PRESTON DuFAUCHARD
California Corporations Commissioner
ALAN S. WEINGER
Deputy Commissioner
MIRANDA LEKANDER (SBN 210082)
Senior Corporations Counsel
Department of Corporations
1515 K Street, Ste. 200
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: (916) 322-8730 Fax: (916) 445-6985

Attorneys for Complainant

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS

OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation of THE CALIFORNIA CORPORATIONS COMMISSIONER, Complainant, vs. J.C. SHIELDS ESCROWS, INC., Respondent.	File No.: 963-1965 ACCUSATION IN SUPPORT OF REVOCATION OF CALIFORNIA ESCROW AGENT'S LICENSE

The Complainant is informed and believes and based upon such information and belief, alleges and charges as follows:

I

J.C. Shields Escrows, Inc. ("Respondent") is an escrow agent licensed by the California Corporations Commissioner ("Commissioner" or "Complainant") of the Department of Corporations ("Department") pursuant to the Escrow Law of the State of California (California Financial Code Section 17000 *et seq*.).

II

On or about February 1, 2011, the Commissioner received a letter from Respondent dated January 29, 2011, informing that it wished to surrender its California escrow agent's license and

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permanently cease escrow business operations.

On February 17, 2011, the Commissioner sent a certified letter to Respondent, which was received on February 25, 2011. This letter notified Respondent that, as a condition of license surrender pursuant to Financial Code section 17600, subdivision (b), the licensee is required to engage a certified public account to conduct a closing audit of the licensee's records ("closing audit report") and report findings of compliance with the Escrow Law to the Commissioner within 105 days from the date of the application to surrender the license.

Pursuant to Financial Code section 17600, subdivision (b), the Respondent's closing audit report was due 105 days from the date of application to surrender its escrow agent's license, which was May 16, 2011.

On July 13, 2011, the Commissioner sent a certified letter to Respondent, which was received on July 26, 2011. This letter notified Respondent that the closing audit report due on May 16, 2011 had not been received and informed that the matter would be referred for license revocation if no response was received within 10 days of the date of the letter. The Commissioner also asked Respondent to respond to an outstanding consumer complaint. To date, the Commissioner has received neither a response to the July 13, 2011 letter nor the closing audit report from Respondent.

III

Financial Code section 17602.5 provides in pertinent part as follows:

> If any licensed escrow agent fails to make any reports required by law or by the commissioner within ten (10) days from the date designated for the making of the reports, or within any extension of time granted by the commissioner, . . . such failure shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license held by such escrow agent.

Financial Code section 17600, subdivision (b), provides as follows:

> A licensee that ceases to engage in the business regulated by this division and desires to no longer be licensed shall notify the commissioner in writing and, at that time, tender the license and all other indicia of licensure to the commissioner. Within 105 days of the written notice to the commissioner, the licensee shall submit to the commissioner, at its own expense, a closing audit report as of the date the license is tendered to the commissioner for surrender, or for another period as the commissioner may specify, to be performed by an independent certified public accountant. The closing audit shall include, but not be limited to, information required by the

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> commissioner, a bank reconciliation of the trust account, and a verified statement from a certified public accountant confirming lawful disbursement of funds. A license is not surrendered until the commissioner has reviewed and accepted the closing audit report, a determination has been made by the commissioner that acceptance of the surrender is in the public interest, and tender of the license is accepted in writing by the commissioner.

Financial Code section 17608 provides in pertinent part:

> The commissioner may, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard, suspend or revoke any license if he finds that:
>
> (b) The licensee has violated any provision of this division or any rule made by the commissioner under and within the authority of this division.

IV

Complainant finds that, by reason of the foregoing, Respondent J.C. Shields Escrows, Inc. has violated Financial Code sections 17602.5 and 17600, and it is in the best interests of the public to revoke Respondent's escrow agent's license pursuant to Financial Code section 17608.

WHEREFORE, IT IS PRAYED that the California escrow agent's license of Respondent J.C. Shields Escrows, Inc. be revoked.

Dated: August 9, 2011
Sacramento, CA

California Corporations Commissioner

By_____
MIRANDA LEKANDER
Senior Corporations Counsel

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