



**Sacramento County
Office of the Assessor**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THEY LOOK LIKE TAX BILLS BUT THEY'RE NOT!

A southern California-based company is blanketing Sacramento County with mailings resembling property tax bills that promise property tax savings if the property owner pays \$95.00 for a service provided free of charge by the Sacramento County Assessor's Office and the Sacramento County Assessment Appeals Board. Many local taxpayers have already called and visited the Assessor's Office with these pseudo-tax bill forms.

Assessor Kenneth D. Stieger would like to alert the public that this and other private companies offering similar services for fees are not affiliated with the county Assessor's Office or any other agency of local government. There is no requirement for property owners to use these companies' services in order to have their assessed value reduced due to a decline in market value.

Further, the time period for seeking adjustments for values on the current 2008-09 tax bills has expired. New requests for review of 2009-10 values can be submitted to the Assessor's Office beginning in June of 2009. Requests submitted either by a taxpayer or one of these companies before then will be rejected.

Over the past two years, the Assessor's Office has recognized the real estate market's downward trend. They have taken the initiative to reduce the assessed value of over 50,000 properties for the 2007-08 property tax roll and over 90,000 properties for 2008-09 roll. The Assessor's staff continues to monitor market activity and is preparing to reduce the assessed values of well over 100,000 properties on the 2009-10 tax bills to be issued this coming October. These bills will reflect market values as of January 1, 2009.

Property owners dissatisfied with values posted by the Assessor in June 2009 will still have the option to ask the Assessor for a review and file an assessment appeal – for free. The appeal filing period will extend from July 2, 2009 through November 30, 2009. Paying a private company a fee for this service is not necessary and will not expedite the process.

For more information on decline-in-value and other assessment matters, visit the Assessor's web site at www.assessor.saccounty.net, call the Assessor's customer service line at (916) 875-0700, or visit the Assessor's Office in person at 3701 Power Inn Road, Suite 3000 (Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

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