ı	II.	1	
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7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	DEFENDE THE		
9	BEFORE THE BUREAU OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case Nos. L20210611-01 and L20220401-02	
13	DANIEL E. RINSCH		
14	1448 25th Street, Apt. A Santa Monica, CA 90404	ACCUSATION	
15	Certified Residential License No. AR 029246		
16	Respondent.		
17			
18	PART	<u>IES</u>	
19	1. John Hassler, acting on behalf of the B	Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers	
20	(Complainant), Department of Consumer Affairs, 1	brings this Accusation solely in his official	
21	capacity as Chief of Enforcement for Complainant.		
22	2. On or about March 11, 2005, the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers (formerly Office		
23	of Real Estate Appraisers) issued Certified Residential License Number AR 029246 to Daniel E.		
24	Rinsch (Respondent). The Certified Residential License was in full force and effect at all times		
25	relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 11, 2022, unless renewed.		
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(DANIEL E. RINSCH) ACCUSATION

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers (Bureau) for the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 22 states:

"Board," as used in any provision of this code, refers to the board in which the administration of the provision is vested, and unless otherwise expressly provided, shall include "bureau," "commission," "committee," "department," "division," "examining committee," "program," and "agency."

- 5. Section 11301 states:
- (a) There is hereby created within the Department of Consumer Affairs a Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers to administer and enforce this part.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the powers and duties of the bureau, as set forth in this part, shall be subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature. The review shall be performed as if this part were scheduled to be repealed as of January 1, 2026.
  - 6. Section 11313 states:

The bureau is under the supervision and control of the Director of Consumer Affairs. The duty of enforcing and administering this part is vested in the chief, and the chief is responsible to the Director of Consumer Affairs therefor. The chief shall adopt and enforce rules and regulations as are determined reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this part. Those rules and regulations shall be adopted pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Regulations adopted by the former Director of the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers shall continue to apply to the bureau and its licensees.

7. Section 11314 states:

The bureau is required to include in its regulations requirements for licensure and discipline of real estate appraisers that ensure protection of the public interest and comply in all respects with Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989, Public Law 101-73 and any subsequent amendments thereto. Requirements for each level of

licensure shall, at a minimum, meet the criteria established by the Appraiser Qualification Board of the Appraisal Foundation. The bureau may additionally include in its regulations requirements for the registration of appraisal management companies consistent with this part.

#### 8. Section 11315.3 states:

The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license or certificate of registration issued by the office, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the office or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the office, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the office of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or registrant upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or certificate of registration, or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee or registrant on any such ground.

#### 9. Section 11319, subsection (a) states:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, except as provided in subdivision (b), the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice constitute the minimum standard of conduct and performance for a licensee in any work or service performed that is addressed by those standards. If a licensee also is certified by the Board of Equalization, he or she shall follow the standards established by the Board of Equalization when fulfilling his or her responsibilities for assessment purposes.

#### **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

- 10. California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3702, subsection (a), states in relevant part:
  - (a) The Chief finds and declares as follows:
- (1) That the profession of real estate appraisal is vested with a fiduciary relationship of trust and confidence as to clients, lending institutions, and both public and private guarantors or insurers of funds in federally-related real estate transactions and that the qualifications of honesty, candor, integrity, and trustworthiness are directly and substantially related to and indispensable to the practice of the appraisal profession;

...

- (3) Every holder of a license to practice real estate appraisal, Registrant, Controlling Person of an Appraisal Management Company, or person or entity acting in a capacity requiring a license or Certificate of Registration shall be required to demonstrate by his or her conduct that he or she possesses the qualifications of honesty, candor, integrity, and trustworthiness.
  - 11. California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3721, states in relevant part:
- (a) The Chief may issue a citation, order of abatement, assess a fine or private or public reproval, suspend or revoke any license or Certificate of Registration, and/or may deny the issuance or renewal of a license or Certificate of Registration of any person or entity acting in a capacity requiring a license or Certificate of Registration who has:

. . .

- (6) Violated any provision of USPAP;
- (7) Violated any provision of the Real Estate Appraisers' Licensing and Certification Law, Part 3 (commencing with Section 11300) of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code, or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; or any provision of the Business and Professions Code applicable to applicants for or holders of licenses or Certificate of Registration.

# UNIFORM STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL PRACTICE (USPAP) 2020 TO 2021 REQUIREMENTS

12. USPAP Standard Rule 1 states:

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must identify the problem to be solved, determine the scope of work necessary to solve the problem, and correctly complete research and analyses necessary to produce a credible appraisal.

13. USPAP Standard Rule 1-1 states:

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must:

- (a) be aware of, understand, and correctly employ those recognized methods and techniques that are necessary to produce a credible appraisal;
- (b) not commit a substantial error of omission or commission that significantly affects an appraisal; and

(c)(i) When an income approach is necessary for credible assignment results, an appraiser must: (i) analyze such comparable rental data as are available and/or the potential earnings capacity of the property to estimate the gross income potential of the property.

. . .

17. USPAP Standard Rule 1-6, subsection (a), states:

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must:

- (a) reconcile the quality and quantity of data available and analyzed within the approaches used.
  - 18. USPAP Standard Rule 2-1 states:

Each written or oral real property appraisal report must:

- (a) clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that will not be misleading;
- (b) contain sufficient information to enable the intended user(s) of the appraisal to understand the report properly; and
- (c) clearly and accurately disclose all assumptions, extraordinary assumptions, hypothetical conditions, and limiting conditions used in the assignment.
  - 19. USPAP Standard Rule 2-2 states in relevant part:

Each written real property appraisal report must be prepared under one of the following options and prominently state which option is used: Appraisal Report or Restricted Appraisal Report.

An appraiser may use any other label in addition to, but not in place of, the labels set forth in this Standards Rule for the type of report provided. The use of additional labels such as analysis, consultation, evaluation, study, or valuation does not exempt an appraiser from adherence to USPAP.

The report content and level of information requirements in this Standards Rule are minimums for each type of report. An appraiser must supplement a report form, when necessary, to ensure that any intended user of the appraisal is not misled and that the report complies with the applicable content requirements.

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1	(a) The content of an Appraisal Report must be appropriate for the intended use of the	
2	appraisal and, at a minimum:	
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4	(iii) state the intended use of the appraisal;	
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6	(iv) contain information, documents, and/or exhibits sufficient to identify the real estate	
7	involved in the appraisal, including the physical, legal, and economic property characteristics	
8	relevant to the assignment;	
9		
10	(viii) summarize the scope of work used to develop the appraisal;	
11		
12	(x)(5) provide sufficient information to indicate that the appraiser complied with the	
13	requirements of STANDARD 1 by: (5) summarizing the information analyzed and the reasoning	
14	that supports the analyses, opinions, and conclusions, including reconciliation of the data and	
15	approaches;	
16		
17	(xii) when an opinion of highest and best use was developed by the appraiser, state that	
18	opinion and summarize the support and rationale for that opinion.	
19	20. USPAP Standard Rule 2-3, subsection (a), states:	
20	A signed certification is an integral part of the appraisal report.	
21	(a) The wording of a certification does not have to match the following verbatim, but each	
22	of the elements must be addressed:	
23	I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:	
24	— the statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct.	
25	— the reported analyses, opinions, and conclusions are limited only by the reported assumptions	
26	and limiting conditions and are my personal, impartial, and unbiased professional analyses,	
27	opinions, and conclusions.	
28	— I have no (or the specified) present or prospective interest in the property that is the subject of	

## **CONDUCT:** 1 2 An appraiser must perform assignments with impartiality, objectivity, and independence, and without accommodation of personal interests. 3 An appraiser: 4 5 • Must not perform an assignment in a grossly negligent manner. 6 22. The USPAP SCOPE OF WORK RULE states in relevant part: 7 For each appraisal and appraisal review assignment, an appraiser must: 8 9 1. identify the problem to be solved; 2. determine and perform the scope of work necessary to develop credible assignment 10 results; and 11 3. disclose the scope of work in the report. 12 An appraiser must properly identify the problem to be solved in order to determine the 13 14 appropriate scope of work. The appraiser must be prepared to demonstrate that the scope of work is sufficient to produce credible assignment results. 15 **PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION** 16 An appraiser must gather and analyze information about those assignment elements that are 17 necessary to properly identify the appraisal or appraisal review problem to be solved. 18 **FINE PROVISIONS** 19 23. Section 11316, subdivision (a) states: 20 The director may assess a fine against a licensee, applicant for licensure, person who acts in 21 a capacity that requires a license under this part, course provider, applicant for course provider 22 accreditation, or a person who, or entity that, acts in a capacity that requires course provider 23 24 accreditation for violation of this part or any regulations adopted to carry out its purposes. California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3724 states: 25 (a) Where the Chief has verified a notice of acts or omissions by a licensed appraiser, 26 Registrant or person or entity acting in a capacity requiring a license or Certificate of Registration 27 which constitute a violation of statute, regulation or USPAP, he/she may issue a citation in 28

writing which describes with particularity the nature of the violation and including specific reference to the law, regulation or professional practice standard determined to have been violated. The citation may include a notice of abatement fixing a reasonable period of time for abatement of the violation, assessment of private or public reproval, suspension, revocation, restriction of license, fine or any combination of these actions.

- (b) Fines shall not exceed \$10,000 per incident. In assessing a fine, the Chief shall give due consideration to:
  - (1) The gravity of the violation;
  - (2) The good or bad faith of the person cited;
  - (3) The history of previous violations;
  - (4) Evidence that the violation was willful;
  - (5) The extent to which the cited person has cooperated with the Bureau;
  - (6) The extent to which the cited person has mitigated or attempted to mitigate any loss or potential loss caused by the violation; and
  - (7) Such other matters as the Chief determines are in the interest of justice.
- (c) Citations issued hereunder shall be subject to review as provided in subsection (b) of Section 3721.

#### **COST RECOVERY**

25. Section 11409, subsection (a), states:

Except as otherwise provided by law, any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding may direct a licensee, applicant for licensure, person who acts in a capacity that requires a license under this part, registrant, applicant for a certificate of registration, course provider, applicant for course provider accreditation, or a person who, or entity that, acts in a capacity that requires course provider accreditation found to have committed a violation or violations of statutes or regulations relating to real estate appraiser practice to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of investigation, enforcement, and prosecution of the case.

26. Section 125.3 provides that the Bureau may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a

sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case, with failure of the licentiate to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a stipulated settlement.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS - KINGSLEY PROPERTY

- 27. L.D.K. is the owner of a multi-unit property located at 1340 N. Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027 (Kingsley Property). L.D.K. was advised by his attorney to retain an appraiser to obtain an appraisal report of the Kingsley Property for purposes of potentially resolving a legal dispute.
- 28. On or about July 29, 2021, L.D.K. contacted Respondent to engage his services to perform an appraisal of the Kingsley Property.
- 29. On or about August 12, 2021, L.D.K. met Respondent at the Kingsley Property and paid Respondent \$700.00 by check for an appraisal report. L.D.K. and Respondent signed an engagement letter. According to the engagement letter, the property would be valued as of June 4, 2021, and the estimated completion date of the appraisal would be August 18, 2021.
- 30. On September 1, 2021, L.D.K. inquired the status of the appraisal report via text message. Respondent responded that the appraisal report will be provided to L.D.K. on September 2, 2021.
- 31. On September 2, 2021, at approximately 5:43 p.m., L.D.K. inquired the status of the appraisal report via text message. Respondent responded that he was "wrapping it up tonight" and that L.D.K. can expect the appraisal report "[f]irst thing in the morning."
- 32. On September 3, 2021, at approximately 11:58 a.m., L.D.K. inquired the status of the appraisal report via text message. Respondent responded by requesting photographs of the Kingsley Property, stating that he had "been very busy," and assuring that L.D.K. would receive the appraisal report by September 10, 2021.
- 33. On September 13, 2021, Respondent inspected the Kingsley Property. Respondent additionally charged L.D.K. \$150.00 for the appraisal report, which L.D.K. paid.

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- 34. On September 14, 2021, Respondent informed L.D.K. that he would send L.D.K. the appraisal report on September 15, 2021.
- 35. On September 15, 2021, L.D.K. inquired the status of the appraisal report via text message. Respondent responded that the "report is almost done."
- 36. On September 21, 2021, L.D.K. received the appraisal report. The date of the appraisal report and Respondent's signature was September 21, 2021.
- 37. On or about October 15, 2021, L.D.K. submitted a complaint against Respondent with the Bureau. The complaint alleged Respondent committed unprofessional conduct. The Bureau subsequently initiated an investigation, which revealed multiple violations of USPAP.

## **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

(USPAP Violations – Kingsley Property)

- 38. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3721, subsections (a)(6) and (a)(7) for violating California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3701, in that Respondent violated provisions of USPAP, including but not limited to the following:
- a. Standards Rules 1-2(b) and 2-2(a)(iii): Respondent was required to, at a minimum, both identify the intended use of his opinions and conclusions and state within the report an intended use that was not misleading. Respondent failed to identify and report the correct intended use. Respondent reported the intended use was for a mortgage finance transaction, even though he was aware that the intended use was for legal purposes.
- b. The USPAP SCOPE OF WORK RULE, Standards Rules 1-2(h) and 2-2(a)(viii): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to state within the report an effective date of the appraisal that was not misleading. Respondent failed to determine the scope of work necessary to produce credible assignment results. Respondent reported the effective date to be the same date as the inspection date but also reported the effective date as June 4, 2021. June 4, 2021 was not a possible inspection date because it was prior to Respondent being engaged to perform the assignment and inspection.

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- c. Standards Rules 1-2(e)(i) and 2-2(a)(iv): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to identify, from sources the appraiser reasonably believed to be reliable, the characteristics of the property that were relevant to the type and definition of value and intended use of the appraisal including the subject's physical characteristics. Respondent reported inconsistent and contradictory information regarding the condition of the Kingsley Property. Respondent inconsistently reported the condition to be poor and average in the appraisal report.
- d. Standards Rules 1-2(e)(i), 2-2(a)(iv), and 2-3(a): Respondent certified that he "reported the condition of the improvements in factual, specific terms." Respondent falsely certified the appraisal when he failed to report specific and factual information about the physical deficiencies that were readily visible at the time of his inspection.
- e. Standards Rules 1-3(b) and 2-2(a)(xii): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to develop an opinion of the highest and best use of the real estate, state that opinion, and summarize the support and rationale for that opinion. Respondent used an extraordinary assumption as the basis for his opinion that the highest and best use was both as vacant and as improved as a two-unit property. Respondent failed to summarize the support for his opinion. Respondent obfuscated the requirement when he inappropriately used an extraordinary assumption instead of reporting a summarization of support for the opinion of highest and best use.
- f. Standards Rules 1-4(a) and 2-2(a)(x)(5): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to collect, verify and analyze all information necessary for credible assignment results and analyze comparable sales data as were available to indicate a value conclusion. Respondent developed and reported a Sales Comparison Approach that was not credible and was misleading when the cited support was contradictory to what was developed and reported with in the approach, as follows:
- i. Respondent specifically cited Comparable Sales Two and Three as the basis of the comparisons used to support Respondent's opined \$330.00 per square foot of Gross Building Area (GBA) adjustment factor. Respondent represented Comparable Sales Two and Three as being equal in all respects except a \$4,000.00 sale or financing adjustment that was applied to Comparable Sale Two. In calculating the GBA adjustment factor, Respondent failed to subtract

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\$4,000 from the sale price of Comparable Sale Two. Based on the reported data, the GBA adjustment factor should have been a negative \$315.90 per square foot of GBA.

ii. Comparable Sales Two had a smaller GBA and a higher sale price than Comparable Sale Three. Based on this pairing, market participants paid more money for a smaller amount of GBA. Accordingly, this pairing documented a negative market response for larger GBA. Because Comparable Sales Two and Three both had larger GBA than the Kingsley Property, a negative GBA adjustment factor should have been applied based on Respondent's pairing. Respondent applied the GBA adjustment factor as a positive factor, which is the wrong direction. If the GBA adjustment factor had been correctly applied, the adjusted sales prices for Comparable Sales Two and Three would be as follows<sup>1</sup>:

	Comparable Sale Two	Comparable Sale Three
Unadjusted sale price	\$1,150,000	\$1,063,875
Adjusted sale price with correct application of the GBA adjustment factor	\$1,246,640	\$1,250,315
Adjusted sale price with Respondent's <i>incorrect</i> application of the GBA adjustment factor	\$845,360	\$677,435

Respondent's error had a significant impact on the credibility of the assignment results.

iii. Respondent failed to analyze and report the market's response for identified differences between the Kingsley Property and the comparable sales. For example, the reported differences between the Kingsley Property and Comparable Sale One (excluding GBA) were as follows:

Reported Differences	Kingsley Property	Comparable Sale One
Condition	Poor	Average
Bedroom count	2	4
Bathroom count	2	3
Heating/Cooling	Radiant	None
Parking on/off site	2-car garage	Driveway

Respondent did not apply market responses for each of these differing contributory elements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Respondent's GBA adjustment factor of \$330.00 per square foot was used in this illustration.

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- ii. For example, Respondent reported Comparable Sale One to be in average condition and the Kingsley Property to be in poor and average condition. Respondent reported that no significant market reaction exists for the difference between properties in poor and average conditions. Respondent also reported that the improvements on the Kingsley Property were 90% depreciated. Therefore, 90% depreciation should also have been applied to Comparable Sale One. Respondent applied 0% depreciation to Comparable Sale One.
- iii. Respondent opined a replacement cost of brand new improvements at \$300 per square foot and cited a contractor survey and dwellingcost.com as his sources. There was no documentation supporting any contractor survey. Respondent failed to include any other documentation supporting the opined replacement cost figure of \$300 per square foot. The only documentation included supported a replacement cost new figure of \$122.75 per square foot of GBA.
- iv. Respondent failed to report any replacement cost for the Kingsley Property's detached garage.
- h. Standards Rules 1-4(c)(i) and 2-2(a)(x)(5): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to collect, verify and analyze all information necessary for credible assignment results and analyze comparable rental data to estimate the subject property's income potential as available to indicate a value conclusion. Respondent developed and reported a misleading Income Approach when he opined a market rent for Kingsley Property's two units when neither unit was in a condition to be rented for market rent. In addition, he reconciled to the midpoint of the price per square foot of living area for units when the Kingsley Property was inferior to all analyzed and reported comparable rentals.
- i. Standards Rule 1-1(a) and (b): Based on the above allegations, Respondent failed to be aware of, understand, and correctly employ those recognized methods and techniques that are necessary to produce a credible appraisal, and committed substantial errors of omission and commission that significantly affected the appraisal.
- j. Standards Rule 2-1(a) and (b): Based on the above allegations, Respondent failed to clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that would not be misleading and failed

### THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violations of USPAP – Crest Property)

- 43. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3721, subsections (a)(6) and (a)(7) for violating California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 3701, in that Respondent violated provisions of USPAP, including but not limited to the following:
- a. Standards Rules 1-4(a) and 2-2(a)(x)(5): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to collect, verify and analyze all information necessary for credible assignment results and analyze comparable sales data as were available to indicate a value conclusion. Respondent failed to develop and report a credible Sales Comparison Approach to value as follows:
- i. Respondent failed to report a credible Gross Living Area (GLA) adjustment. Respondent reported that the GLA adjustment was based on a matched pair analysis with Comparable Sales One and Three, but also reported that Comparable Sale Three was an "anomaly." Additionally, the GLA adjustment was greater than the GLA divided by the sale price for all comparable sales and more than four times the replacement cost estimate.
- ii. Respondent failed to report and analyze a relevant characteristic for
   Comparable Sale Six a guest house that was cited in Respondent's data source. Respondent failed to report the guest house and its impact, if any, on the market value.
- b. Standards Rules 1-6(a) and 2-2(a)(x)(5): Respondent was required, at a minimum, to summarize the information analyzed and the reasoning that supports the analyses, opinions, and conclusions, including reconciliation of the data and approaches. Respondent failed to adequately summarize and report a credible final reconciliation. Respondent reported that he gave the greatest weight to Comparable Sales Two, Three and Four because they present the lowest net and gross adjustments. Respondent failed to report the rationale for his reported opinion and conclusion that Comparable Sale Three was a "market anomaly" and "given diminished weight as a result," but did not require any adjustments.
- c. Standards Rule 2-1(a) and (b): Based on the above allegations, Respondent failed to clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that would not be misleading and failed

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1	to report sufficient information to enable the intended users of the appraisal to understand the				
2	appraisal properly.				
3	Paragraphs 40 to 42 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.				
4	<u>PRAYER</u>				
5	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,				
6	and that following the hearing, the Chief of the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers issue a decision				
7	<ol> <li>Revoking or suspending Real Estate Appraiser License Number AG 029246, issued</li> </ol>				
8	to Daniel E. Rinsch;				
9	<ol><li>Ordering Daniel E. Rinsch to pay the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers the reasonable</li></ol>				
10	costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions				
1	Code section 11409;				
12	3. Ordering Daniel E. Rinsch to pay the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers a fine in the				
13	amount of \$10,000.00 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 11316; and				
14	<ol> <li>Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.</li> </ol>				
15 16 17	DATED: 05/09/2022 JOHN HASSLER				
8	Chief of Enforcement				
19	Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers Department of Consumer Affairs				
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