

REQUESTS FOR REDUCTIONS ARE FREE!

HAVE YOU RECENTLY RECEIVED SOLICITATIONS IN THE MAIL FROM COMPANIES THAT PROMISE BIG REDUCTIONS IN YOUR ASSESSED VALUES IN EXCHANGE FOR A FEE?

Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone cautions taxpayers to be wary of solicitations promising reduced assessed values in exchange for a fee. There is no reason for a property owner to pay a fee to a private company for a service taxpayers receive from the Assessor's Office without charge.

By soliciting taxpayers before the Assessor's notification card is mailed, these companies are encouraging homeowners to pay a fee to apply for a reduction in their assessment, a reduction that they are likely to receive automatically from the Assessor's Office in late June.

Important Dates:

Prop 8 Request Deadline: August 15
Appeal Filing Period: Between July 2 and September 15

**DO NOT WAIT FOR YOUR TAX BILL
AS YOU MAY MISS THE APPEAL
FILING DEADLINE!**

Need to contact us?

General Questions/Public Service

Phone (408) 299-5500

Fax (408) 298-9446

www.sccassessor.org

Request a reduction (Prop 8)

Single Family/Condominiums

Phone (408) 299-5300

Fax (408) 299-3015

www.sccassessor.org/prop8

rp@asr.sccgov.org

Mobile Homes

Phone (408) 299-5400

Fax (408) 298-9441

www.sccassessor.org/prop8

busdiv@asr.sccgov.org

Homeowner's/Other Exemptions

Phone (408) 299-6460

Fax (408) 271-8812

exemptions@asr.sccgov.org

(Rev 8/17/09)

The Property Owner's Guide to Lowering Property Taxes (Proposition 8)

*How the Assessor
proactively responds to
declines in market value and
how it may lower your
property taxes*

LAWRENCE E. STONE
Assessor

Office of the Assessor
County of Santa Clara
County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 5th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110-1771



**We have bilingual staff to assist you. Call our
office at (408) 299-5500.**

**ANNUAL NOTIFICATION CARDS
WILL BE MAILED IN LATE JUNE!**

For more than 30 years, Santa Clara County has mailed annual notification cards, and is one of only 9 counties in California that notifies all property owners of their assessed value before the assessment roll is closed on July 1, 2009. This year, property owners will receive their annual notification cards during the **last week of June**.

The annual notification card contains the property's address, assessed value, qualified exemptions and parcel number. The back of the card includes important information regarding Proposition 13, and what to do if you do not agree with the assessed value.

**COUNTY ASSESSOR TO REVIEW
VALUES OF 200,000 HOMES**

The Santa Clara County Assessor's Office will review the assessments of nearly 200,000 residential properties to determine if their values have dropped amid the real estate meltdown. Property owners are asked to wait until the Assessor's Office has had an opportunity to complete the review of the values of these properties to determine which properties will receive reductions. The review will be completed in late June.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will there be changes to my current tax bill due in April 2009?

A. No, your current tax bill is for the 2008/2009 tax year. The Assessor is now determining assessed values that will be used to set the property tax bill for the 2009-2010 tax year.

Q. What should a homeowner do now?

A. Wait for your notification card in June. If the current market value of your property as of January 1, 2009 is below what you paid for it, it is likely you will receive a temporary reduction.

Q. After I receive my notification card in June, what if I still disagree with the assessed value on the notification card?

A. Once you receive your notification card in June, if you believe that the market value of your property as of January 1, 2009 is less than the assessed value shown on the card, contact our office to request a Prop 8 review. There is NO CHARGE to request a Prop 8 review.

Q. What's the best way to apply for a reduced assessed value?

A. The fastest way to apply for a Prop 8 (decline in value) review is to go to www.sccassessor.org/prop8. Prop 8 requests can also be made by phone, fax, mail, e-mail or in person.

Q. Is there a difference between an informal request for reduced assessment (Prop 8) and a "formal" appeal of your assessed value?

A. Yes. The informal Prop 8 review is handled by the Assessor's Office and you have until August 15 to make this request. After August 15, or if the Assessor does not agree to a reduction, you must file a "formal" appeal with the Clerk of the Board.

Q. How do I file a formal appeal?

A. Appeal applications must be filed between July 2 and September 15, with the Clerk of the Board, County Government Center, 70 W. Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor, San Jose, CA 95110. The Clerk cannot legally accept an application before July 2 or after September 15. (The exception is if you are appealing a Notice of Supplemental Assessment, Notice of Escape Assessment or Notice of Corrected Assessment). The Clerk does charge a processing fee of \$30 for each application. Applications may be obtained by calling the Clerk at (408) 299-5088 or going to <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/cob>.