



BUYER HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE ADVISORY

(C.A.R. Form BHIA, 6/24)



- 1. IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING PROPERTY INSURANCE:** If the property you are purchasing is destroyed or damaged due to natural disaster or accident or some other event, insurance may be available to help with the cost of repair or rebuilding. In the absence of property insurance, the homeowner would be responsible for the full expense. If the property is purchased with a loan, or refinanced, the lender will require an insurance policy protecting its interest. Insurance policies can cover damage due to one or more of the following: fire, flood, earthquake and other causes. The policy or an insurance broker should be consulted to determine when coverage applies and whether a supplement or rider can be purchased to provide additional coverage or if a separate policy is necessary.
- 2. PROPERTY INSURANCE AND PURCHASE CONTRACT TERMS:** Your real estate purchase contract may contain a contingency that gives you the right to legally cancel the agreement within a specified time if you are unable to obtain or afford property insurance. This cancellation right may be a specific contingency pertaining to insurance or may be part of an overall investigation contingency. If buyer waives or removes the applicable contingency before determining the availability and cost of property insurance, buyer is acting against the advice of broker. Additionally, if the property is part of an HOA, lenders may require and buyers will want to know that the HOA has adequate insurance to cover the areas for which the HOA is responsible.
- 3. CALIFORNIA'S PROPERTY INSURANCE MARKET:** Some insurance carriers in California have stopped issuing new property insurance policies and others are limiting the number and location of new policies, due to rising replacement costs and an increase in natural disasters. These changes may affect both the availability and cost of insurance. However, over 50 insurance carriers are admitted to sell property insurance in California so it may be possible to obtain insurance even if some carriers will not write a new policy covering the property you intend to buy. An insurance broker may also be able to find a non-admitted insurance carrier offering to insure the property you intend to buy. Because locating an affordable insurance policy could take time and effort, buyers are advised to make all insurance inquiries as early in the home buying process as possible.
- 4. INSURANCE CONDITIONS:** Many insurance carriers impose physical condition standards before issuing a policy, or reserve the right to cancel policies even after they are issued, if certain minimum standards are not confirmed in an inspection or otherwise. Physical conditions standards could include, but are not limited to, prohibition of "knob and tube" electrical wiring, requirements related to piping/plumbing materials, standards related to the age and/or quality of the roof or foundation, minimal safety standards related to handrails, tripping hazards, and defensible space requirements.
- 5. RESOURCES:** The California Department of Insurance (DOI) maintains a website addressing Residential Home insurance. Resources on this State government webpage include: **(i)** Top Ten tips for Finding Residential Insurance; **(ii)** Residential Insurance Company Contact List; **(iii)** Home Insurance Finder; and **(iv)** information on other insurance issues. The webpage also includes information on how to contact the DOI, and suggestions on what to do if you cannot find insurance. The webpage and link to other documents is located at <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/105-type/5-residential/index.cfm>.
- 6. BROKER RECOMMENDATION:** Buyer is advised to explore available property insurance options early in the home buying process and to consult with a qualified insurance professional of buyer's choosing to understand insurance availability and cost prior to removal of any related contingencies. Real estate brokers do not have expertise in this area.

By signing below, Buyer acknowledges that Buyer has read, understands, and has received a copy of this Buyer Homeowners' Insurance Advisory.

Buyer _____ Date _____

Buyer _____ Date _____

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