## Third Supplement to Memorandum 88-59

Subject: Topics and Priorities for 1989 and Thereafter (Priorities)

Attached to this memorandum is a letter from P. Bogart of Western Land Bank, Inc., suggesting a revision of Business and Professions Code Section 110000 relating to real estate subdivisions. His concern is that the Business and Professions Code provisions governing regulation of subdivided lands should not be applied to subdivisions made before enactment of the provisions, since this results in payment of "yet another fee (and untold delays) before lots in an existing subdivision could be marketed."

The Commission has authority to study real property matters, including laws affecting title and use restrictions. However, the staff recommends against Commission involvement in this issue. It is primarily a political and regulatory concern. The matter appears to be within the jurisdiction of the Department of Real Estate, and the staff would refer $P$. Bogart to that department.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Sterling
Assistant Executive Secretary

August 23, 1988
California Law Revision Commission
4000 Middlefield Rd Suite D-2
Palo Alto CA 94303-4739

## AUG 261988

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Re: Marketable title of real property.
Gentlemen:
Your efforts relating to facilitating marketable title are well appreciated and are helpful. We do suggest, however, that an additional technical correction is desirable, as current law has led to much confusion.

We refer to the first clause of B\&PC 11000:
11000. Subdivided lands; subdivision.
"Subdivided lands" and "subdivision refer to improved or unimproved land or lands divided ex $\neq \neq \theta$ pesed to be divided for the purpose of sale or lease or financing, whether immediate or future, into five or more lots or parcels. ***

We suggest eliminating the misleading words "divided or proposed" as misleading - as this would infer an existing subdivision, which was established or "divided" in the remote past.

Thus, while the statute in Government Code $\$ 66412.6$, dealing with subdivisions, makes it a conclusive presumprion that subdivided lots created prior to $197 \overline{2}$ are legally created and legally subdivided, no such provision exists in the Business \& Professions Code which deals with the same subdivision issue. Unfortunately, the Gov't Code $\$ 66412.6$ provision limits its application to "this division" of the code.

Another clarifying technical amendment that would be helpful would


Although we believe that existing subdivisions are "grandfathered" and protected by the XIVth Amendment and CAlifornia Constitution Art I s 1 - see also City of Memphis v. Greene (1981) 451 US 100, 101 S.Ct. 1584, 67 L. Ed2d 769 (Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 USC 1981 et seq. guarantees the right to sell, hold and convey realty) Chapman v. State (1957) 153 CA2d 421, 314 P2d 773 disregarded all vested constitutional rights and used the ambiguous language of "lands divided or proposed to be divided" to charge yet another fee (and untold delays) before lots in an existing subdivision could be marketed. In fact, if a home is built on 5 abutting lots, which are legally divided, it would be unsalable until the owner would once more pay for a subdivision report ( $\$ 1600$. fee +++ )
without doing any "subdividing" at all.
We submit that $\mathrm{B} \& \mathrm{PC}$ S 11000 casts a serious cloud on title to all existing subdivisions if one person or entity would come into possession of 5 or more lots in the same subdivision. And while it is claimed that the subdivision laws are to "protect the people", we find thatour laws treat some sellers of subdivided lots as "more equal than others".

We refer to Business \& Professions Code $s$ 11010.6, which exempts all public agencies from the subdivisions report requirements alleged to "protect the public". For instance, the enclosed Notice of Sale from Modoc County contains more than 35 subdivided lots in the California Pines subdivision (Assessor's Books 035, 036 and 037). Certainly, these subdivided lots require the subdivisions report of $B \& P C 11000$ et seq. And if a private developer would acquire and offer to sell more than 5 of these lots, then under the ambiguous language of $B \& P C \quad 11000$ he might be required to pay once more for "subdividing" the already legally subdivided lots.
(As a result of this fear, the majority of the 78 items offered by Modoc County were not picked up by private parties, leaving the County "stuck" with thousands of dollars of uncollectible property taxes)

With ever-increasing concerns for "affordable housing", the great costs of governmental permits are one of the prime obstacles to providing shelter at a reasonable cost. As government seeks to increase the "take" from taxpayers, the unreasonable repetitious "subdividing" charges should not be sanctioned by ambiguous language in the laws.

Thanks for your attention.

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