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7 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT
8 OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9

10 In the Matter of:)
11 THE COMMISSIONER OF BUSINESS) CONSENT ORDER
OVERSIGHT,)
12)
Complainant,)
13 v.)
14 ROBERT MARK LINDERMAN,)
Respondent.)
15)
16)
17)

18 This Consent Order is entered between the Department of Business Oversight (Department)
19 through the Commissioner of Business Oversight (Commissioner), on the one hand, and Robert Mark
20 Linderman (Respondent) on the other hand (hereafter, the Parties), and is made with respect to the
21 following:

22 RECITALS
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24 A. At all relevant times, Robert Mark Linderman was a California resident with a
25 business address of 1826 West Kettleman Lane, Suite A3, Lodi, CA 95242.

26 B. At all relevant times, Woodbridge Group of Companies, LLC was a company formed
27 in California with a business address of 14225 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 100, Sherman Oaks,
28 California 91423.

1 C. Beginning as early as July 2012, Woodbridge Group of Companies, LLC and its
2 affiliates, including but not limited to WMF Management, LLC, Woodbridge Structured Funding,
3 LLC, Woodbridge Pre-Settlement Funding, LLC, Woodbridge Mortgage Investment Fund 1, LLC,
4 Woodbridge Mortgage Investment Fund 2, LLC, Woodbridge Mortgage Investment Fund 3, LLC,
5 Woodbridge Mortgage Investment Fund 3A, LLC, Woodbridge Mortgage Investment Fund 4, LLC,
6 Woodbridge Commercial Bridge Loan Fund 1, LLC, Woodbridge Commercial Bridge Loan Fund 2,
7 LLC (collectively, Woodbridge) offered securities in California to investors in the form of lending
8 agreements, some of which were referred to as “First Position Commercial Mortgage Notes,”
9 “mezzanine loans,” “construction loans,” and “Co-Lending Opportunities” (collectively, FPCMs).

10 D. FPCMs investors were solicited to invest anywhere between \$25,000 to well over
11 \$250,000 to give to Woodbridge to pool with other investor monies. Woodbridge then lent the
12 pooled monies to third-party borrowers for a short time at a high interest rate to finance the
13 acquisition and/or development of real property in California, Colorado, and other states. FPCMs
14 investors had no role in selecting or vetting the purported third-party borrower. FPCMs investors
15 also had no decision-making role or management in negotiating the terms of the loans with the third-
16 party borrower, nor did they have any decision-making role in the real estate acquisition or
17 development.

18 E. In exchange for lending money to Woodbridge, FPCMs investors were promised that
19 they would “[e]arn a secured yield as high as 5%” in fixed monthly interest payments, for a term of
20 nine, twelve, or eighteen months, with options to renew or “reposition” their lending toward a
21 different real property at the end of the term. FPCMs investors were told that the loans they were
22 making were secured by a “collateral assignment of note, mortgage, and other loan documents,”
23 which would be recorded with the real property that was the subject of the loan. FPCMs investors
24 were told that the recorded documents would give them a “first position” lien interest in the subject
25 real property, and that this would allow FPCMs investors to be paid back first in the event the
26 borrower defaulted on the loan. Woodbridge assured FPCMs investors that Woodbridge would pay
27 them the interest payments regardless of whether the borrower defaulted on the loan. FPCMs
28 investors were also assured they would get back their full principal at the end of the term if requested.

1 F. Woodbridge used inhouse employees called “consultants” and paid external referrers,
2 insurance salespersons, investment advisors, and financial planners to solicit and sell Woodbridge
3 securities, including FPCMs, in California.

4 G. Beginning in 2016 , Robert Mark Linderman became an agent of Woodbridge, in
5 which capacity he offered and sold FPCMs issued by Woodbridge to California investors.

6 H. Robert Mark Linderman advised his clients in California to invest in FPCMs issued by
7 Woodbridge.

8 I. Robert Mark Linderman received sales commission from Woodbridge of typically five
9 percent for each dollar invested, totaling over \$117,175.34. Further, each time investors reinvested
10 their initial investments – and some investors “repositioned” or renewed their investment more than
11 once – Robert Mark Linderman received yet another commission. Robert Mark Linderman’s clients
12 invested collectively over \$810,700.00 in Woodbridge FPCMs through Robert Mark Linderman’s
13 efforts.

14 J. Robert Mark Linderman had not secured from the Commissioner, nor from any other
15 similar licensing entity, a certificate authorizing him to sell or induce the sale of securities.

16 K. Robert Mark Linderman had not secured from the Commissioner, nor from any other
17 similar licensing entity, a certificate to offer investment advice for compensation.

18 L. The Commissioner is of the opinion that the FPCMs issued and offered by
19 Woodbridge, through Robert Mark Linderman, are securities subject to qualification under the
20 Corporate Securities Law of 1968 (Corp. Code, § 25000 et seq.) that have been offered or sold
21 without first being qualified in violation of Corporations Code section 25110.

22 M. Furthermore, the Commissioner is of the opinion that Robert Mark Linderman
23 effected, induced, or attempted to induce the purchase or sale of securities in the form of FPCMs in
24 the State of California without first applying for and securing from the Commissioner a certificate
25 authorizing them to act in that capacity, in violation of Corporations Code section 25210.

26 N. Furthermore, the Commissioner is of the opinion that Robert Mark Linderman has
27 conducted business as an investment adviser for compensation in this state without first securing
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1 from the Commissioner a certificate, then in effect, in violation of Corporations Code section 25230,
2 subdivision (a).

3 O. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner with respect to the subject
4 matter hereof and agrees to the execution of this Consent Order as a resolution of the matter without
5 the need to initiate litigation.

6 P. The Commissioner finds this Consent Order is appropriate, in the public interest, for
7 the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and
8 provisions of the Corporate Securities Law of 1968 (CSL).

9 NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and the terms and conditions set forth
10 herein, the Parties agree as follows:

11 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

12 1. Purpose. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the foregoing issues in a
13 manner that avoids the expense of a hearing and possible other court proceedings.

14 2. Desist and Refrain Order. Robert Mark Linderman is hereby ordered to desist and
15 refrain from the further offer or sale of securities, in the State of California, including but not limited
16 to lending agreements such as FPCMs, unless and until qualification has been made under said law or
17 unless the security is exempt. Robert Mark Linderman is further hereby ordered to desist and refrain
18 from effecting, inducing or attempting to induce the purchase or sale of securities in this state without
19 first applying for and securing from the Commissioner a certificate authorizing him to act in that
20 capacity. Robert Mark Linderman is further hereby ordered to desist and refrain from acting as an
21 investment adviser in the State of California unless and until he has first applied for and secured from
22 the commissioner a certificate authorizing him to act as an investment adviser, or unless exempt.

23 3. Waiver of Hearing Rights. Respondent has read this Consent Order, is aware of his
24 rights to a hearing and appeal in this matter if a formal enforcement action had been commenced to
25 request the relief specified under this Consent Order, and elects to permanently waive any right to a
26 hearing and appeal, including those rights under the CSL, the California Administrative Procedures
27 Act (Gov. Code, § 11400 et seq.), and the Code of Civil Procedure with respect to the issuance of
28 the Desist and Refrain Order specified in Paragraph 2.

1 4. Future Actions by the Commissioner. The Parties acknowledge and agree that nothing
2 contained in this Consent Order shall operate to limit the Commissioner’s ability to assist any other
3 agency, (county, state or federal) with any prosecution, administrative, civil or criminal, brought by
4 any such agency against Respondent based upon the subject matter hereof or otherwise. This
5 Consent Order shall not limit the ability of the Commissioner to bring any administrative or civil
6 action to enforce compliance with this Consent Order or to seek penalties for its violation. Further,
7 the Commissioner reserves the right to bring any future action(s) against Respondent for all unknown
8 or future violations of the CSL.

9 5. Independent Legal Advice. Respondent represents, warrants, and agrees that he has
10 had the opportunity to seek independent advice from legal counsel and/or representative with respect
11 to the advisability of executing this Consent Order.

12 6. No Other Representation. Each of the Parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in
13 executing this Consent Order each has relied solely on the statements set forth herein and the advice
14 of its own counsel and/or representative. Each of the Parties further represents, warrants, and agrees
15 that in executing this Consent Order it has placed no reliance on any statement, representation, or
16 promise of any other party, or any other person or entity not expressly set forth herein, or upon the
17 failure of any party or any other person or entity to make any statement, representation or disclosure
18 of anything whatsoever. The Parties have included this clause: (1) to preclude any claim that any
19 party was in any way fraudulently induced to execute this Consent Order; and (2) to preclude the
20 introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or contradict the terms of this Consent
21 Order.

22 7. Modifications and Qualified Integration. No amendment, change, or modification to
23 this Consent Order shall be valid or binding to any extent unless it is in writing and signed by all the
24 parties affected by it.

25 8. Full Integration. This Consent Order is the final written expression and the complete
26 and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and covenants
27 between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior or
28 contemporaneous agreements, negotiations, representations, understandings, and discussions between

1 and among the Parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity, with respect to
2 the subject matter covered hereby.

3 9. No Presumption from Drafting. In that the Parties have had the opportunity to draft,
4 review and edit the language of this Consent Order, no presumption for or against any party arising
5 out of drafting all or any part of this Consent Order will be applied in any action relating to,
6 connected, to, or involving this Consent Order. Accordingly, the Parties waive the benefit of Civil
7 Code section 1654 and any successor or amended statute, providing that in cases of uncertainty,
8 language of a contract should be interpreted most strongly against the party who caused the
9 uncertainty to exist.

10 10. Collateral Estoppel. Respondent agrees the facts and violations set forth in paragraphs
11 A through N, above, in this Consent Order may be taken as true without further proof in any
12 bankruptcy case or subsequent civil litigation the Commissioner may pursue to enforce the
13 Department's rights to any payment or money judgment under the terms of this Consent Order,
14 including but not limited to, any nondischargeability complaint in any bankruptcy proceeding and
15 that this Consent Order shall have collateral estoppel effect in any bankruptcy case.

16 11. Effect Upon Future Proceedings. If Respondent applies for any license, permit or
17 qualification under the Commissioner's current or future jurisdiction, or is the subject of any future
18 action by the Commissioner to enforce this Consent Order, then the subject matter hereof shall be
19 admitted for the purpose of such application(s) or enforcement proceedings(s).

20 12. Counterparts. This Consent Order may be executed in one or more counterparts, each
21 of which shall be an original but all of which, together, shall be deemed to constitute a single
22 document.

23 13. Terms, Headings and Governing Law. All terms used, but not defined herein, shall
24 have the meaning assigned to them by the CSL. The headings to the paragraphs of this Consent
25 Order are inserted for convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the
26 construction or interpretation of the provisions hereof. This Consent Order shall be construed and
27 enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California.

28 14. Authority for Settlement. Each party warrants and represents that such party is fully

1 entitled and duly authorized to enter and deliver this Consent Order. In particular, and without
2 limiting the generality of the foregoing, each party warrants and represents that it is fully entitled to
3 enter the covenants, and undertake the obligations set forth herein.

4 15. Public Record. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order is a public record.
5 Respondent further understands and agrees to not make any statement or representation that is
6 inconsistent with the Consent Order.

7 16. Voluntary Agreement. The Parties each represent and acknowledge that in executing
8 this Consent Order, each does so completely voluntarily and without any duress or undue influence of
9 any kind from any source.

10 17. Effective Date: This Consent Order shall become effective when executed by the
11 Commissioner or her designee and transmitted by electronic mail (email) to Respondent at
12 bob@safemoneybob.com and robert@vision-8.com.

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14 Dated: 6/8/18

JAN LYNN OWEN
Commissioner of Business Oversight

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By: _____
MARY ANN SMITH
Deputy Commissioner
Enforcement Division

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20 Dated: 6/8/18

ROBERT MARK LINDERMAN

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