# BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOAN

**What type of loan is it?**
- Fixed Rate
- Variable (Adjustable) Rate / Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM)
- Interest Only Loans (non conventional loan)
- Conventional
- FHA, VA
- Other: _______________________________________________________________

**Minimum Down Payment**

**Loan Term (Length of Loan - 12, 36, 120, 180, 360 months - other?)**

**Contract Interest Rate**

**Annual Percentage Rate (APR)**

**Points (Sometimes called Discount Points)**

**Estimated Monthly Payment***

**Does this include escrow for taxes and insurance?**
- If YES, how much is for escrow?

**Does the loan have PMI (Property Mortgage Insurance)?**
- How much a month and for how long?

### FEES - Different lenders have different terms, this is a list of typical fees

- Origination or Underwriting Fee
- Broker Fees (Maybe quoted as points origination fees, or interest rate add on)
- Application or Loan Processing Fee
- Lender Fee or Funding Fee
- Appraisal Fee
- Credit Report
- Attorney Fees
- Recording Fees
- Document Preparation
- Yield Spread Premium (YSP) - Paid to Broker
- Other Fees:
  - 1)
  - 2)

### OTHER CLOSING OR SETTLEMENT COSTS

- Title Search
- Title Exam/Binder
- Title Insurance
State and Local Taxes, stamp taxes, transfer taxes
Flood Determination
Prepaid PMI
Surveys
Home inspections/Pest inspection

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<tr>
<th>TOTAL FEES AND CLOSING COST ESTIMATES</th>
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**OTHER QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT LOAN**

Can any of these fees or costs be waived?

**Prepayment Penalties**
- Is there a prepayment penalty?
- If YES, how much is it?
- How long does it last (3 yrs, 5 yrs)?
- Are extra principal payments allowed?

**Balloon Loans**
- Is it a Balloon Loan?
- If YES, how much is the payment?
- When is it due?

**Lock-Ins (Rate Locks)**
- Is there a lock-in agreement in writing?
- Is there a fee to lock the rate?
- When does the lock-in occur, at application, approval or another time?
- How long does it last?
- When the rate drops before closing, can you lock-in at a lower rate?

**Variable or Adjustable Rate Loans**
- What is the initial rate?
- What is the maximum the rate could be next year?
- What are the rate and payment caps each year and over the life of the loan?
- What is the frequency of the rate change and any changes to monthly payment?
- What is the index the lender will use?
- What margin will the lender add to the index?

**Credit Life/Disability Insurance**
- Does the monthly amount quoted to you include a charge for credit insurance?
- If so, does the lender require it as a condition of the loan?
- How much does it cost?
- How much lower would your monthly payment be without the insurance?
- If the lender does not require it and you still want it, what rates can you get from other insurance companies?

**Arbitration Clause**
- Is there an arbitration clause?
- If YES, is there a cost to you?
**MORTGAGE TERMS**

**Annual Percentage Rate (APR):** Cost of the credit, which includes the interest and all other finance charges. If APR is more than .75 to 1 percentage point higher than the interest rate you were quoted, there are significant fees being added to the loan.

**Appraisal:** A determination of the value of a home by a third party who is hired by the lender to assure the home has enough value to pay off the loan should the borrower default. It is typically paid for by the borrower.

**Balloon Payment:** Large payment due at the end of a loan. This happens when a borrower has a low monthly payment covering only interest and a small portion of the principal, leaving almost the whole loan amount due in one payment at the end. If you cannot make this payment, you could lose your home.

**Escrow:** The holding of money or documents by a neutral third party prior to closing. It can also be an account held by the lender (or servicer) into which a homeowner pays money for taxes and insurance.

**Interest Rate:** The cost of borrowing money expressed as a percentage rate.

**Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)** a revolving line of credit using your house as collateral.

**Loan Origination Fees:** Fees paid to the lender or broker for handling the paperwork in arranging the loan. These are prepaid finance charges paid at the loan closing and are included in your APR calculation.

**Lock-In:** A written agreement guaranteeing a home buyer a specific interest rate on a home loan provided that the loan is closed within a certain period of time, such as 60 or 90 days. Often the agreement also specifies the number of points to be paid at closing.

**Points:** Fees paid to the lender to obtain the loan. One point is equal to 1% of the loan amount. Points should be paid at the time of the loan.

**Prepayment Penalty:** Fees required to be paid by you if the loan is paid off early. Try to avoid any prepayment penalty that lasts more than 3 years or is for more than 1-2% of the loan amount. Certain high rate/high cost loans may not have prepayment penalties under state and federal laws.

**Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI):** Insurance that protects the lender against a loss if a borrower defaults on the loan. It is usually required for loans in which the down payment is less than 20 percent of the sales price or, in a refinancing, when the amount financed is greater than 80 percent of the appraised value.

**Yield Spread Premium (YSP):** Payment to the broker for selling a higher interest rate loan than would otherwise be charged for that borrower. It must be disclosed to the borrower at the time of the loan and is generally acceptable if there are no other broker fees and this is how the broker is getting paid for his or her services.

*A Good Faith Estimate (GFE) is a written list of the estimated closing costs in a mortgage, including the lender’s charges as well as the local closing agent’s charges and fees. It also includes estimated costs for real estate property tax and homeowner’s insurance. Pursuant to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), a U.S. mortgage lender must present an estimate of all closing fees to the borrower within three days after submission of an application for a loan. The estimate is designed to give borrowers the ability to shop and compare the fees of one loan to another, so that they can make informed decisions based on the cost of the loan. If you negotiated the contract in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese or Korean you are entitled to a GFE in that language.*

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*Ensuring a fair and secure financial services marketplace for all Californians.*

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