



Government Affairs Action for the week of March 29, 2020

by David Stark, Public Affairs Director, Bay East Association of REALTORS®

REALTORS® are Essential - What happened and what's next?

The last week was a blur of activity as some real estate activities were classified as essential services by county health officials.

- March 16: The Alameda County Health Officer issued a Shelter in Place order that limited how real estate professionals do business.
- March 31: A new Shelter in Place order was released that identified real estate agents, escrow agents, notaries and title companies as providing "essential services."
- April 2: The County further expanded that group to include appraisers and home inspectors.

These changes do not mean real estate professionals and their clients are back to "business as usual." County health officials can eliminate some or all of these activities as quickly as they were added if they believe they are a threat to public health.

Bay East encourages all real estate professionals to follow safe business practice guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the Alameda County Public Health Department.

Tax Penalty Break for Home Owners Impacted by COVID-19

The Alameda County Tax Collector may waive property tax payment penalties for home owners impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Details [here](#).

Bay East Virtual Town Hall April 9

The next Bay East "virtual" town hall is April 9 from 10 to 11:15am. The event will include presentations about NAR, C.A.R., Bay East resources. Register [here](#). Meanwhile, check in with the Bay East COVID-19 [clearinghouse](#): an updated guide with information about a variety of services.

If you have any questions or any government-related real estate issues you want Bay East to research, please contact Bay East [staff](#).

Located at, 7021 Koll Center Parkway, Pleasanton, California 94566, United States, 925.730.4060

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