

Assembly Bill No. 2881

CHAPTER 686

An act to amend Section 11010 of the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 1103.4 of, and to amend the heading of Article 1.7 (commencing with Section 1103) of Chapter 2 of Title 4 of Part 4 of Division 2 of, the Civil Code, relating to nuisance.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2008. Filed with
Secretary of State September 30, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2881, Wolk. Nuisance: agricultural activity: recovery of defendant's costs: right to farm.

(1) Existing law requires any person who intends to offer subdivided lands within California for sale or lease to file with the Department of Real Estate an application for a public report, consisting of a completed questionnaire and a notice of intention that includes, among other things, a statement that there is an airport in the vicinity, and that this may affect the use of the property. Existing law makes a violation of these provisions a crime.

This bill would require the notice of intention provided as part of an application for a public report, as described above, to contain a specified notice regarding any property that is presently located within one mile of farm or ranch land designated as specified. By changing the definition of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law limits the liability of a transferor for failing to disclose natural hazards in specified property transactions if the transferor obtains a report or opinion prepared by a licensed engineer, land surveyor, geologist, or expert in natural hazard discovery dealing with matters within the scope of the professional's license or expertise. Existing law conditions this limitation in specified ways, including the requirement that when an expert responds to a request regarding natural hazards, that the expert also determine whether the property is within an airport influence zone and, if so, provide a specified notice with his or her report.

This bill would condition the limitation on liability described above by requiring an expert, when responding to a request regarding natural hazards, to also determine whether the property is presently located within one mile of farm or ranch land designated as specified, and to provide a specified notice in this regard. The bill would also make conforming changes.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 11010 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

11010. (a) Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subdivision (c) or elsewhere in this chapter, any person who intends to offer subdivided lands within this state for sale or lease shall file with the Department of Real Estate an application for a public report consisting of a notice of intention and a completed questionnaire on a form prepared by the department.

(b) The notice of intention shall contain the following information about the subdivided lands and the proposed offering:

- (1) The name and address of the owner.
- (2) The name and address of the subdivider.
- (3) The legal description and area of lands.
- (4) A true statement of the condition of the title to the land, particularly including all encumbrances thereon.
- (5) A true statement of the terms and conditions on which it is intended to dispose of the land, together with copies of any contracts intended to be used.
- (6) A true statement of the provisions, if any, that have been made for public utilities in the proposed subdivision, including water, electricity, gas, telephone, and sewerage facilities. For subdivided lands that were subject to the imposition of a condition pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 66473.7 of the Government Code, the true statement of the provisions made for water shall be satisfied by submitting a copy of the written verification of the available water supply obtained pursuant to Section 66473.7 of the Government Code.
- (7) A true statement of the use or uses for which the proposed subdivision will be offered.
- (8) A true statement of the provisions, if any, limiting the use or occupancy of the parcels in the subdivision.
- (9) A true statement of the amount of indebtedness that is a lien upon the subdivision or any part thereof, and that was incurred to pay for the construction of any onsite or offsite improvement, or any community or recreational facility.
- (10) A true statement or reasonable estimate, if applicable, of the amount of any indebtedness which has been or is proposed to be incurred by an existing or proposed special district, entity, taxing area, assessment district, or community facilities district within the boundaries of which, the subdivision, or any part thereof, is located, and that is to pay for the construction or installation of any improvement or to furnish community or recreational facilities to that subdivision, and which amounts are to be

obtained by ad valorem tax or assessment, or by a special assessment or tax upon the subdivision, or any part thereof.

(11) A notice pursuant to Section 1102.6c of the Civil Code.

(12) (A) As to each school district serving the subdivision, a statement from the appropriate district that indicates the location of each high school, junior high school, and elementary school serving the subdivision, or documentation that a statement to that effect has been requested from the appropriate school district.

(B) In the event that, as of the date the notice of intention and application for issuance of a public report are otherwise deemed to be qualitatively and substantially complete pursuant to Section 11010.2, the statement described in subparagraph (A) has not been provided by any school district serving the subdivision, the person who filed the notice of intention and application for issuance of a public report shall immediately provide the department with the name, address, and telephone number of that district.

(13) (A) The location of all existing airports, and of all proposed airports shown on the general plan of any city or county, located within two statute miles of the subdivision. If the property is located within an airport influence area, the following statement shall be included in the notice of intention:

NOTICE OF AIRPORT IN VICINITY

This property is presently located in the vicinity of an airport, within what is known as an airport influence area. For that reason, the property may be subject to some of the annoyances or inconveniences associated with proximity to airport operations (for example: noise, vibration, or odors). Individual sensitivities to those annoyances can vary from person to person. You may wish to consider what airport annoyances, if any, are associated with the property before you complete your purchase and determine whether they are acceptable to you.

(B) For purposes of this section, an “airport influence area,” also known as an “airport referral area,” is the area in which current or future airport-related noise, overflight, safety, or airspace protection factors may significantly affect land uses or necessitate restrictions on those uses as determined by an airport land use commission.

(14) A true statement, if applicable, referencing any soils or geologic report or soils and geologic reports that have been prepared specifically for the subdivision.

(15) A true statement of whether or not fill is used, or is proposed to be used, in the subdivision and a statement giving the name and the location of the public agency where information concerning soil conditions in the subdivision is available.

(16) On or after July 1, 2005, as to property located within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a statement that the property is so located and the following notice:

NOTICE OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION JURISDICTION

This property is located within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Use and development of property within the commission's jurisdiction may be subject to special regulations, restrictions, and permit requirements. You may wish to investigate and determine whether they are acceptable to you and your intended use of the property before you complete your transaction.

(17) If the property is presently located within one mile of a parcel of real property designated as "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," "Unique Farmland," "Farmland of Local Importance," or "Grazing Land" on the most current "Important Farmland Map" issued by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, utilizing solely the county-level GIS map data, if any, available on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Website. If the residential property is within one mile of a designated farmland area, the report shall contain the following notice:

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FARM

This property is located within one mile of a farm or ranch land designated on the current county-level GIS "Important Farmland Map," issued by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. Accordingly, the property may be subject to inconveniences or discomforts resulting from agricultural operations that are a normal and necessary aspect of living in a community with a strong rural character and a healthy agricultural sector. Customary agricultural practices in farm operations may include, but are not limited to, noise, odors, dust, light, insects, the operation of pumps and machinery, the storage and disposal of manure, bee pollination, and the ground or aerial application of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. These agricultural practices may occur at any time during the 24-hour day. Individual sensitivities to those practices can vary from person to person. You may wish to consider the impacts of such agricultural practices before you complete your purchase. Please be advised that you may be barred from obtaining legal remedies against agricultural practices conducted in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards pursuant to Section 3482.5 of the Civil Code or any pertinent local ordinance.

(18) Any other information that the owner, his or her agent, or the subdivider may desire to present.

(c) The commissioner may, by regulation, or on the basis of the particular circumstances of a proposed offering, waive the requirement of the submission of a completed questionnaire if the commissioner determines that prospective purchasers or lessees of the subdivision interests to be

offered will be adequately protected through the issuance of a public report based solely upon information contained in the notice of intention.

SEC. 2. The heading of Article 1.7 (commencing with Section 1103) of Chapter 2 of Title 4 of Part 4 of Division 2 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

Article 1.7. Disclosure of Natural and Environmental Hazards, Right-to-Farm, and Other Disclosures Upon Transfer of Residential Property

SEC. 3. Section 1103.4 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

1103.4. (a) Neither the transferor nor any listing or selling agent shall be liable for any error, inaccuracy, or omission of any information delivered pursuant to this article if the error, inaccuracy, or omission was not within the personal knowledge of the transferor or the listing or selling agent, and was based on information timely provided by public agencies or by other persons providing information as specified in subdivision (c) that is required to be disclosed pursuant to this article, and ordinary care was exercised in obtaining and transmitting the information.

(b) The delivery of any information required to be disclosed by this article to a prospective transferee by a public agency or other person providing information required to be disclosed pursuant to this article shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of this article and shall relieve the transferor or any listing or selling agent of any further duty under this article with respect to that item of information.

(c) The delivery of a report or opinion prepared by a licensed engineer, land surveyor, geologist, or expert in natural hazard discovery dealing with matters within the scope of the professional's license or expertise, shall be sufficient compliance for application of the exemption provided by subdivision (a) if the information is provided to the prospective transferee pursuant to a request therefor, whether written or oral. In responding to that request, an expert may indicate, in writing, an understanding that the information provided will be used in fulfilling the requirements of Section 1103.2 and, if so, shall indicate the required disclosures, or parts thereof, to which the information being furnished is applicable. Where that statement is furnished, the expert shall not be responsible for any items of information, or parts thereof, other than those expressly set forth in the statement.

(1) In responding to the request, the expert shall determine whether the property is within an airport influence area as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 11010 of the Business and Professions Code. If the property is within an airport influence area, the report shall contain the following statement:

NOTICE OF AIRPORT IN VICINITY

This property is presently located in the vicinity of an airport, within what is known as an airport influence area. For that

NOTICE OF AIRPORT IN VICINITY

reason, the property may be subject to some of the annoyances or inconveniences associated with proximity to airport operations (for example: noise, vibration, or odors). Individual sensitivities to those annoyances can vary from person to person. You may wish to consider what airport annoyances, if any, are associated with the property before you complete your purchase and determine whether they are acceptable to you.

(2) In responding to the request, the expert shall determine whether the property is within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as defined in Section 66620 of the Government Code. If the property is within the commission's jurisdiction, the report shall contain the following notice:

NOTICE OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION JURISDICTION

This property is located within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Use and development of property within the commission's jurisdiction may be subject to special regulations, restrictions, and permit requirements. You may wish to investigate and determine whether they are acceptable to you and your intended use of the property before you complete your transaction.

(3) In responding to the request, the expert shall determine whether the property is presently located within one mile of a parcel of real property designated as "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," "Unique Farmland," "Farmland of Local Importance," or "Grazing Land" on the most current "Important Farmland Map" issued by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, utilizing solely the county-level GIS map data, if any, available on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program website. If the residential property is within one mile of a designated farmland area, the report shall contain the following notice:

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FARM

This property is located within one mile of a farm or ranch land designated on the current county-level GIS "Important Farmland Map," issued by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. Accordingly, the property may be subject to inconveniences or discomforts resulting from agricultural operations that are a normal and necessary aspect of living in a community with a strong rural character and a healthy agricultural sector. Customary agricultural practices in farm operations may include, but are not limited to, noise, odors, dust, light,

insects, the operation of pumps and machinery, the storage and disposal of manure, bee pollination, and the ground or aerial application of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. These agricultural practices may occur at any time during the 24-hour day. Individual sensitivities to those practices can vary from person to person. You may wish to consider the impacts of such agricultural practices before you complete your purchase. Please be advised that you may be barred from obtaining legal remedies against agricultural practices conducted in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards pursuant to Section 3482.5 of the Civil Code or any pertinent local ordinance.

SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.