

Board of Supervisors

January 17, 2023

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Director Rafael Carbaial

Chief of Staff Joel Ayala Araceli Dyson

Department of Financial Protection and Innovation

2101 Arena Boulevard

Sacramento, California 95834

regulations@dfpi.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Dyson:

Notice of Modification to Proposed Rulemaking (PRO 03-21) California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation – SUPPORT

The County of Los Angeles (County) Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) supports the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation's (DFPI) Notice of Modification to Proposed Rulemaking (PRO 03-21).

The proposed rules indicate that covered persons must establish reasonable procedures to respond to consumer complaints and inquiries in a timely manner, including requiring that complaint procedures be in place, that complaint forms both in paper and electronic format are made available online, required record keeping and reporting, required dedicated complaint phone number with live representatives, restrictions on statutes of limitations for complaints less than four years, and requirements to provide contracts to clients in the language used during negotiation.

DCBA fully supports these rules as we share a similar commitment to consumer protections and dispute resolution. These rules will provide constituents another opportunity to resolve their disputes while increasing accountability for this industry. An effective consumer complaint process and the increased transparency is a valuable tool for consumer protection agencies to identify trends and risks of consumer harm, compliance management program deficiencies, and customer service issues. Additionally, these rules provide an opportunity for the lending agent to monitor their operations and detect indicators of possible weaknesses in processes and controls which could lead to less legal liability and ultimately long-term cost savings.

Sincerely,

Rafael Carbajal Director

