# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of Washington by:

Order Number S-10-025-10-CO01

CONSENT ORDER

Olympic Coast Investment, Inc.,

Respondent

## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Securities Act of Washington, chapter 21.20 RCW, the Securities Division of the Department of Financial Institutions ("Securities Division") and Respondent, Olympic Coast Investment, Inc., do hereby enter into this CONSENT ORDER in settlement of the matters alleged herein. Respondent neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated below.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

## Respondent

1. Olympic Coast Investment, Inc. ("OCI") is a Washington corporation that was incorporated on March 2, 1995. OCI is in the business of offering and selling mortgage paper securities, as defined in WAC 460-33A-015. Pursuant to chapter 460-33A of the Washington Administrative Code, OCI is registered with the Washington Securities Division as a mortgage paper securities broker-dealer. OCI has been registered as a mortgage paper securities broker-dealer since 1995. OCI has its principal place of business in Seattle, Washington.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **Securities Division** PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760

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## OCI's Business Activities

- 2. OCI originates and acquires loans to borrowers and receives loan fees that are a percentage of the total loan amount. The loans are evidenced by promissory notes from the borrower and are secured by real property deeds of trust. OCI then offers and sells participation interests in the promissory notes and deeds of trust to investors. The interest rate that is paid to the investors is less than the interest rate that is paid by the borrower. OCI keeps the interest rate spread.
- 3. After the investments have been sold, OCI provides additional services to the investors. OCI services the loans by collecting loan payments from the borrower and remitting payments to the investors. OCI receives a loan servicing fee that is a small percentage of the payments to investors. If a borrower defaults on a loan, OCI pursues collection of the loan and, if necessary, initiates a foreclosure proceeding.

## OCI's Disclosure Obligation

4. When offering and selling a promissory note and deed of trust investment, OCI and its representatives must give each investor a General Offering Circular that has general information about mortgage paper securities investments and about OCI. OCI and its representatives must also give each investor a Specific Offering Circular that describes the terms and discloses any special risks of each offering. The Specific Offering Circular and General Offering Circular, together, must disclose all material facts about the investment.

## The Villas at Altura, LLC Loan

5. During 2007, OCI originated a \$3,000,000 loan to a borrower named The Villas at Altura, LLC. The borrower was a Utah real estate developer and real estate investor. The Villas at Altura, LLC owned

20 vacant residential lots in the Altura Community, a high-end residential development located in Woodfin, North Carolina. The lots were encumbered by a \$3,000,000 deed of trust to secure the loan.

## The Villas at Altura, LLC Securities Offering

6. During 2007, Respondent offered and sold \$3,000,000 worth of promissory note and deed of trust investments in The Villas at Altura, LLC mortgage paper securities offering, OCI Loan #27074. The investments were sold to more than 70 investors. According to the disclosures in the Specific Offering Circular, OCI received a loan origination fee that was 8% of the loan amount and was payable from the loan proceeds and a loan servicing fee of 0.5% from the monthly payments to the investors.

## Special Risks of the Offering

7. In the "Special Risks" section of the Specific Offering Circular, Respondent represented that the lots securing the loan were 60% complete. The Specific Offering Circular also stated that "The roads are cut in and the utilities, water and sewer are currently being stubbed to the lots. OCI has held back \$400,000 to assure the completion of the infrastructure."

## Misrepresentations and Omissions

8. When offering and selling The Villas at Altura, LLC promissory note and deed of trust investments, Respondent failed to disclose to investors that OCI's \$400,000 holdback would not ensure that the infrastructure would be completed. Respondent failed to disclose that the developer of the subdivision, which was a different company from The Villas at Altura, LLC, was responsible for ensuring that all utilities would be installed for the entire subdivision. Respondent also failed to disclose that in order to complete the sewer service, the developer would have to pay the Metropolitan Sewerage District approximately \$360,000 to install a sewer lift station. Although the amount due has subsequently been

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reduced to approximately \$300,000, the payment for the lift station has never been made and, to date, there is still no operating sewer system for the Altura lots. There are also additional utilities services that have not been installed.

## Development Holdback

9. When offering and selling The Villas at Altura, LLC promissory note and deed of trust investments, Respondent represented to investors that there would be a \$400,000 holdback to cover the cost of completing the infrastructure for the lots. However, after the borrower defaulted on the loan, OCI began making interest payments to investors using funds from the \$400,000 development holdback. Under WAC 460-33A-065, any payments received on the note shall not be used for any transaction other than the transaction for which the funds are received. Also, in accordance with WAC 460-33A-065, OCI's Participation Investment Agreement states that if the source of any loan payment is someone other than the borrower, OCI shall promptly inform investors about the source of the payment. OCI did not promptly send a written notice to investors to advise them that the development holdback funds were being used to make interest payments to investors. Following a routine examination of OCI by the Securities Division, OCI sent a letter dated October 27, 2009 to notify investors that OCI was using monies from the \$400,000 development holdback to make monthly interest payments for the investment. According to the letter, the development holdback had a remaining balance of \$142,035.25.

## Loan Default

10. Pursuant to WAC 460-33A-065, OCI is obligated under its Participation Investment Agreement to promptly notify investors about any default on a note that is subject to a loan servicing agreement. OCI failed to promptly notify investors that the borrower, The Villas at Altura, LLC, had defaulted on its

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promissory note. The note came due on December 1, 2008 and was not repaid. OCI did not send a notice of default to investors until October 27, 2009. In the October 27, 2009 letter, OCI stated that it had decided to commence the foreclosure action on the loan.

Based upon the Tentative Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

I.

The offer or sale of the investments described above constitutes the offer or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005(10) and (12), whether in the form of a note, an investment contract, or an evidence of indebtedness.

II.

As a condition of registration, in accordance with WAC 460-33A-065, and as provided in its loan servicing agreement, Respondent must promptly notify investors of any default on a promissory note. As set forth in the Tentative Findings of Fact, Respondent failed to give prompt notification to investors that the promissory note from The Villas at Altura, LLC was in default.

III.

As a condition of registration, in accordance with WAC 460-33A-065, and as provided in its loan servicing agreement, Respondent must not use payments for any transaction other than the transaction for which the funds were received. As set forth in the Tentative Findings of Fact, Respondent failed to promptly notify investors that the \$400,000 development holdback was being used to make investor interest payments, rather than being used as a development holdback to assure the completion of the infrastructure for the lots securing the investment.

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As set forth in the Tentative Findings of Fact, Respondent violated RCW 21.20.010 by making an untrue statement of a material fact or omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

## CONSENT ORDER

Based upon the foregoing and finding it in the public interest:

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent, Olympic Coast Investment, Inc., and its agents and employees, each shall cease and desist from offering or selling securities in violation of RCW 21.20.010.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent, Olympic Coast Investment, Inc., shall pay a fine of \$10,000 prior to the entry of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent, Olympic Coast Investment, Inc., shall pay investigative costs of \$3,000 prior to the entry of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that in order to promote better communications with investors, OCI will enter into a contract with Informia, Inc. Through the use of Informia's product, InvestorUpdate, OCI investors will be able to access status reports and updated loan information via a secured login.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Securities Division has jurisdiction to enter this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that in consideration of the foregoing Respondent, Olympic Coast Investment, Inc., hereby waives its rights to a hearing in this matter and to judicial review of this Order.

WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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1	SIGNED this21 day of July, 2010	
2	Signed by:	
3	Olympic Coast Investment, Inc.	
4	By/s/ John R. Hoss	
5	John R. Hoss, President	
6	Approved by:	
7		
8	Scott B. Osborne, WSBA #6246 Attorney for Respondent	
9		_
10	SIGNED and ENTERED this <u>23rd</u> day of <u>July</u> , 2010	
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12		
13	William & enty	
14	WILLIAM M. BEATTY	_
15	Securities Administrator	
16	Presented by:	
17	Janet Do	
18		_
19 20	Janet So Enforcement Attorney	
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