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President's Message By Elaine Hutchison

Rental Housing Market Dynamics: What to Watch for in 2023

In the current market, the apartment challenges industry is facing unprecedented and cyclical, such as a decrease in occupancy rates projected through 2024 as well as difficulties with valuation and tiahter asset availability. However, demographics remain an upside for our industry, with younger millennials starting families primed for single-family rentals and a steady pipeline of demand for apartments from the Gen Z population in the coming years. Despite the anticipated challenges of the new year, the industry still holds potential for growth and success.

The apartment industry began 2022 with strong momentum, but by the third quarter, there were signs of trouble. Renters were combining households to save money and leasing activity was lackluster. Occupancy rates and rents decreased and there were negative absorption levels. Negative absorption levels refer to a situation where there is a surplus of available rental units compared to the demand for them. This results in a decline in rental prices as landlords compete to fill their properties.

However, according to the Census Housing Vacancy Survey, there was a nation-wide decrease of 577,000 in new renter household formation during the second and third quarters of 2022. As inflation and rent growth outpaced wage growth, renters paused on making moves.

These challenges continue as we enter 2023. Occupancy rates are projected to decrease through 2024, but remain near historical averages. Effective rent growth is expected to return to normal levels in 2023, ranging between 2.9 percent and 4.0 percent, and decrease further in 2024, ranging from 1.4 percent to 3.3 percent. The peak supply year and a decline in vacancies which started in 2023 will result in fewer units being delivered in 2024 and 2025, which will help bring supply and demand into balance after a downturn. Investor sentiment for all property types has dropped to early pandemic levels, according to a survey by the Real Estate Roundtable.

Challenges such tighter credit as availability, difficulties with asset valuation, and the increasing cost of capital have led to a drop in transaction volumes. Labor market challenges, inflation, interest rate increases, and challenging regulatory environments will remain top of mind for owners and operators in 2023. While there concerns about outpacing rent growth, as long as the labor market doesn't suffer major setbacks, apartment fundamentals overall should be able to post positive gains, particularly in sectors that typically experience sustained demand during a downturn, such as moderate income and workforce housing.

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Executive Director's Update

By John Edmond

Understanding the New Tenant Protection Laws in Los Angeles

The Los Angeles City Council has recently passed new tenant protection laws that will have significant implications for renters in the city. "just cause" These laws include eviction protections, a timeline for paying back rent, a minimum threshold for eviction for tenants who fall behind on rent, and requirements for landlords to pay relocation fees in certain situations involving large rent increases. The following will examine each of these laws, including when they will take effect and how they will impact renters in Los

"Just Cause" Eviction Rules

Under the new tenant protections, landlords will no longer be allowed to evict tenants from any rental property, including single-family homes, unless there is unpaid rent, documented lease violations, owner move-ins, or other specific reasons. Landlords will also have to pay relocation assistance to tenants if the eviction is for "no-fault" reasons. This law is already in effect and applies after six months of living in a unit or when a lease expires, whichever comes first. This provision is significant because it expands the protections to about 400,000 additional units, including those not covered by the city's rent stabilization ordinance. To ensure compliance with the Los Angeles Municipal Code 151.09.G.9 and 165.05.B.5, it is mandatory to file any written notice that terminates a tenancy in the City of Los Angeles for any tenant at-fault legal reason with the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) within three business days of being served to the tenant. To file an eviction notice, please https://housing.lacity.org/eviction-notices.

COVID-19 Rent Repayment Timeline

Under the new rules, tenants will have until August 1, 2023 to pay back rent accumulated between March 1st, 2020, and September 30th, 2021. They will have until February 1st, 2024, to pay back rent accumulated between October 1st, 2021, and January 31st, 2023. Tenants must pay their debt by these deadlines to avoid eviction proceedings. There are some exemptions under state law for tenants who

previously provided landlords with a COVID-19 Related Declaration of Financial Distress Form by set deadlines, though landlords can still pursue action on that rent in small claims court.

Unauthorized Pets or Occupants and Eviction Requirements

The new law will block evictions until February 2024 for tenants who have unauthorized pets or who added residents who aren't listed on leases. Landlords will also have to serve a 30-day "notice cure" before evicting a tenant for unauthorized occupants or pets, giving the tenant the opportunity to fix the issue. Regarding tenant defaults in rent payment, the amount that a tenant owes will have to exceed one month of "fair market rent" before they can be evicted for nonpayment. Fair market rent is a set figure established every year for the region by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, based on the number of bedrooms in the apartment. HUD reports that the fair-market rent rates for Los Angeles area in fiscal year 2023 are \$1,747 for a one-bedroom apartment, \$2,222 for a two-bedroom, \$2,888 for a three-bedroom and \$3,170 for a four-bedroom. This law is expected to go into effect in mid-March.

Relocation Assistance Law

Landlords will be required to pay relocation fees if rent is increased by more than 10 percent, or 5 percent plus inflation. This law will apply only to a relatively narrow sliver of the city's rental stock, including approximately 84,000 units built since 2008, according to the city's Housing Department. In most cases, the relocation assistance will be three times the fair market rent of the unit (based on the HUD figures) plus \$1,411 in moving costs. This ordinance is expected to go into effect in mid-March.

Essential Support for Rental Property Owners in the City of Los Angeles

The Apartment Association California Southern Cities helps rental property owners in the City of Los Angeles navigate local regulations and requirements related to tenancy termination. We keep our members informed through regular communication channels, including newsletters, bulletins, and alerts. Our team of experts provides comprehensive guidance and support to ensure compliance with all necessary procedures.

If you're a rental property owner in the City of Los Angeles, partner with us to stay informed and ahead of the curve. Our commitment to our members and the rental housing industry is unwavering, and we provide the support and guidance needed to ensure success.



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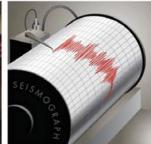
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Santa Ana Sued Over Local Rent Control Laws A Love Letter

By Mercedes Shaffer



On February 14th, Valentine's Day, the Apartment Association of Orange County sued the City of Santa Ana calling the city rent control policies an unconstitutional form of government intervention. The city has enacted a local rent cap of 3 percent and they are developing a seven-member rental board which will have the authority to resolve tenant-landlord disputes outside of court. The board would consist of 3 tenants, 2 councilors and 2 property owners.

Santa Ana is also planning to enact new laws that will create a rental registry, which will serve as a database for city rentals and rent increases. As part of the registry, property owners would be required to enroll their units each year and pay a fee for the registration. This fee would be used to offset the operating costs of maintaining the registry. In essence, housing providers would have an additional administrative burden, and have to pay for that privilege. (Never mind the fact that they already pay property taxes to fund government programs and jobs.)

The apartment association criticized the city's rent control rules as examples of government overreach. The suit alleges that Santa Ana's rent control laws violate the 4th and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The 14th Amendment contains the due process clause, and the lawsuit claims that Santa Ana's Rental Housing Board will be a quasi-judicial body, which is intentionally designed to favor tenants over property owners. The lawsuit states that "The rental housing board will not be a forum for fair adjudication of the petitions presented to it."

The suit also alleges that the 4th amendment

rules against unlawful search, which would be violated by the city's requirement that property owners enroll their buildings in a rental registry. The lawsuit goes on to say that, "... the city's rent control scheme [will] necessarily deprive property owners of a fair return on their investment – a standard that the United States and California Supreme Courts have consistently held to be a constitutional guarantee."

City law limits rent increases to the lower of 3 percent per year, or 80 percent of the percent change in the Consumer Price Index over the most recent 12-month period. This means that, at best, a property owner can expect to raise the rent to an amount that is 20 percent below inflation, so with each passing year the owner's income will inevitably be falling further and further behind with a negatively compounding effect.

One of the most outspoken councilmembers, Thai Viet Phan, has highlighted the fact that she is the first Vietnamese councilmember in Santa Ana and that as someone whose family immigrated here with nothing, she is determined to champion rent control and fight against "greedy corporate landlords."

This is a blatant unfair characterization of housing providers and it's also inaccurate, given that a large amount of the rental properties in Santa Ana are owned by small immigrant family businesses just trying to fulfill the American dream of property and business ownership. By crippling housing providers with unfair rent control laws, government is robbing ALL Americans and immigrants of the American dream of creating wealth and a retirement income through rental property ownership.



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Now common sense seems to have gone out the window and it has become a much more complicated business requiring a great deal of knowledge, a willingness to take on legal exposure that strongly favors tenants, and thanks to government intervention – a low return on your investment. As more cities such as Long Beach are thinking of adding a rental registry and more restrictive rent caps, I hope that they will see the negative effects this has on citizen business owners and realize that it's best for everyone, including tenants, when property owners are allowed the freedom to run their business as they see fit.

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Roofing 101 Series:

The Best Time to Buy a Roof. Spring Can Save Thousands...

Authored by Steve Pinkus, Owner of Royal Roofing Company



Prices and install availability for a new roof are not fixed 365 days a year. A few months, or even weeks, can cost you – or save you – thousands of dollars on your next roof repair, replacement, or restoration coating. Timing is everything.

Countless factors impact the roofing industry, and many of them change daily, like with oil prices impacting the cost of asphalt roofing materials. While each roofing contractor is unique, broad factors like weather, the supply chain, and even holidays can affect all roofers in a given region at the same time.

When is the best time for roof work in Southern California? The 2nd quarter of the year – April, May, and June – are usually the best months if you want to save money and complete your job the fastest. The summer months in July, August, and September are 2nd best, but other than for unique cases, you should not wait until the rainy season to roof.

Kicking the can down the road and waiting to make a decision can be a costly mistake. Four of the biggest reasons why spring is so optimal are: 1) off season availability, 2) logistics, 3) price, and 4) damage prevention.

1) Off Season Availability:

The roofing industry is impacted by "supply and demand" just like every other business. During the rainy season through fall and winter, both supply AND demand are working against you.

Rain causes a massive influx of needy property owners that are desperate to have their leaks repaired to stop interior damage. Since major roof work cannot be started immediately before, during, or after rain, the number of available days during the rainy season is drastically reduced.

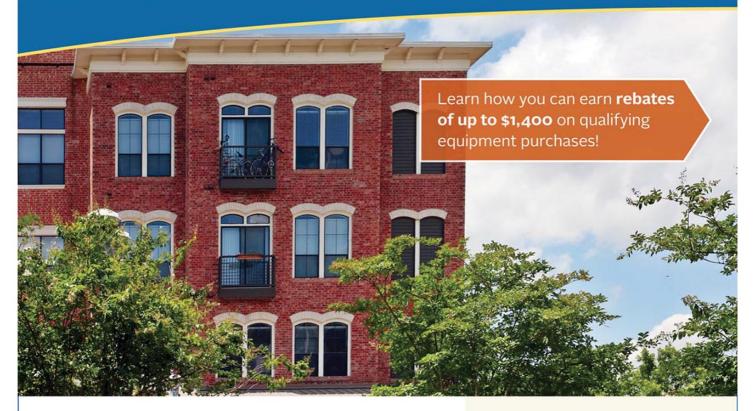
As a consequence, prices are often 20-50 percent higher during this time. Compare that to the spring when frequent rain stops and most property owners are focused on paying their property taxes, which postpones roofing jobs until rents build up their reserves. In fall months, even if you're ready to pay up for a new roof, you may be told "We can't start your job for 2-3 months due to our backlog."

2) Logistics:

If there's rain in the middle of a 7-day weather forecast, roofers can't tear open a large roof and keep it watertight. If you decide to re-roof during the rainy season, you and your contractor may be stuck feeling hopeless while waiting for a window of sunshine that's long enough to get your job safely



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Step-by-step guidance on how to maximize your rebates through whole-building upgrades or qualifying equipment purchases is available to you as a multifamily property owner or manager.

Leslie Diaz-Villavicencio Multifamily Account Manager 213-312-1716 multifamilyrebates@icf.com

The Multifamily Energy Efficiency Rebate Program is implemented by ICF under a contract awarded by the administrator, SoCalGas®, through December 31, 2017.

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done. This can be stressful, especially if tenants are complaining about damage and mold while threatening to go to a hotel.

Additionally, the holiday season impacts companies and staffing. With employees taking vacations and some businesses closing early for holiday weekends, scheduling conflicts are far more common during the rainy season compared to the spring and summer.

Savings

Supply and demand not only affect availability, they also impact prices. When it is raining, demand is at its peak, and supply is at its lowest point. How can you expect to get a "deal" during these conditions? That's like calling an HVAC contractor during a heatwave and asking for a discount.

While the rainy season is the most expensive time to re-roof, prices late in the summer can be expensive too. Labor becomes constrained during the hottest months in the year, which slows down productivity, which causes labor costs to rise as much as 20-30 percent. This directly increases the cost of your roof.

On a 95 degree sunny day, rooftop temperatures can exceed 150 degrees. Combined with tough manual labor, 500 degree hot tar, and long-sleeve protective clothing, summer heat slows down how quickly your roofing professionals can safely work. Spring is the perfect time to roof because of the perfect balance between minimal rain and optimal roofing conditions.

Damage Prevention

It is easy to get caught up in trying to perfectly time your next roof job; HOWEVER, if your roof is damaged or already leaking, you cannot afford to wait. Preventing damage proactively can create huge savings in the long run.

Trying to wait out one more rainy season can cost you tens of thousands of dollars and damage to your roof, building, and/or a tenant's property. This could be in the form of new rotting wood,

interior damage, or needing to re-roof when you could've just done repairs had you acted sooner.

Deciding how to protect your roof and property is challenging. Having an experienced and professional roofing contractor to advise you along the way empowers you to make the right, most cost effective decisions. Reach out to Royal Roofing Company for a free consultation, regardless of if you're just getting started or already have other bids in hand.

About the Author

Roofing 101 is a pioneering educational resource focused on empowering property owners and managers to make informed choices for their roofing needs. For residential and commercial buildings alike, Roofing 101 levels the playing field by revealing the closely-guarded insights most contractors choose not to disclose to their customers. By sharing decades of experience through this platform, the Roofing 101 team fosters better service, happier customers, and cost savings across the roofing industry.

Roofing 101 is provided by Royal Roofing Company and led by Owner and industry veteran Steve Pinkus. Whether you're getting started or already have bids in hand, you should include Royal Roofing Company in every roofing project. Royal Roofing Company has stayed in continuous business for nearly 40 years in Southern California under the same license. That's because they only hire the "best of the best" roofers and use the finest quality materials. They maintain the highest level of business integrity, as proven by their 38-year CSLB license that stands without a single violation, citation, or disciplinary action.

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Answer: You need to send an accounting for the use of the security deposit within 21 days from the date you took back possession. If you do not have all of the amounts or receipts in time, you should give the tenant an estimate and then send the final amount within 14 days after you receive the final amounts and/or receipts.

2. Question: Is there a state law that requires a landlord to professionally clean a carpet prior to reoccupancy?

Answer: No, however the tenant is obligated to leave the premises in the same state of cleanliness that the carpet was in when he moved in. Landlords should provide a clean carpet that is sanitary and meets the habitable conditions of no holes or tears in the carpet.

3. Question: I have a tenant who caused a fire in an apartment which resulted in a substantial amount of damage. The fire department concluded the tenant was at fault. Can he be liable for my deductible? And, can I take it out of his deposit?

Answer: Yes, in fact he is responsible for all losses suffered (your insurance company may want to pursue him). You may want to talk to an attorney about considerations before taking it out of the deposit.

4. Question: What are we allowed, by law, to charge a tenant as a security deposit?

Answer: You are allowed to charge up to twice the amount of the monthly rent as a security deposit for an unfurnished unit. If the rent is \$1000, you can charge up to \$2000 for your deposit. If the property is furnished, you can charge three times the amount of the rent. You can also charge an additional half-month's rent as a security deposit if there is a waterbed. If the unit is rented to a service member, landlords may not request a security deposit of more than one month's rent for an unfurnished unit, and two month's rent for a furnished unit, effective January 1, 2020, but there are some exceptions.



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5. Question: We normally keep original rental agreements, however, when would a copy not suffice?

Answer: The court requires the original unless it is lost; so, you have to either produce it or testify under penalty of perjury that the original was lost without fraudulent intent. Court action is the main reason why you should keep originals. You should keep them for the duration of the tenancy and at least four years after the tenancy is terminated.

6. Question: We have been asked if the applicants have three days to change their mind after signing a lease without being penalized, but we do not know the law on this matter.

Answer: There is no grace period in California for residential tenants to change their mind. Once the lease is signed, they are bound as are you. Holding deposit agreements often provide for a three-day period for applicants to change their mind. However, that is not required by law, and won't apply once a lease is signed. Make sure that you and the applicant are committed to the tenancy before the contract is executed.



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Four Ways to Use Delaware Statutory Trusts for Your 1031 Exchange



By Dwight Kay, Founder and CEO, Kay Properties

Key Highlights:

- DSTs can help investors successfully complete a 1031 exchange
- DSTs can potentially provide investors greater diversification
- DSTs can help investors replace debt for their 1031 exchange
- DSTs can provide investors a back-up option for a 1031 exchange

Regardless of what economic trends are taking place, Delaware Statutory Trusts provide investors a number of timeless benefits for their 1031 Exchanges including deferring capital gains taxes, eliminating the headaches of active management (think the Three T's: tenants, toilets, and trash), the ability to create a more diversified* portfolio, and provide investors the potential for consistent and durable income streams**.

Here are four specific ways real estate investors are utilizing DSTs for their 1031 exchanges.

Delaware Statutory Trusts can be used by 1031 Exchange Investors in these four ways:

- 1. Debt Replacement
- 2. Cover Strategy
- 3. Diversification and Passive Investing
- 4. Back-Up Option

If you are considering a 1031 Exchange, here are four ways you can use DSTs as a strategic tool for today's challenging real estate market:

1. Debt Replacement.

One of the most popular uses of DSTs for a 1031 Exchange involves not having to secure

financing. For example, if you are in the midst of a 1031 Exchange in today's unstable debt market, you may be having a difficult time finding a mortgage to satisfy your 1031 exchange requirements. DSTs, however, are designed to make it easy to invest in without having to deal with qualifying for and taking on a mortgage on your own. That's why many investors find DSTs also make a suitable primary investment option for 1031 Exchanges. Kay Properties has a variety of leveraged DSTs that are pre-structured with non-recourse debt already built-in typically ranging from 30 percent to 70 percent offering loan to value (LTV). Because DSTs typically do not require you to have to qualify for a loan or even fill out loan documents. DSTs can create a reliable tool for you to access high-quality real investments without having to jump through the hoops of getting approved for a loan.

2. Cover strategy.

Another popular use of DST investments comes in the form of providing a cover strategy for left over equity. Let's say you sell one property and cannot find a suitable replacement property that uses the full exchange proceeds, and you now have leftover equity you need to replace. One of the benefits DSTs can provide you in this situation is the ability to enter one without investing a lot of money. Because DSTs require a low minimum investment amount (typically \$100k), they can be a good way for you to use any extra 1031 Exchange proceeds to avoid having a "boot" to pay taxes on. Placing the leftover exchange proceeds into a DST property can potentially allow you to achieve full tax deferral for your 1031 exchange. Consult your own tax or legal advisor for tax and legal advice.



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An Example of How DSTs Can Provide Cover for a 1031 Exchange

Here's an example of how DSTs can provide a cover strategy for your 1031 Exchange:

Let's say you need to replace a \$3,000,000 purchase price for a 1031 Exchange, but your real estate broker finds a property for \$2,700,000. By investing the leftover \$300,000 in a DST, you could successfully avoid the taxable boot. In this way, you could successfully complete your 1031 Exchange by acquiring both a real property investment and a DST investment with an aggregate value of \$3,000,000.

3. Diversification* and true passivity.

You have probably heard the expression, "why put all your eggs in one basket?" If you decide to invest in one single tenant net leased property or one multifamily apartment building for your 1031 Exchange, that's exactly what you could be doing. However, DST properties can potentially allow you to achieve a level of diversification that you would not be able to achieve if you only bought a single NNN asset or multifamily building on your own. By investing in a DST, you have access to a diversified* portfolio of properties that are often high-quality real estate offerings with very large tenants that are professionally managed and potentially provide monthly cash distributions. In addition, you can also achieve a truly passive management structure, eliminating the headaches of the Three T's: "tenants, toilets, and trash."

Investing in a single-tenant property, on the other hand, means you are relying heavily on the quality of a sole tenant. If that tenant fails to pay rent or even files bankruptcy, your income could likely be reduced or even completely eliminated. Similarly, would you invest all of your 401k into one company's stock, even if that company is Amazon or Apple? Your answer is probably No. No matter how great a company is, you probably do not trust it with all of your family's wealth. In the same way, there is no perfect investment property. You may be able to mitigate your potential exposure to the various risks of real estate by diversifying*. DSTs allow for diversification* amongst a number of different

income producing properties.

4. Back-up option.

One of the many reasons investors should consider DSTs is as a back-up option for their 1031 Exchange. Why is this an important factor to consider? Let's say that you have successfully sold your investment property and are now proceeding to search for replacement properties that you can manage on your own. In today's market, you may discover that identifying and closing on high-quality "like-kind" assets within the specified timeframe is not as easy as it sounds. This is when DSTs can be used as a backup option. The reason for this is because DSTs are pre-packaged specifically for 1031 Exchanges, so they can potentially be a very helpful tool to have in the bag in case your primary real property option falls through and you're facing a failed exchange. In addition, because of the turnkey nature of DSTs, you can often close on them within just 3 -5 days to give you a strategy to successfully complete your 1031 Exchange.

DST properties continue to be one of the most popular passive investment option for 1031 Exchanges. Knowing how to best use DSTs to avoid common 1031 Exchange challenges, you will be better situated to potentially complete your exchange and avoid the expensive taxes that could accompany a failed exchange.

Kay Properties team members are always available for in-person meetings, zoom meetings and conference calls with investors to educate and explain various DST options, strategies, and potential benefits and risks.

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Marking the 90th anniversary of the Long Beach Earthquake

Poly High School among 230 campuses damaged or destroyed, but its auditorium

survived

By Ali Sahabi



There are few remaining survivors of the infamous 1933 Long Beach Earthquake, but Poly High School remains a storied reminder of that tragedy: the timing of which – at 5:56 p.m. – saved the lives of hundreds if not thousands of children because classes were not in session.

This month marks the 90th anniversary of that March 10th event, a 6.4 magnitude right-lateral strike-slip of the Newport-Inglewood that killed 115 and caused \$40 million in damages, or \$851 million in today's dollars. The number of deaths would likely have been in the thousands had the temblor struck a few hours earlier.

The quake spread destruction throughout the Southland, particularly in Long Beach, Huntington Park and Compton. Even Los Angeles' La Grande Station train terminal was destroyed, the loss of which prompted construction of today's Union Station.

Poly High was among more than 230 schools destroyed or severely damaged, but the reinforced masonry auditorium survived with some reconstruction.

The auditorium was recently renovated to retain its historic character – and today, much of the campus is slated for improvements, including the construction of seven new academic buildings, three new sports facilities, two new parking structures, and dozens of other major renovations and upgrades to be funding in part from a \$1.7 billion bond measure approved for campus improvements throughout Long Beach Unified School District.

What if the Long Beach Earthquake struck today?

Lurking just beneath the harbor in Long Beach is a newly awakened giant: the Wilmington Blind-Thrust fault, which was long dormant but has recently shown new activity that could spark a destructive 6.4-magnitude quake locally, or trigger the nearby San Andreas to produce an even larger temblor reaching in the 7 magnitudes.

Looming to the east, the USGS determined that 300,000 structures would be damaged in a 7.8 San Andreas earthquake in Los Angeles. That's one in every 16 buildings in the region.



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Most of the Poly High School campus was destroyed in the earthquake, but the auditorium survived. (Source: Loyola Marymount University)

Either quake would cripple local communities. Lives and homes would be lost. Businesses would close, jobs would be lost, and an exodus of residents would flee, leaving the much of the Southland behind for others to rebuild.

Schools across California are now much safer as a result of the Long Beach Earthquake. The damage suffered from that disaster sparked a series of new laws requiring that campuses meet modern standards for earthquake safety – and that when those standards are raised due to new findings, the schools must be retrofitted to comply. Subsequent earthquake tragedies prompted other earthquake laws throughout California to make public buildings and infrastructure safer.

But there are many other buildings still at risk of failure in a major earthquake – and with the significant increase in population density seen today compared to 1933, the risks of another major disaster could be much greater than might be expected.

If your apartment building is a soft-story structure built before 1978, unreinforced masonry, a concrete tilt-up structures built before 1994, a non-ductile concrete building built before 1977 or a steel moment frame structures built before 1996 – it may be at serious risk of being redtagged after a major seismic event.

If you think your building may be at risk, contact Optimum Seismic to arrange a complimentary consultation regarding your building's structural safety. This will help to identify what options, if any, you may want to plan for in the future.

Ali Sahabi, a licensed General Engineering Contractor (GEC), is an expert in seismic resilience and sustainability. He is Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Optimum Seismic, Inc., which has completed some 3,500 seismic engineering, retrofit construction and adaptive reuse projects for multifamily residential, commercial, and industrial buildings throughout California.



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Dear Maintenance Men:

By Jerry L'Ecuyer & Frank Alvarez





Dear Maintenance Men:

I am a new owner of a 1965 four-plex. I am living in the front owner's unit. It truly is a great place to live. However, I am quite concerned about my privacy and the fact that I can hear my tenant's conversations, their TV or radio through the common wall between the units. I figure if I can hear them, they can hear me. I do know I probably lack insulation but do not want to make the expense of ripping drywall out and so on. Do you have any other suggestions?

Dear Tom:

We agree, the worst job to do in an occupied unit is significant drywall work. The dust and debris are awful no matter how good your dust control method. Fortunately, in your case you can address this problem by using a product called Acoustic-coat #150 which is basically a lightly textured water based flat latex paint, formulated with hollow ceramic micro spheres and sound absorbing fibers and resins. To spare our readers a crash course in chemistry, we will give you the basic highlights.

Acoustic-coat #150 is a sound reduction paint, which can reduce sound transmission by 30 percent and will also dramatically reduce sound echo in the room. Acoustic-coat #150 can be used on walls and ceiling and also has excellent insulating properties. This sound reduction paint is most effective for speech range frequencies.

The paint can be bought premixed or as a powdered additive and added to your paint.

Please refer to this web site for more detailed info: www.ceramicadditive.com

Dear Maintenance Men:

Why does the "upside down cup" on the edge of my kitchen sink leak and squirt water every time the dishwasher is used?

George

Dear George:

A quick primer: The "upside down cup" is the dishwasher's air-gap. Its job is to keep the dirty water and the dishwasher discharges from returning back into the dishwasher through the siphon process. The way the dishwasher air-gap works is that water is pumped up to the air-gap at the rim of the sink and the water then falls through an open-air cavity and drops by gravity into a larger diameter hose. The larger hose is typically connected to the garbage disposal, which will allow the dishwasher to drain into the sewer system. The reason the air-gap squirts or leaks at the sink rim level is because the drain line leading from the air-gap to the disposal is clogged. The hose may be kinked or food particles from the garbage disposal has blocked off the hose end. The easiest solution is to remove the section of hose from between the air-gap and the garbage disposal. Clean the hose and remove all debris. Be sure to clean out the connection at the garbage disposal. A small screwdriver is perfect for removing blockage. Reassemble the hose and test. If the problem persists, the air-gap may need to be replaced.

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Dear Maintenance Men:

A building inspector once made me correct a sump pump plumbing line that discharged rainwater into a municipal sewer line. Can you clarify for me the dos and don'ts of patio drains?

Michael

Dear Michael:

Great question and one that many people might not think is important. To many, a drain is a drain and most individuals don't know where the water drains lead to and what environmental impact wastewater can cause. In urban areas and most municipalities, waste waters are directed to their proper destinations via a sewer drain or a storm drain. As an example: A sewer drain often carries wastewater from toilets, kitchens and laundry area directly to a wastewater treatment facility. On the other hand, a storm drain will direct rainwater from roof, driveways and streets including patio drains into streams, aguifers or the ocean. The reason for the two different systems is so rain or runoff water does not overwhelm the sewer waste treatment facilities and force the release of untreated raw sewage into the storm systems which of course leads to our streams, aguifers and the ocean. Because the storm and sewer drains eventually empty into the environment, contaminants such as oil, paint and other hazardous material must be disposed of properly and not into the drains. Check with your city or county as some municipalities have very specific rules about run off water.

WE NEED Maintenance Questions!!! If you would like to see your maintenance question in the "Dear Maintenance Men:" column, please send in your questions

to: DearMaintenanceMen@gmail.com

Bio:

If you need maintenance work or consultation for your building or project, please feel free to contact us. We are available throughout Southern California. For an appointment, please call Buffalo Maintenance, Inc. at 714 956-8371 Frank Alvarez is licensed contractor and the Operations Director and co-owner of Buffalo Maintenance, Inc. He has been involved with apartment maintenance & construction for over 30 years. Frankie is President of the Apartment Association of Orange County and a lecturer, educational instructor and Chair of the Education Committee of the AAOC. He is also Chairman of the Product Service Counsel, Frank reached at (714) 956can be Frankie@BuffaloMaintenance.com For more info please go to: www.BuffaloMaintenance.com Jerry L'Ecuyer is a real estate broker. He is currently a Director Emeritus and Past President of the Apartment Association of Orange County and past Chairman of the association's Education Committee. Jerry has been involved with apartments as a professional since 1988.

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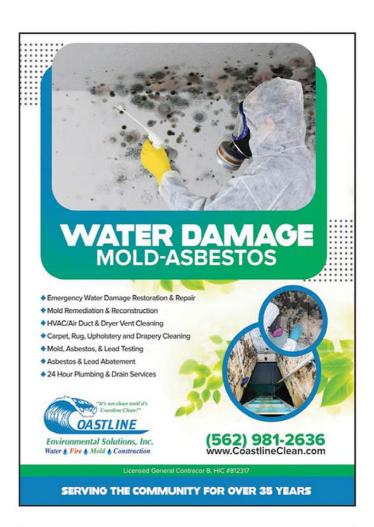
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CONTRIBUTIONS, OUR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WAS ABLE TO

- OPPOSE AB 1791 Rent control: local ordinances (which would provide rental assistance for landlords and tenants who do not qualify for assistance under the state Emergency Rental Assistance Program)
- OPPOSE AB 2179 (would prohibit landlords from evicting tenants with pending applications up to June 30, 2022, provided the ERAP application was submitted prior to March 31)
- OPPOSEAB 2710 Sale of Rental Properties: Right of First Offer (which would require rental property owners to provide a "qualified entity," with advance notice of their intent to sell the residential rental property)
- OPPOSE Rent Stabilization Ordinance in the City of Bell Gardens
- SUPPORT SB847 (which would provide rental assistance for landlords and tenants who do not qualify for assistance under the state Emergency Rental Assistance Program)





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