

Public Records Act vs. Information Practices Act

How to Request and Protect Government Records

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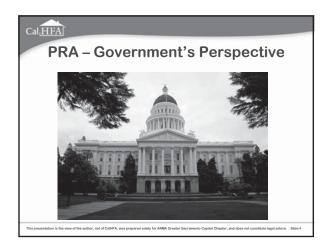
March 21, 2017

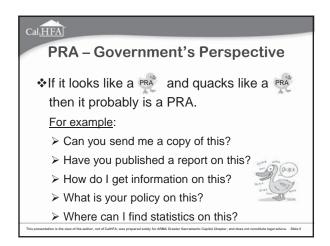
Public Records Act vs. Information Practices Act

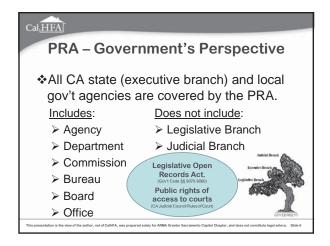
- ❖This workshop will:
 - >Discuss the laws (PRA and IPA) from both the government's and citizen's perspectives.
 - > Provide side-by-side comparisons of the laws.
 - ➤ Present actual PRA and IPA requests received and processed by CalHFA.
 - ➤ Provide you with the tools you need for getting the government records you want.

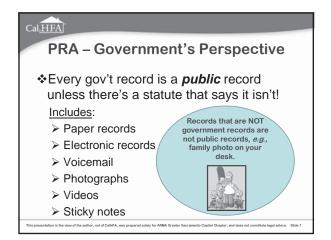
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Public Records Act vs. Information Practices Act Outline Public Records Act (PRA) Government's Perspective (Sildes 4-11) Citizen's Rights (Sildes 12-18) Sample Requests (Sildes 20-27) Information Practices Act (IPA) Government's Perspective (Sildes 20-35) Citizen's Rights (Sildes 38-43) Sample Requests (Sildes 44-51) Handout PRA vs. IPA side-by-side comparison









PRA – Government's Perspective Common exemptions to disclosure: Privacy Trade Secrets Attorney-client privilege Attorney work-product privilege Communications with the governor Read narrowly to provide maximum access. Burden to justify nondisclosure is on Gov't.

PRA – Government's Perspective ❖Records must be "currently existing" at the time the PRA request is made. ❖You are not required to "create" records in response to a PRA request. ❖You are not required to "retain" records for the sole purpose of anticipating a PRA. ❖Information that is only "in your head"

is not a PRA.

PRA – Government's Perspective

Any "member of the public" may file a PRA.

Includes:

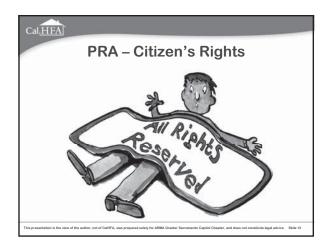
Natural persons anywhere in the world
(e.g., Californians, residents of other states/countries, prisoners)

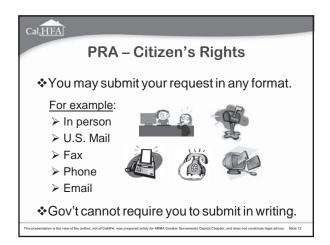
Business entities

Representatives of the news media

Gov't employees acting in their official capacity are not "members of the public."

PRA – Government's Perspective You have 10 calendar days to respond to most PRA's. You must produce the records "promptly" thereafter (e.g., within 1 to 2 weeks). Exception: Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interest) must be produced within 2 business days. You cannot require the requestor to accept the records electronically.





PRA – Citizen's Rights *You may submit your request anonymously. *Gov't cannot ask for your name, company name, why you want the records, or what you plan to do with the records.

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PRA - Citizen's Rights

- Gov't must provide assistance to help you identify records and information relevant to your request.
- Gov't cannot expect you to know how its files are set up.
- You may provide additional information, such as what you are trying to accomplish, but you are not required to do so.

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PRA – Citizen's Rights

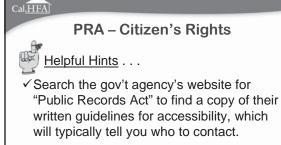
You may request someone else's PRA request via your own PRA request, for example, "Send me the last five PRA requests from the Sacramento Bee."



- ❖Your PRA request is a public record!
- Do not put anything in your request that you would not want to see on a billboard!

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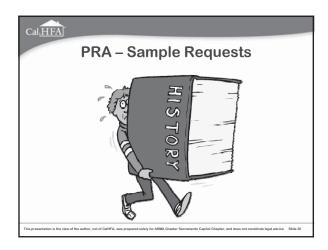
PRA – Citizen's Rights *Access is always free. ** *Fees for "inspection" or "processing" are prohibited. *You only pay "direct cost of duplication" if you want copies (e.g., 10¢ per page for paper; actual postage costs if mailed). ** If records are stored offsite, and the gov't incurs a retrieval cost, the actual cost may be charged to you.

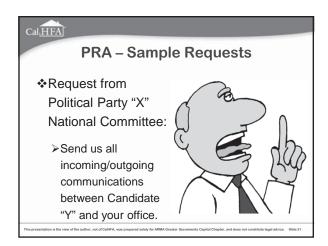


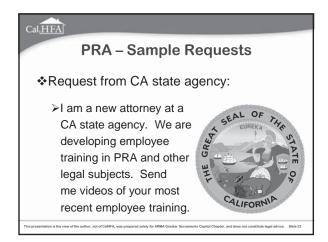
✓ Submit your request directly to the gov't agency's "Public Records Coordinator" to avoid delays.

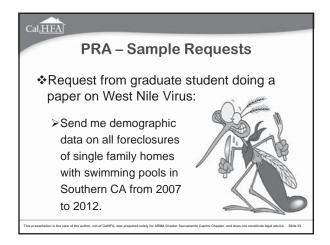
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PRA – Citizen's Rights Helpful Hints . . . (continued) ✓ Requests are "received" during regular business hours: Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, except CA gov't holidays. PROPER Request faxed at 5:01pm Friday is "received" at 8am Monday. ✓ 10 days start to count the day after received. PROPER Request received" at 8am Monday is day 2ero: Tuesday is day 1; next Thursday is day 10. ✓ If due date is weekend/holiday, gov't agency has until next business day to respond.

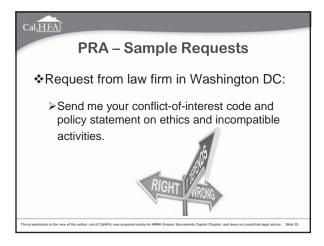




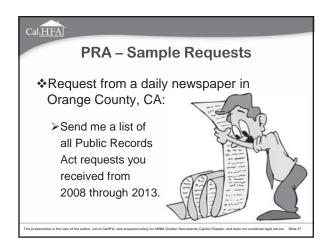


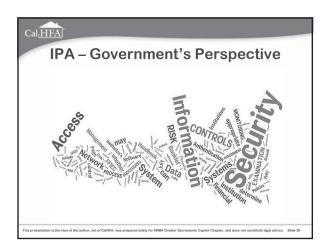












IPA – Government's Perspective ❖ Four key criteria that subject records to IPA: ➢ Non-public, i.e., not subject to PRA. ➢ Collected and maintained by gov't. ➢ Contain privacy-protected "personal information" relating to individuals. • "Personal information" is any information maintained by a CA gov't agency that identifies or describes an individual. ➢ Not subject to statutory exemption.

IPA – Government's Perspective ❖Three major concerns of the IPA: ➤ Collection. What information can the gov't legitimately collect on individuals, and how? ➤ Disclosure. What information can the gov't disclose, and to whom? ➤ Access. What must the gov't do to meet an individual's statutory access rights?

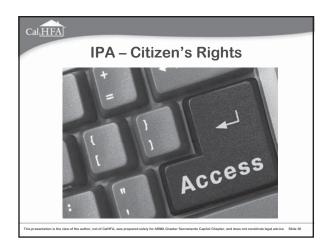
IPA – Government's Perspective ❖ Collection. Information must be "relevant and necessary." Maintain only that personal information which is relevant and necessary to accomplish the gov't agency's purpose. Collect information directly from individual when possible; maintain record of info source. Provide "notice" when collecting information. Notice must include purpose of collection, whether it is mandatory, circumstance of not providing information, etc.

IPA – Government's Perspective Disclosure. No disclosure of personal information unless specific statutory basis exists for disclosure. Key disclosure categories: To the individual to whom the information pertains. To third party with consent of the individual. To guardian, conservator, executor, trustee, etc., with official legal authorizing documents. To gov't entities when required by state or federal law.

IPA – Government's Perspective ❖ Disclosure. (continued) Key disclosure categories (continued) • To officers, employees, attorneys, agents, volunteers of the gov't agency, if disclosure is: ○ Necessary & relevant in the ordinary course of performance of official duties; and, ○ Related to the purpose for which the information was acquired. • Pursuant to subpoena, court order, search warrant, or other compulsory legal process. ○ You must attempt to notify individual, unless judge has signed order not to notify. • To the State Archives as a record that has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation.

IPA – Government's Perspective *Access. > Individuals have broad access rights with limited exceptions. > Inspection must be provided within 30 days of request (60 days if records are offsite); copies within 15 days of inspection. > No fees for search and review. > Statutory limit of 10¢ per page for copies.

IPA – Government's Perspective ❖ Access. (continued) ➤ Gov't must verify the requestor's identity. ➤ Information must be provided to the individual "in a form reasonably comprehensible to the general public" (i.e., no cryptic printouts!). ➤ Gov't must have procedures (i.e., regs or guidelines) to implement access rights. ➤ Safeguards: physical, technical, administrative.



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IPA – Citizen's Rights
Which state and local gov't agencies may have your personal information?
➤ Sacramento County Registrar of Voters (registered voter)
➤ Sacramento County Animal Care (pet license)
➤ CA Franchise Tax Board (income tax)
> CA Department of Motor Vehicles (driver's license)
 Sacramento City Building Department (building permit)
➤ Sacramento City Fire Department (ambulance service)
Et cetera
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their website.

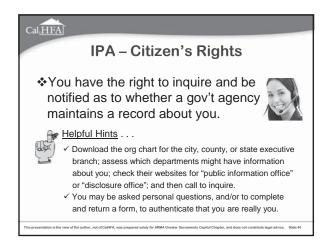
IPA – Citizen's Rights ❖Depending on the laws applying to the particular agency, some of your personal information may be public records! ➤Registrar of Voters shares their computer screen with your info (name, address, phone, political party) to anyone who stops by. ➤City Building Department publishes your info

(name, address, phone, building permit) on

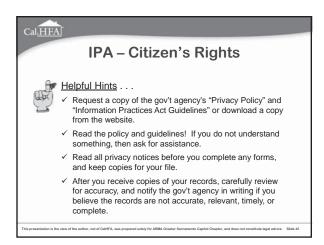
IPA – Citizen's Rights

IIPA – Citizen's Rights

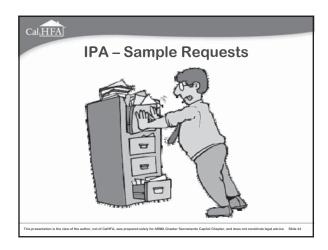
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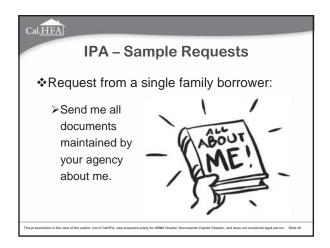


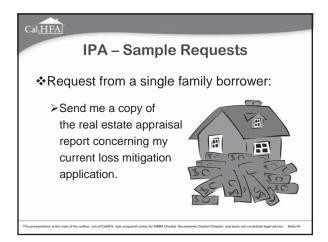
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IPA – Citizen's Rights
You should receive a "Privacy Notice" before personal information is collected.
Notice will typically state: Name of gov't agency collecting the information. Specific authority for collecting the information. Statement that information is subject to the IPA. Principal purpose for which information will be used. Any known or foreseeable disclosures of information. Whether submission of information is mandatory or voluntary. Your rights to access records containing your personal information. Who you should contact if you want to file an IPA request. A reference to the gov't agency's privacy policy. This repeatable is a rever of the above, rest of collections and does not contable that eachers. Stick till.

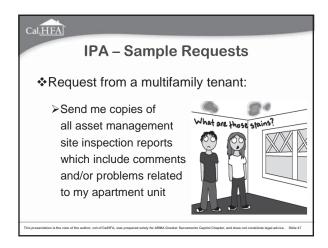


IPA – Citizen's Rights ❖You have the right to receive gov't records about you. ❖You have the right to contest the accuracy of gov't records about you. ❖You have the right to appeal gov't agency refusal to amend your records. ❖You have the right to file a statement in your file if your appeal is denied.

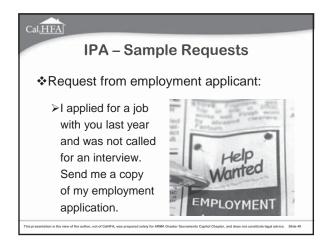


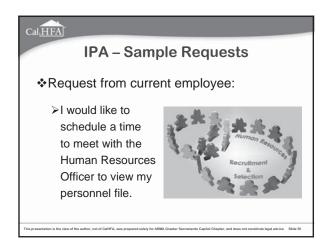




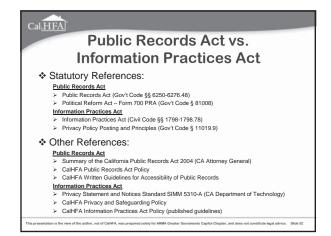


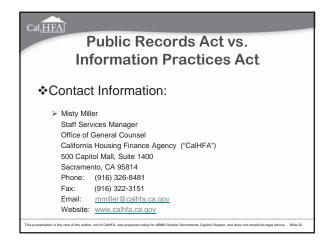












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Questions
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