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DEPT. OF REAL ESTATE

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against

RYLAN DAVID ROZELL, individually and as Designated Officer of Cresco Property Management, Inc. and Rozell Property Management, Inc.;

(213) 576-6982

(213) 576-6940

CRESCO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.; and ROZELL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.,

Respondents.

No. H-41316 LA

ACCUSATION

The Complainant, Brenda Smith, a Supervising Special Investigator of the State of California, acting in her official capacity, for cause of Accusation against RYLAN DAVID ROZELL, individually and as Designated Officer of Rozell Property Management, Inc. and Cresco Property Management, Inc., CRESCO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC., and ROZELL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC., is informed and alleges as follows:

All references to the "Code" are to the California Business and Professions Code, all references to the "Real Estate Law" are to Part 1 of Division 4 of the Code, and all references to "Regulations" are to Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations.

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Respondent RYLAN DAVID ROZELL ("ROZELL") is licensed by the Department of Real Estate ("DRE") as a real estate broker. Respondent was originally licensed as a real estate salesperson on May 16, 2007, and as a real estate broker on November 2, 2011. Respondent's real estate broker license is due to expire on November 2, 2019.

3.

Respondent CRESCO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC. ("CPMI") is presently licensed or has license rights under the Real Estate Law as a corporate real estate broker. Respondent CPMI was originally licensed as a corporate real estate broker by the DRE on or about December 15, 2015. Since that date and continuing to the present, Respondent ROZELL has been the Designated Officer of CPMI. Respondent CPMI's corporate real estate broker license is due to expire on December 14, 2019.

4.

Respondent ROZELL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC. ("RPMI") is presently licensed or has license rights under the Real Estate Law as a corporate real estate broker. Respondent RPMI was originally licensed as a corporate real estate broker by the DRE on or about December 30, 2011. Since that date and continuing to the present, Respondent ROZELL has been the Designated Officer of RPMI. Respondent RPMI's corporate real estate broker license is due to expire on December 29, 2019.

5.

At all times herein relevant, Respondents engaged in the business of, acted in the capacity of, advertised or assumed to act as real estate brokers in the State of California within the meaning of Code Section 10131(b). Their activities included soliciting listings of places for rent, soliciting for prospective tenants, and/or management of residential rental real property for and on behalf of others for compensation.

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#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACCUSATION

(AUDIT OF RPMI)

6.

On March 9, 2018, the DRE completed an audit examination of the books and records of Respondent RPMI pertaining to the real estate activities described in paragraph 5, above. The audit examination covered the period of time from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. The primary purpose of the examination was to determine Respondent's compliance with the Real Estate Law. The audit examination revealed numerous violations of the Code and the Regulations as set forth in the following paragraphs, and more fully discussed in Audit Report FR17-0026 (PM) and the exhibits and work papers attached to said audit report. Bank Accounts

At all times herein relevant, in connection with the activities described in Paragraph 5, above, Respondent RPMI accepted or received funds to be held in trust ("trust funds") from or on behalf of actual or prospective parties in connection with property management activities. Thereafter Respondent made deposits and or disbursements of such trust funds. From time to time herein mentioned during the audit period, said trust funds were deposited and/or maintained by Respondent in the following bank accounts:

7.

Rozell Property Management, Inc.
DBA RPMB Master Trust Account
Account No. 101XXXX (Redacted for security)
Pacific Western Bank
Bakersfield, California

 $(\underline{T/A \# 1} - \text{trust account for the receipt and disbursal of trust funds})$ 

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Rozell Property Management, Inc.
DBA RPMB Security Deposit Trust
Account No. 101XXXX (Redacted for security)
Pacific Western Bank
Bakersfield, California

(T/A #2 - trust account for the receipt and disbursal of trust funds)

## **Violations**

8.

With respect to the licensed activities referred to in Paragraph 5, and the audit examination including the exhibits and work papers referenced in Paragraph 6, it is alleged that Respondents:

- (a) Permitted, allowed or caused the disbursement of trust funds from bank account T/A #1 to be reduced to an amount which, on August 31, 2017, was \$42,269.14 less than the existing aggregate trust fund liability to the owners of said funds, without first obtaining the prior written consent of the owners of said funds in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1;
- (b) Allowed T/A #2 to maintain unaccounted for funds in the amount of \$6,435.50 in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1;
- (c) Made multiple transfers of trust funds from T/A #1 and T/A #2, to pay off RPMI's business loans in violation of Code Section 10176(i);
- (d) Failed to maintain an accurate control record and separate record of the receipt and disbursement of trust funds handled through T/A #1 in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulations 2831 and 2831.1;
- (e) Failed to maintain a separate record of the receipt and disbursement of trust funds in T/A #2 resulting in the presence of unaccounted for funds in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1;
- (f) Failed to perform and maintain a monthly reconciliation of the separate record to the control record of trust funds handled through T/A #1 and T/A #2 in violation of Code

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACCUSATION

### (AUDIT OF CPMI)

10.

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On March 27, 2018, the DRE completed an audit examination of the books and records of Respondent CPMI pertaining to the real estate activities described in paragraph 5, above. The audit examination covered the period of time from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. The primary purpose of the examination was to determine Respondent's compliance with the Real Estate Law. The audit examination revealed numerous violations of the Code and the Regulations as set forth in the following paragraphs, and more fully discussed in Audit Report FR17-0036 (PM) and the exhibits and work papers attached to said audit report.

Bank Accounts

11.

At all times herein relevant, in connection with the activities described in Paragraph 5, above, Respondent CPMI accepted or received funds to be held in trust ("trust funds") from or on behalf of actual or prospective parties in connection with property management activities. Thereafter Respondent made deposits and or disbursements of such trust funds. From time to time herein mentioned during the audit period, said trust funds were deposited and/or maintained by Respondent in the following bank accounts:

Cresco Property Management, Inc.
DBA Real Property Management Porterville Statutory Trust Account
Account No. 100XXXX (Redacted for security)

Pacific Western Bank Bakersfield, California

(T/A #1 - trust account for the receipt and disbursal of trust funds)

Cresco Property Management, Inc.
DBA Real Property Management Porterville RPMP Security Deposit Trust Account Account No. 100XXXX (Redacted for security)
Pacific Western Bank
Bakersfield, California

(T/A #2 - trust account for the receipt and disbursal of trust funds)

### **Violations**

12.

With respect to the licensed activities referred to in Paragraph 5, and the audit examination including the exhibits and work papers referenced in Paragraph 10, it is alleged that Respondents:

- (a) Permitted, allowed or caused the disbursement of trust funds from bank account T/A #1 to be reduced to an amount which, on September 30, 2017, was \$23,725.06 less than the existing aggregate trust fund liability to the owners of said funds, without first obtaining the prior written consent of the owners of said funds in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1;
- (b) Allowed T/A #2 to maintain unaccounted for funds in the amount of \$2,700.00 in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1;
- (c) Failed to maintain a separate record of the receipt and disbursement of trust funds in T/A #2 resulting in the presence of unaccounted for funds in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1;
- (d) Failed to perform and maintain a monthly reconciliation of the separate record to the control record of trust funds handled through T/A #1 and T/A #2 in violation of Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.2;
- (e) As to ROZELL, failed to exercise reasonable supervision over the activities of his employees, to ensure compliance with the Real Estate Law and the Regulations in violation of Code Sections 10159.2 and 10177(h), and Regulation 2725.

The conduct of Respondents as described in Paragraph 12, above, violated the Code and the Regulations as set forth below:

4	<u>PARAGRAPH</u>	PROVISIONS VIOLATED
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6	12(a)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1
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8	12(b)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2832.1
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10	12(c)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1
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12	12(d)	Code Section 10145 and Regulation 2831.2
13		
14	12(e)	Code Sections 10159.2 and 10177(h) and Regulation 2725
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Each of the foregoing violations constitute cause for the suspension or revocation of the real estate license and license rights of Respondents CPMI and ROZELL under the provisions of Code Sections 10177(d), 10177(g) and/or 10177(h) (ROZELL).

14.

Code Section 10148(b) provides, in pertinent part, that the Real Estate

Commissioner shall charge a real estate broker for the cost of any audit if the Commissioner has found in a final decision, following a disciplinary hearing, that the broker has violated Code Section 10145 or a Regulation or rule of the Commissioner interpreting said Code section.

15.

California Business and Professions Code Section 10106 provides, in pertinent part, that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Department, the Commissioner may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have