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BILL TEXT

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INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Laird
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Mullin)

FEBRUARY 17, 2006

An act to amend Sections 1365, 1365.2.5, and 1365.5 of, and to add Section 1365.6 to, the Civil Code, relating to common interest developments.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2100, Laird Common interest developments: reserve funding.

(1) Existing law requires the association of a common interest development to prepare and distribute to all members a pro forma operating budget that includes, among other things, a summary of the association's reserves, a statement regarding the mechanism or mechanisms by which the board of directors will fund reserves to repair or replace major components, and a statement addressing the procedures used for the calculation and establishment of those reserves to defray the future repair, replacement, or additions to those major components that the association is obligated to maintain.

This bill would require the pro forma operating budget to also include the current deficiency in reserve funding expressed on a per unit basis, a statement as to whether the board of directors of the association has determined to defer or not undertake repairs or replacement of any major component, and a statement whether the association has any outstanding loans, as specified.

(2) Existing law requires the board of directors, at least once every three years, to conduct a visual inspection of the major components that the association is obligated to repair, replace, restore, or maintain as part of a study of the reserve account requirements of the common interest development, as specified. The study is required to include, among other things, an estimate of the total annual contribution necessary to defray the cost to repair, replace, restore, or maintain the major components identified, after subtracting total reserve funds as of the date of the study.

This bill would require the study to also include a reserve funding plan that indicates how the association plans to fund the annual contribution to meet the association's obligation for the repair and replacement of all major components, as specified. This bill would require, if the board of directors determines an assessment increase is required to fund the reserve funding plan, any assessment increase the board adopts to be approved in a separate board action from the action to adopt a reserve funding plan. The

bill would require, commencing January 1, 2009, a summary of the reserve funding plan to be distributed to all members.

(3) Existing law requires the association of a common interest development to distribute a disclosure regarding assessment and reserve funding in a certain form.

This bill would revise that form, as specified.

(4) Existing law provides that no contract or other transaction between a corporation and one or more of its directors, or any corporation, firm, or association in which any of its directors has a material financial interest or are directors thereof, is either void or voidable because the director or directors, or the other corporation, firm, or association, are parties or present at the meeting of the board or a committee that authorizes, approves, or ratifies the contract or transaction, if certain disclosures are made and other specified conditions are met. Existing law also provides that interested or common directors may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the board or a committee that authorizes, approves, or ratifies a contract or transaction.

This bill would make these provisions applicable to any contract or other transaction authorized, approved, or ratified by the board of directors of an association or a committee of the board, regardless of whether the association is a corporation.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 1365 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

1365. Unless the governing documents impose more stringent standards, the association shall prepare and distribute to all of its members the following documents:

(a) A pro forma operating budget, which shall include all of the following:

(1) The estimated revenue and expenses on an accrual basis.

(2) A summary of the association's reserves based upon the most recent review or study conducted pursuant to Section 1365.5, based only on assets held in cash or cash equivalents, which shall be printed in boldface type and include all of the following:

(A) The current estimated replacement cost, estimated remaining life, and estimated useful life of each major component.

(B) As of the end of the fiscal year for which the study is prepared:

(i) The current estimate of the amount of cash reserves necessary to repair, replace, restore, or maintain the major components.

(ii) The current amount of accumulated cash reserves actually set aside to repair, replace, restore, or maintain major components.

(iii) If applicable, the amount of funds received from either a compensatory damage award or settlement to an association from any person or entity for injuries to property, real or personal, arising out of any construction or design defects, and the expenditure or disposition of funds, including the amounts expended for the direct and indirect costs of repair of construction or design defects. These amounts shall be reported at the end of the fiscal year for which the study is prepared as separate line items under cash reserves pursuant to clause (ii). Instead of complying with the requirements set forth in this clause, an association that is obligated to issue a review of their financial statement pursuant to subdivision (b) may

include in the review a statement containing all of the information required by this clause.

(C) The percentage that the amount determined for purposes of clause (ii) of subparagraph (B) equals the amount determined for purposes of clause (i) of subparagraph (B).

(D) The current deficiency in reserve funding expressed on a per unit basis. The figure shall be calculated by subtracting the amount determined for purposes of clause (ii) of subparagraph (B) from the amount determined for purposes of clause (i) of subparagraph (B) and then dividing the result by the number of separate interests within the association, except that if assessments vary by the size or type of ownership interest, then the association shall calculate the current deficiency in a manner that reflects the variation.

(3) A statement as to all of the following:

(A) Whether the board of directors of the association has determined to defer or not undertake repairs or replacement of any major component with a remaining life of 30 years or less, including a justification for the deferral or decision not to undertake the repairs or replacement.

(B) Whether the board of directors of the association, consistent with the reserve funding plan adopted pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 1365.5, has determined or anticipates that the levy of one or more special assessments will be required to repair, replace, or restore any major component or to provide adequate reserves therefor. If so, the statement shall also set out the estimated amount, commencement date, and duration of the assessment.

(C) The mechanism or mechanisms by which the board of directors will fund reserves to repair or replace major components, including assessments, borrowing, use of other assets, deferral of selected replacements or repairs, or alternative mechanisms.

(D) Whether the association has any outstanding loans with an original term of more than one year, including the payee, interest rate, amount outstanding, annual payment, and when the loan is scheduled to be retired.

(4) A general statement addressing the procedures used for the calculation and establishment of those reserves to defray the future repair, replacement, or additions to those major components that the association is obligated to maintain. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, reserve calculations made using the formula described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 1365.2.5, and may not assume a rate of return on cash reserves in excess of 2 percent above the discount rate published by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco at the time the calculation was made.

The summary of the association's reserves disclosed pursuant to paragraph (2) shall not be admissible in evidence to show improper financial management of an association, provided that other relevant and competent evidence of the financial condition of the association is not made inadmissible by this provision.

Notwithstanding a contrary provision in the governing documents, a copy of the operating budget shall be annually distributed not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days prior to the beginning of the association's fiscal year.

(b) Commencing January 1, 2009, a summary of the reserve funding plan adopted by the board of directors of the association, as specified in paragraph (4) of subdivision (e) of Section 1365.5. The summary shall include notice to members that the full reserve study plan is available upon request, and the association shall provide the

full reserve plan to any member upon request.

(c) A review of the financial statement of the association shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles by a licensee of the California Board of Accountancy for any fiscal year in which the gross income to the association exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000). A copy of the review of the financial statement shall be distributed within 120 days after the close of each fiscal year.

(d) Instead of the distribution of the pro forma operating budget required by subdivision (a), the board of directors may elect to distribute a summary of the pro forma operating budget to all of its members with a written notice that the pro forma operating budget is available at the business office of the association or at another suitable location within the boundaries of the development, and that copies will be provided upon request and at the expense of the association. If any member requests that a copy of the pro forma operating budget required by subdivision (a) be mailed to the member, the association shall provide the copy to the member by first-class United States mail at the expense of the association and delivered within five days. The written notice that is distributed to each of the association members shall be in at least 10-point boldface type on the front page of the summary of the budget.

(e) A statement describing the association's policies and practices in enforcing lien rights or other legal remedies for default in payment of its assessments against its members shall be annually delivered to the members not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days immediately preceding the beginning of the association's fiscal year.

(f) (1) A summary of the association's property, general liability, earthquake, flood, and fidelity insurance policies, which shall be distributed not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days preceding the beginning of the association's fiscal year, that includes all of the following information about each policy:

- (A) The name of the insurer.
- (B) The type of insurance.
- (C) The policy limits of the insurance.
- (D) The amount of deductibles, if any.

(2) The association shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify its members by first-class mail if any of the policies described in paragraph (1) have lapsed, been canceled, and are not immediately renewed, restored, or replaced, or if there is a significant change, such as a reduction in coverage or limits or an increase in the deductible, as to any of those policies. If the association receives any notice of nonrenewal of a policy described in paragraph (1), the association shall immediately notify its members if replacement coverage will not be in effect by the date the existing coverage will lapse.

(3) To the extent that any of the information required to be disclosed pursuant to paragraph (1) is specified in the insurance policy declaration page, the association may meet its obligation to disclose that information by making copies of that page and distributing it to all of its members.

(4) The summary distributed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall contain, in at least 10-point boldface type, the following statement: "This summary of the association's policies of insurance provides only certain information, as required by subdivision (f) of Section 1365 of the Civil Code, and should not be considered a substitute for

year to meet the association's obligation for repair and/or replacement of major components during the next 30 years

Yes _____ No _____

(4) If the answer to (3) is no, what additional assessments or other contributions to reserves would be necessary to ensure that sufficient reserve funds will be available each year during the next 30 years that have not yet been approved by the board or the members

Approximate date assessment will be due:	Amount per ownership interest per month or year:
	Total:

(5) All major components are included in the reserve study and are included in its calculations.

(6) Based on the method of calculation in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 1365.2.5, the estimated amount required in the reserve fund at the end of the current fiscal year is \$____, based in whole or in part on the last reserve study or update prepared by ____ as of ____ (month), ____ (year). The projected reserve fund cash balance at the end of the current fiscal year is \$____, resulting in reserves being ____ percent funded at this date. If an alternate, but generally accepted, method of calculation is also used, the required reserve amount is \$____. (See attached explanation)

(7) Based on the method of calculation in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 1365.2.5 of the Civil Code, the estimated amount required in the reserve fund at the end of each of the next five budget years is \$____, and the projected reserve fund cash balance in each of those years, taking into account only assessments already approved and other known revenues, is \$____, leaving the reserve at ____ percent funding. If the reserve funding plan approved by the association is implemented,

the projected reserve
fund cash balance in each of those years
will be \$_____, leaving the
reserve at _____ percent funding.

Note: The financial representations set forth in this summary are based on the best estimates of the preparer at that time. The estimates are subject to change.

(b) For the purposes of preparing a summary pursuant to this section:

(1) "Estimated remaining useful life" means the time reasonably calculated to remain before a major component will require replacement.

(2) "Major component" has the meaning used in Section 1365.5. Components with an estimated remaining useful life of more than 30 years may be included in a study as a capital asset or disregarded from the reserve calculation, so long as the decision is revealed in the reserve study report and reported in the Assessment and Reserve Funding Disclosure Summary.

(3) The form set out in subdivision (a) shall accompany each pro forma operating budget or summary thereof that is delivered pursuant to this article. The form may be supplemented or modified to clarify the information delivered, so long as the minimum information set out in subdivision (a) is provided.

(4) For the purpose of the report and summary, the amount of reserves needed to be accumulated for a component at a given time shall be computed as the current cost of replacement or repair multiplied by the number of years the component has been in service divided by the useful life of the component. This shall not be construed to require the board to fund reserves in accordance with this calculation.

SEC. 3. Section 1365.5 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

1365.5. (a) Unless the governing documents impose more stringent standards, the board of directors of the association shall do all of the following:

(1) Review a current reconciliation of the association's operating accounts on at least a quarterly basis.

(2) Review a current reconciliation of the association's reserve accounts on at least a quarterly basis.

(3) Review, on at least a quarterly basis, the current year's actual reserve revenues and expenses compared to the current year's budget.

(4) Review the latest account statements prepared by the financial institutions where the association has its operating and reserve accounts.

(5) Review an income and expense statement for the association's operating and reserve accounts on at least a quarterly basis.

(b) The signatures of at least two persons, who shall be members of the association's board of directors, or one officer who is not a member of the board of directors and a member of the board of directors, shall be required for the withdrawal of moneys from the association's reserve accounts.

(c) (1) The board of directors shall not expend funds designated as reserve funds for any purpose other than the repair, restoration, replacement, or maintenance of, or litigation involving the repair, restoration, replacement, or maintenance of, major components that

the association is obligated to repair, restore, replace, or maintain and for which the reserve fund was established.

(2) However, the board may authorize the temporary transfer of moneys from a reserve fund to the association's general operating fund to meet short-term cashflow requirements or other expenses, if the board has provided notice of the intent to consider the transfer in a notice of meeting, which shall be provided as specified in Section 1363.05. The notice shall include the reasons the transfer is needed, some of the options for repayment, and whether a special assessment may be considered. If the board authorizes the transfer, the board shall issue a written finding, recorded in the board's minutes, explaining the reasons that the transfer is needed, and describing when and how the moneys will be repaid to the reserve fund. The transferred funds shall be restored to the reserve fund within one year of the date of the initial transfer, except that the board may, after giving the same notice required for considering a transfer, and, upon making a finding supported by documentation that a temporary delay would be in the best interests of the common interest development, temporarily delay the restoration. The board shall exercise prudent fiscal management in maintaining the integrity of the reserve account, and shall, if necessary, levy a special assessment to recover the full amount of the expended funds within the time limits required by this section. This special assessment is subject to the limitation imposed by Section 1366. The board may, at its discretion, extend the date the payment on the special assessment is due. Any extension shall not prevent the board from pursuing any legal remedy to enforce the collection of an unpaid special assessment.

(d) When the decision is made to use reserve funds or to temporarily transfer moneys from the reserve fund to pay for litigation, the association shall notify the members of the association of that decision in the next available mailing to all members pursuant to Section 5016 of the Corporations Code, and of the availability of an accounting of those expenses. Unless the governing documents impose more stringent standards, the association shall make an accounting of expenses related to the litigation on at least a quarterly basis. The accounting shall be made available for inspection by members of the association at the association's office.

(e) At least once every three years, the board of directors shall cause to be conducted a reasonably competent and diligent visual inspection of the accessible areas of the major components that the association is obligated to repair, replace, restore, or maintain as part of a study of the reserve account requirements of the common interest development, if the current replacement value of the major components is equal to or greater than one-half of the gross budget of the association, excluding the association's reserve account for that period. The board shall review this study, or cause it to be reviewed, annually and shall consider and implement necessary adjustments to the board's analysis of the reserve account requirements as a result of that review.

The study required by this subdivision shall at a minimum include:

(1) Identification of the major components that the association is obligated to repair, replace, restore, or maintain that, as of the date of the study, have a remaining useful life of less than 30 years.

(2) Identification of the probable remaining useful life of the components identified in paragraph (1) as of the date of the study.

(3) An estimate of the cost of repair, replacement, restoration, or maintenance of the components identified in paragraph (1).

(4) An estimate of the total annual contribution necessary to defray the cost to repair, replace, restore, or maintain the components identified in paragraph (1) during and at the end of their useful life, after subtracting total reserve funds as of the date of the study.

(5) A reserve funding plan that indicates how the association plans to fund the contribution identified in paragraph (4) to meet the association's obligation for the repair and replacement of all major components with an expected remaining life of 30 years or less, not including those components that the board has determined will not be replaced or repaired. The plan shall include a schedule of the date and amount of any change in regular or special assessments that would be needed to sufficiently fund the reserve funding plan. The plan shall be adopted by the board of directors at an open meeting before the membership of the association as described in Section 1363.05. If the board of directors determines that an assessment increase is necessary to fund the reserve funding plan, any increase shall be approved in a separate action of the board that is consistent with the procedure described in Section 1366.

(f) As used in this section, "reserve accounts" means both of the following:

(1) Moneys that the association's board of directors has identified for use to defray the future repair or replacement of, or additions to, those major components that the association is obligated to maintain.

(2) The funds received, and not yet expended or disposed of, from either a compensatory damage award or settlement to an association from any person or entity for injuries to property, real or personal, arising from any construction or design defects. These funds shall be separately itemized from funds described in paragraph (1).

(g) As used in this section, "reserve account requirements" means the estimated funds that the association's board of directors has determined are required to be available at a specified point in time to repair, replace, or restore those major components that the association is obligated to maintain.

(h) This section does not apply to an association that does not have a "common area" as defined in Section 1351.

SEC. 4. Section 1365.6 is added to the Civil Code, to read:

1365.6. Notwithstanding any other law, and regardless of whether an association is a corporation, as defined in Section 162 of the Corporations Code, the provisions of Section 310 of the Corporations Code shall apply to any contract or other transaction authorized, approved, or ratified by the board or a committee of the board.