewed. Previously, MCKENZIE was employed by NCBNI from on or about July 16, 2010, to on or about September 18, 2024.

<u>ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A REAL ESTATE LICENSE</u>

9. At all times alleged herein, in San Diego County, California, Respondents engaged in the performance of activities requiring a real estate license pursuant to Code section 10130, and acted, ordered, caused, authorized and/or participated in licensed activities for another or others for compensation or in expectation of compensation within the meaning of Code section 10131(a):

selling or offering to sell, buying or offering to buy, soliciting prospective sellers or buyers of, soliciting or obtaining listings of, or negotiating the purchase or sale of real property.

- a. At all times alleged herein, REOTPI acted by and through SWANSON as its D.O. pursuant to Code Section 10159.2, and SWANSON was responsible for ensuring compliance with the Real Estate Law. At all times alleged herein, REOTPI acted by and through SWANSON and PORTER for the licensed activities of licensees assigned to REOTPI's Avenida de Acacias Branch Office pursuant to Code sections 10164(a), 10164(b), and 10177(h).
- b. At all times alleged herein, NCBNI acted by and through WILLIAMS as its D.O. pursuant to Code Section 10159.2, and WILLIAMS was responsible for ensuring compliance with the Real Estate Law.

FACTS DISCOVERED BY DRE

- 10. On or about November 14, 2023, the DRE received a complaint from J.H. and A.H. regarding DUNHAM and PSIR, the dba licensed to REOTPI, alleging that on or about January 12, 2023, escrow closed on real property purchased by J.H. and A.H. ("Buyers") located at 28949 Miller Road, Valley Center, CA 92082 ("Miller Property"), in which DUNHAM represented the Buyers as their real estate agent on behalf of PSIR. J.H. and A.H. alleged that DUNHAM provided them with incorrect and/or false information regarding the license status of a structural engineer that they hired based on DUNHAM's referral, and regarding whether a termite inspection had been done. Based on information discovered by the DRE, the chronology of events is as follows.
- 11. The Buyers, J.H. and A.H., are a married couple who have been licensed foster parents for over 20 years. In or about November 2022, the Buyers were looking to buy a home they could use both as their primary residence for their family and in which they could also provide a day space for foster kids. The Buyers were working with DUNHAM as their real estate agent and had communicated their desire to DUNHAM that they wanted the home they purchased to provide space for foster children during the daytime. The Buyers wanted to provide a space for foster

¹ Initials are used in place of an individual's full name to protect their privacy. Documents containing an individual's full name will be provided during the discovery phase of this case to Respondent and/or his attorney(s), after service of a timely and proper request for discovery on Complainant's counsel.

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children similar to the model used by Isaiah 117 House, an organization that provides comforting homes for children who have been removed from their family homes by child welfare services, where children can wait in a safe and friendly place and get clean clothes, toys, and blankets, before they are placed with foster parents. Isaiah 117 House takes its name from Isaiah 1:17 in the Bible, which states: "defend the cause of the fatherless."

- 12. On or about November 10, 2022, N.H. and S.H. ("Sellers") signed an exclusive Residential Listing Agreement to sell the Miller Property for \$699,000.00, with MCKENZIE, on behalf of NCBNI, dba TBN.
- 13. On or about November 12, 2022, MCKENZIE listed the Miller Property through the San Diego Multiple Listing Service ("MLS"). The MLS listing for the Miller Property stated the following in pertinent part:

Own a piece of Valley Center history! Built in 1885 Sherrards Chapel was the first Church in Valley Center. Converted over the years into a house, with added kitchen, and bedrooms, this sits on 3 acres looking over the valley. It is in impeccable condition, and sits adjacent to the Valley Center Cemetery. Home is now over 2000 sf, and was originally 1000 sf. Home now has a 3 car detached garage, and lots of storage.

- 14. On or about November 20, 2022, DUNHAM, on behalf of the Buyers, prepared an offer to purchase the Miller Property for \$650,000.00 using a form titled California Residential Purchase Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions ("RPA"), which was digitally signed by the Buyers using DocuSign on November 20, 2022.
- 15. On or about November 22, 2022, the Sellers of the Miller Property, digitally signed a counter offer to the Buyers, using a form titled Seller Multiple Counter Offer, which included but was not limited to a proposed sale price of \$685,000.00, and a close of escrow date of January 5, 2023, with the Sellers to remain in possession of the Miller Property until January 31, 2023, at \$75.00 per day.
- 16. The Sellers were considering offers from different buyers, however, after Buyers J.H. and A.H. informed the Sellers that they intended to use the Miller Property as a space for foster children, and sent the Sellers information about Isaiah 117, the Sellers agreed to sell to the Buyers.

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J.H. believes that the Sellers picked the Buyers over others because the Buyers intended to provide a space for foster children.

- 17. On or about November 23, 2022, the Buyers accepted the Sellers' counter offer and digitally signed the Seller Multiple Counter Offer form.
- 18. On or about December 2, 2022, Triton Home Inspections ("Triton") conducted an inspection of the Miller Property on behalf of the Buyers and prepared a report. Triton's report, under the heading, "5: Foundation, Crawlspace & Structure," stated the following, in relevant part:
 - a. Under the subheading, "Limited Height," the Triton report stated:

All sections of the crawl space here, were not evaluated due to lack of access because the width was too narrow. Their condition is unknown except for what was observed from the entrance, so areas not traversed are excluded from this inspection. Recommend that conditions be corrected to allow a full evaluation of all crawl space areas.

b. Under the subheading, "5.1.1 Foundation: Support Posts," the Triton report stated:

Some of the structure's support posts are supported with layers of wood. This may have been the original installation, but it is recommended to install posts that are of today's building standards.

These posts may be doing their job, but are not of today's building standards.

Also, more posts may be needed at some parts of the floor beams.

Recommendation Contact a qualified professional.

Triton's report included photos of the Miller Property's support posts, stacked wood, and concrete blocks and piers. According to J.H., the Triton inspector verbally recommended that the Buyers have a structural engineer inspect the foundation.

19. Unbeknownst to the Buyers or Triton, there was a hatch in the living room that provided access to the crawl space which the Sellers did not disclose. J.H., at least one of the Sellers, and the agents for both parties were present on or about December 2, 2022, when the inspector from Triton stated that it was "too tight a fit" to access the crawl space from a hatch outside the kitchen, however, neither the Sellers, nor MCKENZIE, who was present, informed the inspector that the crawl space could be accessed from another hatch in the living room. Accessing the crawl space

would have allowed the Triton inspector to identify a crack in a support beam, and he also would have identified wood rot in the subflooring below the bathroom and in a support beam, as was identified by Triton in its report dated May 5, 2023, prepared after the close of escrow, and after the Buyers asked Triton to conduct a further inspection.

20. On or about December 4, 2022, based on Triton's recommendations for the Miller Property in its December 2, 2022 report, including installing structural support posts meeting "today's building standards," the Buyers informed DUNHAM in an email that they could not afford to purchase the house if it required installing support beams under the house, noted that the Seller told the Buyers that he had installed new beams under the house about 20 years prior, but that the Buyers were not sure if the new beams were the stacked layers of wood identified by Triton, and asked DUNHAM to advise them. DUNHAM replied to the Buyers the same day, stating among other things:

I will get these photos of the post and piers to my contractor who would let us know the cost to properly upgrade these posts to what is required along with the seismic strapping that would be installed if you were building a raised foundation home today.

Apparently, DUNHAM'S reference to "photos of the post and piers" meant the photos included in subsection 5.1.1 about the Foundation in Triton's report.

21. On or about December 7, 2022, DUNHAM followed up with the Buyers by e-mail, stating in part:

I spoke with the two contacts I have for foundations and they recommend review by a structural engineer since the brick wall around the entire perimeter. They stated that is more structural than the piers in place....those are necessary but less than the perimeter wall.

22. On or about December 13, 2022, DUNHAM e-mailed the Buyers stating she had located a structural engineer to conduct an inspection of the Miller Property. On or about December 14, 2022, at 7:06 a.m., Mike Devine ("Devine"), the structural engineer located by DUNHAM, sent an e-mail message to the Buyers and DUNHAM attaching a proposal to inspect the Miller Property, with the subject line: "28949 Miller – Preliminary Structural Site Observation." In Devine's proposal, he stated that a lump sum fee of \$2,000.00 was due in advance. The same day at 1:14 p.m.,

DUNHAM e-mailed the Buyers using Devine's subject line, stating: "Hold tight on paying anything until I can verify his license. I'm awaiting the confirmation from this contact prior to confirming." The same day at 1:45 p.m., DUNHAM e-mailed the Buyers again using Devine's subject line, stating in part: "Confirmed and all set. He's a limited structural engineer per the state so he can access buildings for structural integrity and reporting purposes."

- 23. On or about December 14, 2022, at 6:37 p.m., J.H. e-mailed DUNHAM using Devine's subject line, stating in part: "[D]o you know what it means by limited Structural engineer?" The same day at 6:59 p.m., DUNHAM replied to J.H., stating: "He is limited as he has semi-retired so he now does less scopes of work. He only does visual site inspections for commercial and residential buildings and refers all plans and further work to his full time partner."
- On or about December 20, 2022, based on the information that DUNHAM provided to the Buyers, the Buyers hired Devine and paid him \$2,000.00 to conduct a structural site inspection of the Miller Property. Devine conducted the inspection and provided the Buyers with a report dated December 29, 2022 ("Devine Report"). In the summary section of the Devine Report, Devine wrote, among other things: "There is no evident distress or 'red flags' that would stop this real estate transaction from a structural standpoint." On page 26 of the Devine Report, Devine listed his qualifications, in part, as follows: "Michael Devine is a retired California licensed civil engineer (CE45633) and structural engineer (SE4011). He was licensed as a CE from 1991 to 2021 and as an SE from 1996 to 2021"
- 25. However, and unbeknownst to the Buyers until July 2023, both the structural engineer license issued to Devine, license number 4011, and the civil engineer license issued to Devine, license number 45633, had been revoked by the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, effective September 24, 2020. Thus, at the time that Devine conducted the inspection and completed his report for the Miller Property, he was not licensed as a civil engineer or a structural engineer, and he practiced or offered to practice civil and structural engineering in California without legal authorization, in apparent violation of the California Professional Engineers Act.

- 26. On or about December 24 and 27, 2022, the Sellers and Buyers, respectively, signed Addendum No. 1 to the RPA, in which the parties agreed that the sale price for the Miller Property would be \$672,000.00; and that the close of escrow date would be January 6, 2023.
- On or about January 2, 2023, J.H. e-mailed DUNHAM with the subject line, "Termite," asking if a termite inspection had been done on the Miller Property. On or about January 3, 2023, DUNHAM replied to J.H.'s e-mail message stating: "Termite was done and no active infestation was found. They did note with the wood paneling to ensure yearly checks and maintain rain gutters as the wet weather or excessive moisture can be Damaging. Otherwise nothing noted." During the DRE's investigation of this transaction, DUNHAM stated that she, in fact, had never heard from the termite company regarding the Miller Property at issue.
- 28. On or about January 5 and 6, 2023, the Buyers executed a form titled Amendment of Existing Agreement Terms No. 1, digitally signed via DocuSign, stating, "1. Close of Escrow is hereby extended to January 13, 2023," and "2. Seller will not remain in property after closing. Time of possession of property to be upon notice of recordation." On or about January 5, 2023, the Buyers and Sellers signed a form titled "Amended/Additional Escrow Instructions" stating that the Buyers and Sellers agreed to amend the closing of escrow to January 13, 2023.
 - 29. On or about January 13, 2023, escrow closed on the Miller Property.
- 30. By arrangement between the Buyers and Sellers, the Buyers agreed to allow the Sellers to remain on the property as tenants after the close of escrow. On information and belief, the Sellers needed to remain on the property longer than expected for health needs of one of the Sellers.
- 31. On or about April 13, 2023, the Buyers received the keys to the Miller Property and began renovations.
- 32. On or about April 27, 2023, J.H.'s foot went through the flooring in the living room of the Miller Property. The same day, J.H. sent a text message to DUNHAM informing her that J.H.'s foot went through the floor and that a contractor had verbally informed J.H., after her foot went through the floor, that the inspection should have noted that the wood was rotten, and the support frames were not sufficient. Upon discovering such issues, the Buyers canceled their planned May 5, 2023, move-in date to the Miller Property.

- 33. On or about April 28, 2023, J.H. e-mailed DUNHAM asking her, among other things, to provide the termite report that was done on the Miller Property.
- 34. On or about May 1, 2023, DUNHAM replied to J.H. that she was working through her notes to determine who did the termite inspection. It was later discovered that no termite inspection had been performed prior to close of escrow because, as DUNHAM later admitted, she failed to arrange a termite inspection.
- 35. On or about May 5, 2023, the Buyers had another inspection performed by Triton on the Miller Property, and, this time, Triton was informed of the hatch in the living room to access the crawl space. In its Residential Report for the Miller Property dated May 5, 2023, Triton stated that wood rot was observed at the subflooring below the bathroom, the support beam was showing signs of wood rot, and all rotted wood should be replaced.
- 36. Also, on or about May 5, 2023, the Buyers had a termite inspection of the Miller Property conducted by Orkin Residential Services ("Orkin"). Orkin found visible damage, an active termite infestation, dry rot, and subterranean termites.
- 37. On or about May 9, 2023, another termite inspection of the Miller Property was conducted at DUNHAM's request by Spartan Termite Inc. ("Spartan"). Spartan prepared a wood destroying pests and organisms inspection report for the Miller Property, dated May 9, 2023, Report Number 13797, in which Spartan stated it found evidence of subterranean termite infestation, drywood termite infestations, termite damaged wood members, and dry-rot and fungus damaged wood members. Spartan recommended, among other things, a subarea spray-out, chemical treatment of visible and accessible infestations, replacing a damaged door, and removing, replacing and/or repairing damaged wood member(s) as necessary.
- 38. By on or about May 23, 2023, Brian Coleman of Brian Coleman Construction ("Coleman") had completed repairs to the subfloor in the living room of the Miller Property at a cost of \$5,800.00. Coleman also repaired window frames in the upstairs bedroom at a cost of \$550.00. A bedroom window fell out because of wood rot when Coleman attempted to replace it.
- 39. On or about May 23, 2023, DUNHAM e-mailed Spartan, with a copy to J.H., requesting that Spartan send an authorization via DocuSign to J.H., and stating that DUNHAM

would stay in contact with Cody Frost ("Frost"), Spartan's owner, for payment of treatment and repairs. The same day, Spartan sent a Work Authorization to J.H., referencing Spartan Report Number 13797, in which Spartan itemized work to be done on the Miller Property and listed the total cost as \$14,200.00 to complete the work ("Work Authorization"). Also, on or about May 23, 2023, DUNHAM e-mailed the Buyers stating, among other things:

I am happy to take care of anything that came up on the termite inspection that Spartan Termite performed. I do believe that comes with some of the flooring items to a total of \$14,200. I believe that addresses my end of the outstanding items since there was a failure to get the termite inspection during escrow.

- 40. On or about May 29, 2023, J.H. digitally signed the Work Authorization that she received from Spartan.
- 41. On or about June 12, 2023, the Buyers first learned that the foundation for the house at the Miller Property was failing.
- 42. Also, on or about June 12, 2023, Spartan began repairs to the Miller Property in accordance with the Work Authorization. On or about June 19, 2023, Spartan completed the work, at a cost of \$14,200.00, which included a subarea spray-out, chemically treating visible and accessible infestations, replacing a damaged door, and removing, replacing and/or repairing dry-rot and fungus damaged wood members including the handrail, trim, fascia, rafter tail, siding, post trim, baluster, roof sheathing, joist, slat, shadow board, and blocking. During the time that Spartan was making repairs, one of Spartan's employees told the Buyers that there was so much wood rot that at some point Spartan had to stop replacing wood. The Spartan employee also said that all the fascia boards needed to be replaced, but that Spartan had to put a cap on replacing fascia boards because DUNHAM was only willing to pay for treatment and repairs of active areas.
- Also, on or about June 12, 2023, the Buyers had the Miller Property assessed by Mark Sauer ("Sauer"), a general contractor and consultant in construction. Sauer prepared a report on or about June 14, 2023, regarding his visit to the Miller Property, in which he determined that the house is an adobe residence, the original building was constructed of un-stabilized adobe, and the house was built on a raised floor with a brick foundation. Sauer's report included a drawing of how to repair the foundation for the adobe building.

- 44. On or about June 14, 2023, the Buyers had Michel Khozam ("Khozam") of ZMK Construction inspect the Miller Property and provide a quote for repairs. On or about June 18, 2023, at 9:04 a.m., J.H. e-mailed Khozam, asking for a quote for repairs to the Miller Property, noting that Khozam's advice was to tear the house down and rebuild it, but that the Buyers wanted to see the costs. On or about June 18, 2023, at 2:51 p.m., Khozam replied that he respectfully declined to provide services.
- 45. From mid-June to mid-July 2023, the Buyers sought quotes from contractors to repair the foundation. Only a few contractors responded, and only verbal quotes were provided. At some point before the end of June 2023, the Buyers had received a verbal quote from one contractor to repair the foundation at a cost of \$400,000 to \$500,000, and they had received another verbal quote from another contractor of \$900,000 to rebuild the house.
- engineer, who is also related to J.H., assessed the Miller Property. Stevens provided a "comment letter," dated July 25, 2023, regarding the Devine Report, among other things. Stevens stated he was providing the letter as a family member and friend and did not hold himself out to be a qualified structural engineer or an expert on the specialized adobe construction of the home. Stevens discovered that Devine's structural and civil engineer licenses had been revoked and stated that the Devine Report was prepared in violation of the California Professional Engineers Act, which bars individuals with revoked licenses from practicing structural engineering. When Stevens related this information to the Buyers, it was the first time they had learned that Devine's structural and civil engineer licenses were revoked. Stevens also identified numerous deficiencies in the Devine Report, including any confirmation that critical aspects of the house were structurally inspected, and the absence of inspection findings. Stevens opined that the Devine Report failed to meet a basic standard of care for a structural engineering evaluation.
- 47. On or about July 21, 2023, based on the lack of response from contractors, the amount of money it would cost to repair the foundation of the Miller Property—money that the Buyers did not have—based on verbal quotes, combined with mortgage payments, the Buyers decided to put the Miller Property up for sale, "As Is." Because the Sellers could not afford the

extensive repairs required, they had to sell the uninhabitable Miller Property house at a significant loss. According to J.H., two potential buyers of the Miller Property backed out of purchasing it after they learned the foundation was failing.

48. On or about August 10, 2023, Frost informed J.H. that Spartan placed a lien on the Miller Property to recover the balance due for Spartan's treatment and repairs. On or about August 10, 2023, at 9:16 p.m., J.H. e-mailed Vicki Boynton, general counsel for PSIR ("Boynton"), with a copy to DUNHAM, informing Boynton that Spartan was about to place a lien on the Miller Property, and that the Buyers were having to sell the house. J.H. asked Boynton to take care of it so the Buyers could sell the home. On or about August 10, 2023, at 9:39 p.m., DUNHAM replied to J.H., and copied Boynton, stating:

I promise I have been working as hard as I can to pay down the balance due to Cody [Frost]. I have kept in constant communication with him about my situation. I know this is my financial burden to pay and I am still doing everything I can to do that I have just fallen on extremely hard financial times. I am still trying to get a loan to pay him in full and will continue to pursue that option I will leave it to Vicki [Boynton] to speak further but I wanted to at least speak my peace to know that I did not just walk away or stop paying Spartan Termite because I just simply didn't want to pay.

49. On or about August 11, 2023:

- a. In e-mail messages sent by Boynton to J.H. and others, Boynton stated that DUNHAM had previously agreed to make payments to Spartan over time and worked out a payment plan with Spartan, but that Boynton found out on August 10, 2023, that payments had not been made by DUNHAM and Boynton was working with Spartan to resolve the issue.
- b. At 7:05 a.m., Boynton e-mailed Frost, Spartan's owner, stating that she represented DUNHAM and asking how much was currently owned.
- c. At 7:07 a.m., Frost replied to Boynton attaching an "up-to-date invoice with the balance due."
- d. At 7:10 a.m., Boynton replied to J.H., copying DUNHAM and Frost, stating, among other things that, "I was advised that Olivia [DUNHAM] had an agreement with Spartan to pay this office but have reached out to them for a resolution via a separate email."

e. At 7:14 a.m., Frost replied to Boynton, copying J.H., and DUNHAM, stating:

[DUNHAM] did have an agreement that she has failed to meet time and time again the last one being this past Monday [8/07/2023] she has not reached out besides responding to our request for payment and her last email was sent last night stating she still cannot come up with one single dollar or even accept any sort of payment plan. so unless we receive payment we will continue to try to retrieve said payment by any, and all means necessary and unless you want to pay it, we will continue to reach out to [DUNHAM], yourself and [J.H.] and remind her that I will be directing my attorney to fully execute the lien at the county clerks office if not resolved ASAP.

- f. At 7:17 a.m., Boynton replied to Frost stating, "I should be able to resolve this today."
 - g. At 7:19 a.m., Frost replied to Boynton, J.H., and DUNHAM, stating:

I really hope so for everybody's best interest, but Olivia [DUNHAM] has exhausted all of my patients [sic] as it is painfully clear that she has been lying this entire time so with all due respect you have until end of day. Otherwise, we move forward with more drastic measures.

- h. Thereafter on or about August 11, 2023, DUNHAM's employing broker, Real Estate of the Pacific Inc., dba PSIR, issued check number 2430 in the amount of \$10,000.00 made payable to Spartan Termite, with a reference to 13797-1, the same Report Number used by Spartan in its Work Authorization for the Miller Property.
- 50. On or about September 13, 2023, a representative from South Coast Piering Inc., dba Saber ("Saber"), a licensed contractor specializing in foundation repair, inspected the Miller Property. In an email message dated September 16, 2023, from Saber to J.H., regarding Saber's inspection, the representative stated:

The brick foundation showed signs of settlement and deterioration.

We recommend the foundation be rebuilt which require[s] a structural engineer to design and build for your home. [O]nce a new foundation is built, We can come in and add floor support with the SmartJacks system. Adjustable Galvanized beams that will hold the floor up and support the weight of the home.

Saber provided an estimate for permanently stabilizing the floors at the property at a cost of \$8,425.76, but Saber would only do this work after another contractor and structural engineer completely rebuilt the foundation.

51. On or about October 16, 2023, the Buyers had Private Eyes Engineers assess the Miller Property at a cost of \$1,500.00. On or about October 19, 2023, Massood Gaskari, a licensed

civil engineer, and the founder of Private Eyes Engineers, prepared a Limited Engineering Performance Assessment – Foundation, for the Miller Property, in which he found that the foundation for the original structure was insufficient for today's building practice, and provided the following conclusion and recommendation:

Variations in the floor elevation are excessive. The northerly wall is bowed. The structure is in distress requiring repair and/or major retrofit. It lacks adequate foundation and lacks adequate floor framing support. We recommend our clients limit access to the building until such a time that the structural system of the building is properly retrofitted.

- 52. On or about October 16, 2023, the Buyers re-sold the Miller Property "As Is" for \$625,000, and escrow closed on or about October 20, 2023. The Buyers thus had to resell the Miller Property for \$47,000 less than their purchase price because they could not afford the extensive repairs to the foundation to make the house habitable, and could not afford to continue to make mortgage payments on the Miller Property. The Buyers also incurred additional closing costs.
- County Superior Court against the Sellers, DUNHAM, and REOTPI, alleging fraud by intentional misrepresentation, fraud by nondisclosure, fraud by negligent misrepresentation, broker negligence, negligence, breach of contract, and constructive fraud. On or about January 10, 2025, the Buyers filed a First Amended Complaint. On or about April 2, 2025, DUNHAM and REOTPI filed a cross-complaint in the same action against NCBNI and MCKENZIE, for equitable indemnity, equitable contribution, and declaratory relief. As alleged in the First Amended Complaint filed by the Buyers, the Buyers suffered more than a \$47,000 loss in the resale of the Miller Property:

The difference between the price [Buyers] paid and the fair market value of the property at close of escrow was over \$100,000, to [Buyers'] damage [Buyers] also paid over \$46,600 in various inspection and repair costs for the Property, paid over \$8,700 in mortgage interest, lost the use of the Property, paid Mike Devine \$2,000 for his inspection and report, and lost \$27,000 in rental income from being forced to reside in their own investment property, all to their damage

VIOLATIONS OF THE REAL ESTATE LAW – CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINE

54. In the course of the activities alleged above in Paragraph 9, and based on the facts discovered by the DRE, as alleged in Paragraphs 10 through 53 above, Respondents acted in violation of the Code and Regulations as follows.

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FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION: BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

- 55. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- of J.H. and A.H., REOTPI and DUNHAM owed J.H. and A.H. fiduciary duties, including, but not limited to the following: duty of reasonable care and skill; duty of good faith; duty of loyalty; duty of utmost care, integrity, honesty, and loyalty in dealings with the Buyer; duty to avoid conflicts of interest; duty of fullest disclosure of all material facts affecting J.H. and A.H.'s rights and interests; duty to learn the material facts that may affect J.H. and A.H.'s decision to purchase the Miller Property because REOTPI, and DUNHAM were hired for their professional knowledge and skill and were expected to perform the necessary research and investigation in order to know those important matters that will affect the Buyers' decision; duty to counsel and advise the Buyers regarding the propriety and ramifications of their decision; duty to disclose reasonably obtainable material information; and a duty to investigate facts not known to DUNHAM and to disclose all material facts that might reasonably be discovered.
- 57. In the course of the activities described above in Paragraph 9(a), and based on the facts discovered by the DRE, as alleged in Paragraphs 10 through 53 above, REOTPI's and DUNHAM's acts and/or omissions constitute breaches of their fiduciary duties. Such breaches include but are not limited to:
 - a. Knowing that the Miller Property was originally built in 1885 as a church, was made out of adobe—at a time that predated the adoption of state and local building codes—and was an atypical residential property containing "red flags," failing to exercise reasonable diligence to adequately investigate the property, and/or recommend licensed experts—whose licenses were not revoked—to do so, to ascertain reasonably discoverable defects that the foundation was failing, and there was extensive termite infestation and dryrot, resulting in a failure to inform the Buyers of facts materially affecting the value or desirability of the property;

- b. Informing the Buyers that a termite inspection had been done finding no active infestation when no such inspection had been done;
- c. Recommending a structural engineer to inspect the Miller Property whose civil and structural engineer licenses had been revoked; and
- d. Agreeing to pay the total costs for Spartan to treat the termite infestations and repair damaged wood, then failing to make payments, resulting in Spartan threatening to place a lien on the Miller Property in August 2023 while the Buyers were trying to sell the property.

REOTPI's and DUNHAM's acts and/or omissions constitute a violation of their fiduciary duties, and Civil Code sections 1102.4, 2079.13(a), and 2079.16, and constitute cause for the suspension or revocation of REOTPI's and DUNHAM's real estate licenses and license rights under the provisions of and Code sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION:

NEGLIGENCE, INCOMPETENCE AND/OR WILLFUL DISREGARD

- 58. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 59. The overall conduct of DUNHAM is violative of the Real Estate Law and constitutes cause for the suspension or revocation of the real estate licenses and license rights of DUNHAM under the provisions of Code Section 10177(d) for willful disregard of the Real Estate Law, and in the alternative, Code Section 10177(g) for negligence or incompetence in performing acts for which she is required to hold a license.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACCUSATION:

NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

- 60. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 61. As alleged in paragraph 13 above, MCKENZIE listed the Miller Property using the words: "Own a piece of Valley Center history! Built in 1885 Sherrards Chapel was the first Church in Valley Center. . . . It is in impeccable condition." On one or more occasions MCKENZIE

reiterated to J.H. that the Seller, N.H., was diligent in maintaining the property and used words to the effect he kept the property in excellent and/or top-notch condition.²/

- 62. As alleged above, the Miller Property was originally built in 1885, and made out of adobe, before state and local building codes had been adopted. The Miller Property is an atypical property presenting "red flags." Indeed, it is a historic building. Facts regarding its structural history and deterioration over the course of 137 years since it was first built is information material to value and desirability of the property that required reasonable investigation and disclosure to the Buyers.
- 63. On or about November 28, 2022, MCKENZIE digitally signed the Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement ("TDS") for the Miller Property.
 - a. In section II.(B), Seller's Information, in response to the question, "Are you (Seller) aware of any significant defects/malfunctions in any of the following," the box for "Yes" was checked, the boxes for "Driveways" and "Other Structural Components" were checked, and in the blank section below, next to the word "Describe," was written, "Other Exterior Structural Components: cracks in adobe walls." There was no mention that the foundation was unsound, or the current existence of termite infestation or dry-rot.
 - b. In Section III., Agent's Inspection Disclosure, under the preprinted statement, "THE UNDERSIGNED, BASED ON THE ABOVE INQUIRY OF THE SELLER(S) AS TO THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND BASED ON A REASONABLY COMPETENT AND DILIGENT VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE ACCESSIBLE AREAS OF THE PROPERTY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THAT INQUIRY, STATES THE FOLLOWING," MCKENZIE only checked the box next to "See attached Agent Visual Inspection Disclosure (AVID Form)," and provided no further information in this section.
- 64. On or about December 2, 2022, when Triton conducted the first inspection of the Miller Property, at least one of the Sellers and MCKENZIE were present. When the inspector could not access the crawl space from a hatch outside the kitchen, neither the Seller who was present nor

² In December 2023, however, a local newspaper ran an article about the historic Miller Property house, and quoted the seller, N.H., describing the house at the time he bought it in or about 1999 as "a disaster, structurally and in every other way." (Lerner, Survival uncertain for town's first church, Valley Roadrunner (Dec. 13, 2023).)

MCKENZIE informed the inspector that the crawl space could be accessed from another hatch in the living room, nor did MCKENZIE think to ask the Seller if there was another access point.

- Inspection Disclosure ("AVID") form. In the AVID form, MCKENZIE only reported holes in wall from hanging pictures in the living room, paint fading on cabinets in the kitchen, and no issues in the hall/stairs, bedrooms, and bathrooms. The sections for "Other," "Addendum for additional rooms/structures," and "other Observed or Known Conditions Not Specified Above," were all left blank. In the section for "Exterior Building and Yard Front/Sides Back," MCKENZIE wrote, "Backyard has raw dirt where septic was repaired. Crack in concrete leading to back, side door." Again, there was no mention the foundation was unsound and no mention of termites and wood rot.
- 66. MCKENZIE's representations that the Miller Property was in impeccable condition, and that the Seller maintained it in excellent and/or top notch condition, were false. At the time he made these representations, MCKENZIE either knew they were false, or had no reasonable grounds for believing the representations were true at the time he made them. Had MCKENZIE conducted a reasonably competent and diligent inspection, and a reasonable investigation into the condition of this atypical property, he would have confirmed that his representations were false. The true facts were that there was extensive subterranean termite infestation and dry-rot, the foundation was failing, and the structure of the house, originally constructed of adobe, was in such distress that Massood Gaskari, a licensed civil engineer, recommended that access to the building be limited until it was retrofitted. In other words, the house was uninhabitable without major repairs and retrofitting. Regarding the foundation, Gaskari wrote in his assessment:

The structure is in distress requiring repair and/or major retrofit. It lacks adequate foundation and lacks adequate floor framing support. We recommend our clients limit access to the building until such a time that the structural system of the building is properly retrofitted.

Contractors gave verbal quotes to repair the foundation at a cost of \$400,000 to \$500,000, or to rebuild the house for \$900,000. The Seller, N.H., was quoted in a local newspaper stating that at the time he originally purchased the property in or about 1999 that the Miller Property house was "a disaster, structurally and in every other way." This was not a house in "impeccable condition."

- 67. MCKENZIE made these representations with the intention of inducing the Buyers to act in reliance on these representations, or with the expectation that they would so act, so that the Buyers would purchase the Miller Property.
- 68. The Buyers, in reliance on MCKENZIE's representations, and believing that the building on the Miller Property was in impeccable condition and structurally sound, purchased the Miller Property. The Buyers relied on MCKENZIE, who as an experienced and licensed real estate salesperson, held himself out to the public as a professional with superior knowledge, skills, and expertise in real estate in Valley Center. The Buyers relied on MCKENZIE's acquired skill and superior knowledge of facts affecting the value of the property and justifiably believed he was providing the most reliable information about the property. If it had not been for MCKENZIE's representations, and the absence of information to indicate the true condition of the property, and if the Buyers had known the true facts, the Buyers would not have purchased the Miller Property.
- 69. MCKENZIE's acts and/or omissions in failing to disclose the true condition of the Miller Property were in violation of Civil Code sections 1102.4, 2079, 2079.13(a), and 2079.16, and Code sections 10176(a), 10176(i), 10177(j), and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g), and constitute cause for the suspension or revocation of MCKENZIE's real estate license and license right under the provisions of Code sections 10176(a), 10176(i), 10177(j), and 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACCUSATION:

INADEQUATE SUPERVISION BY BRANCH MANAGER

- 70. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- The First and Second Causes of Accusation above, as the branch manager for REOTPI's Avenida de Acacias Branch Office who was responsible for supervising DUNHAM's licensed activities, PORTER did not exercise adequate supervision over DUNHAM's licensed activities. PORTER's acts and/or omissions were in violation of Code section 10164, subdivisions (a) and (b), and constitute cause for the suspension or revocation PORTER's real estate license and license right under the provisions of Code section 10165.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACCUSATION

LIABILITY OF RESPONSIBLE BROKERS

- 72. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 73. Based on the allegations contained in paragraphs 9(a), and 10 through 53 above, and the First, Second and Fourth Causes of Accusation above, REOTPI, as the responsible broker for DUNHAM and PORTER, is liable for the acts and/or negligence of DUNHAM and PORTER. REOTPI's acts and/or omissions are in violation of Code sections 10010.5(b)(2), 10177(d) and/or 10177(g) and constitute cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of REOTPI pursuant to Code sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).
- 74. Based on the allegations contained in paragraphs 9(b), and 10 through 53 above, and the Third Cause of Accusation above, NCBNI, as the responsible broker for MCKENZIE, is liable for the acts and/or negligence of MCKENZIE. NCBNI's acts and/or omissions are in violation of Code sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g) and constitute cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of NCBNI pursuant to Code sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACCUSATION:

RESPONSIBILITY OF CORPORATE OFFICER IN CHARGE; BROKER SUPERVISION

- 75. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- The First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Causes of Accusation above, SWANSON, as the broker of record and D.O. of REOTPI, did not exercise adequate supervision and control over the real estate activities conducted on behalf of REOTPI by its employees and licensees to ensure compliance with the Real Estate Laws and Regulations. SWANSON failed to establish policies, rules and systems to review, oversee, inspect, and manage transactions. SWANSON's acts and/or omissions were in violation of Code sections 10159.2 and 10177(h), and Regulation 2725, and constitute cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of SWANSON pursuant to Code sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

77. Based on the allegations contained in paragraphs 9(b), and 10 through 53 above, and the Third and Fifth Causes of Accusation above, WILIAMS, as the broker of record and D.O. of NCBNI, did not exercise adequate supervision and control over the real estate activities conducted on behalf of NCBNI by its employees and licensees to ensure compliance with the Real Estate Laws and Regulations. WILIAMS failed to establish policies, rules and systems to review, oversee, inspect, and manage transactions. WILIAMS's acts and/or omissions were in violation of Code sections 10159.2 and 10177(h), and Regulation 2725, and constitute cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of WILIAMS pursuant to Code sections 10177(d) and/or 10177(g).

COSTS

(INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS)

78. Code section 10106 provides, in pertinent part that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the DRE, the Commissioner may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation of this part to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of investigation and enforcement of the case.

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 all the licenses and license rights of Respondents REAL ESTATE OF THE PACIFIC INC, VALARIE SUSAN SWANSON, KELLEN TIMOTHY PORTER, OLIVIA MARIE DUNHAM, NORTH COUNTY BROKER NETWORK INC, BRIAN JOHN WILLIAMS, and JOHN LAWRENCE MCKENZIE under the Real Estate Law, for the costs of investigation and enforcement as permitted by law, and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other applicable provisions of law.

Dated at San Diego, California April 29, 2025

Veronica Kilpatrick Supervising Special Investigator

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1	cc:	REAL ESTATE OF THE PACIFIC INC, VALARIE SUSAN SWANSON
2		KELLEN TIMOTHY PORTER OLIVIA MARIE DUNHAM
3		NORTH COUNTY BROKER NETWORK INC BRIAN JOHN WILLIAMS
4	ŀ	JOHN LAWRENCE MCKENZIE Vista Realty, Inc.
5		Vista Realty, Inc. Orchard Brokerage of California, Inc. Veronica Kilpatrick
6		Sacto.
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