A MESSAGE FROM ASSESSOR TOM J. SLAVICH

My staff and I are committed in providing a timely, accurate and fair assessment roll for the citizens and property taxpayers of San Benito County. We are proud of the high level of public service offered to all those inquiring about the assessment of property whether by telephone, office visit, web site inquiries or direct contact with our appraisal staff out in the field. As part of this service we provide this Annual Report summarizing relevant information regarding assessments as they relate to San Benito County.

Our once strong real estate market that began the decade with a 13% increase in assessment value has drastically changed course. We experienced a reduction of over \$550 million in taxable value for the 2009-2010 assessment roll over the previous year, primarily due to the declining home values.



The net assessment roll, excluding utilities declined 8.5% from last year. Our total net taxable value exceeded \$6 billion for the 2009-2010 tax year. Business Personal Property values increased by 4.7% over last year due to expansion of food production facilities.

As a result of the economic downturn in the real estate market, we completed a proactive decline in value review of approximate 8,500 parcels. This resulted in reducing assessments for nearly 6,000 properties. Our staff will continue to monitor all relevant market data during the 2009 calendar year to determine if further reductions are warranted for the 2010-2011 assessment year.

My staff deserves praise as mentioned in the March 2009 Assessment Practices Survey conducted by the State Board of Equalization. The survey is a comprehensive audit of the Assessor's Office performed over a six month period by a team of the state's assessment professionals. The survey indicates the Assessor's Office 'has an aggressive program to recognize real property declines in value and the staff has been proactive in the process of informing owners who are likely to qualify for value reductions'. The report's Executive Summary states 'the Assessor's administrative programs as well as real property and personal property programs are effective and well managed'. This report also gave our office a 99.5% assessment quality rating while describing the Assessor's employees as courteous and cooperative during the survey.

This year we also completed final implementation of a new computer property tax system fully integrated between the Assessor, Auditor and Tax Collector Offices. Our office has been increasingly more involved in the County wide GIS system and we have continued to update the Assessor's website to include more forms and information for the taxpayers. These accomplishments will assist us in better serving the public.

I wish to thank the entire Assessor's staff for their hard work and dedication to our office and the citizens of San Benito County. I also give a special thanks and recognition to the Board of Supervisors for their continued support of our office.

Sincerely,

Tom J. Slavich

Assessor

2009-2010 COUNTY TAXABLE VALUES BY PROPERTY TYPE (INCLUDES SECURED & UNSECURED ROLLS - EXCLUDES UTILITIES)

	2008-2009 TAXABLE VALUE	2009-2010 TAXABLE VALUE	AMOUNT INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT INCREASE (DECREASE)
LAND	\$2,782,508,682	\$ 2,469,901,566	\$ -312,607,116	-11.2%
IMPROVEMENTS	3,639,770,813	3,387,788,773	-251,982,040	-6.9%
PERSONAL PROPERTY	296,753,216	310,634,386	13,881,170	<u>4.7%</u>
GROSS COUNTY VALUES	\$6,719,032,711	\$6,168,324,725	\$ -550,707,986	<u>-8.2%</u>
LESS EXEMPTIONS -				
HOMEOWNERS	\$ 66,332,662	\$ 65,466,762	\$ -865,900	-1.3%
MISC.	73,698,368	79,828,740	6,130,372	8.3%
TOTAL EXEMPTIONS	\$ 140,031,030	\$ 145,295,502	\$ 5,264,472	3.8%
NET COUNTY VALUES	<u>\$ 6,579,001,681</u>	\$ 6,023,029,223	<u>\$ - 555,972,458</u>	<u>-8.5%</u>

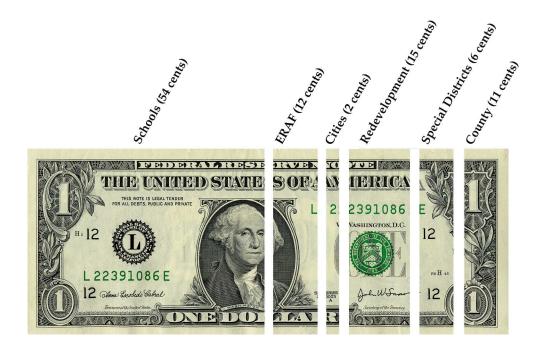
A WORD ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES

After determining the assessed value of all locally taxable property and granting all legal exemptions, the Assessor forwards the assessments to the Auditor-Controller's Office. The Auditor applies the appropriate tax rate and special assessments, determining the total tax due and submits this Tax Roll to the Tax Collector for billing and collection. Proposition 13 limits the basic property tax rate to one percent of the property's net taxable value.

The property tax revenue collected on the basic one percent tax rate is divided among the local governmental agencies in San Benito County. This revenue supports local schools, cities, redevelopment agencies, special districts, and San Benito County Government. The following chart illustrates how the tax dollars were distributed.

The fair and equitable valuation and assessment of all locally taxable property by our staff supports the delivery of essential public services provided to the residents and property owners of San Benito County. The Assessor does not apportion, calculate, bill or collect taxes. Please call the Auditor-Controller at (831)636-4090 for information regarding the allocation of property taxes. Please call the Tax Collector at (831)636-4034 for information regarding the payment and collection of property taxes.

San Benito County Property Tax Distribution (of each dollar of property tax collected)



2009-2010 TAXABLE VALUES BY SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE EXEMPTIONS

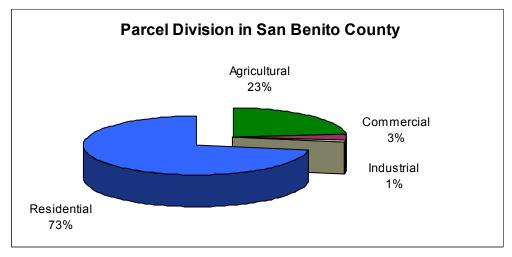
(INCLUDES SECURED & UNSECURED ROLLS - EXCLUDES UTILITIES)

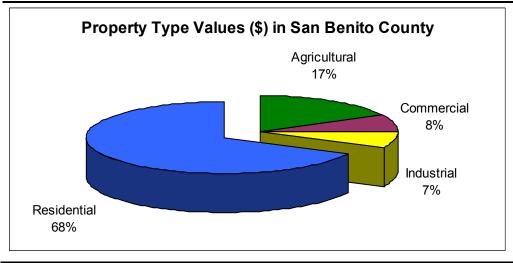
	2008-2009 TAXABLE	2009-2010 TAXABLE	AMOUNT INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	(DECREASE)	(DECREASE)
AROMAS/SAN JUAN	\$1,053,142,279	\$1,004,837,090	\$- 48,305,189	-4.6%
BITTERWATER	40,673,230	40,282,175	- 391,055	-1.0%
CIENEGA	64,258,570	63,806,367	- 452,203	-0.7%
COALINGA	900,691	912,833	12,142	1.3%
HOLLISTER	4,220,290,504	3,724,524,613	- 495,765,891	-11.7%
JEFFERSON	32,450,444	32,255,189	- 195,255	-0.6%
NORTH COUNTY	692,764,610	706,982,801	14,218,191	2.1%
PANOCHE	47,513,330	46,805,952	- 707,378	-1.5%
SOUTHSIDE	292,205,756	275,243,552	- 16,962,204	-5.8%
TRES PINOS	154,334,058	148,163,670	- 6,170,388	-4.0%
WILLOW GROVE	120,499,239	124,510,483	4,011,244	3.3%
TOTALS	<u>\$6,719,032,711</u>	<u>\$6,168,324,725</u>	<u>\$- 550,707,986</u>	<u>-8.2%</u>
(1) CITY OF HOLLISTER	\$3,234,719,551	\$2,827,979,993	\$- 406,739,558	-12.6%
(1) CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA	\$168,857,666	\$ 152,471,708	\$- 16,385,958	-9.70%
NOTE (1) - THESE TOTALS <u>ARE INCLUDED</u> IN THE ABOVE SCHOOL DISTRICT VALUES.				

2009-2010 TAXABLE VALUES BY TYPE OF PROPERTY

INCLUDES SECURED ROLL ONLY

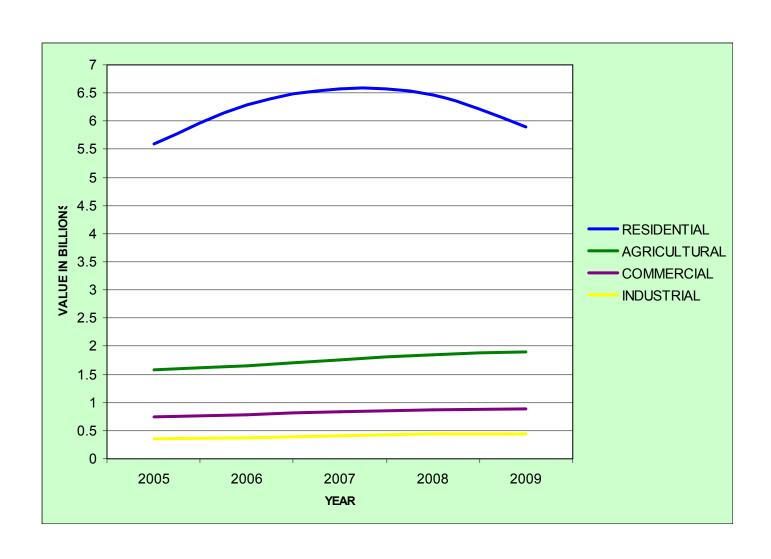
TYPE OF PROPERTY	<u>PARCELS</u>	TAXABLE VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTIONS
INDUSTRIAL	240	\$ 438,167,800
COMMERCIAL	597	\$ 448,311,931
AGRICULTURAL	4,549	\$1,020,074,916
RESIDENTIAL	<u>14,101</u>	\$3,996,840,076
TOTAL	<u>19,487</u>	<u>\$5,903,394,723</u>





TAXABLE VALUES BY TYPE OF PROPERTY 2005-2009 COMPARISON SCHEDULE

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
INDUSTRIAL	\$361,640,292	\$381,543,851	\$413,999,912	\$435,295,038	\$438,167,800
PARCEL COUNT	242	241	255	256	240
COMMERCIAL PARCEL COUNT	\$393,380,714 566	\$404,358,393 575	\$415,278,666 591	\$443,625,063 606	\$448,311,931 597
AGRICULTURAL	\$821,218,692	\$874,418,386	\$928,448,437	\$965,673,330	\$1,020,074,916
PARCEL COUNT	4,551	4,550	4,540	4,551	4,549
RESIDENTIAL	\$4,028,151,106	\$4,622,950,329	\$4,815,953,407	\$4,621,756,217	\$3,996,840,076
PARCEL COUNT	14,061	14,090	4,123	14,166	14,101



SAN BENITO COUNTY STATISTICS -

SAN BENITO COUNTY WAS FORMED IN 1874 FROM A PORTION OF MONTEREY COUNTY. THE COUNTY ALSO EXPANDED IN 1887 WHEN PORTIONS OF MERCED AND FRESNO COUNTIES WERE ANNEXED IN.

<u>SAN JUAN MISSION</u> WAS FOUNDED IN 1797 AND DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ON APRIL 15, 1970.

ANZA TRAIL COLONIZING EXPEDITION OF 1775-76 WAS LEAD BY SPANISH CAPTAIN JUAN de ANZA TO CONNECT NEW SPAIN (MEXICO) TO ALTA CALIFORNIA, THE 1200 MILE ROUTE STARTED IN NOGALES AZ AND ENDED IN SAN FRANCISCO. THE TRAIL THROUGH SAN BENITO COUNTY IS ALONG THE SAN JUAN GRADE ROAD ENTERING FROM MONTEREY COUNTY AND FOLLOWS SAN JUAN ROAD.

<u>PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT</u> WAS CREATED FROM AN ANCIENT VOLCANO. IN 1908, THE MONUMENT ALONG WITH 2,500 ACRES WAS ESTABLISHED AS A NATIONAL PARK. THE PARK NOW HAS OVER 26,000 ACRES AND IS THE RELEASE POINT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR.

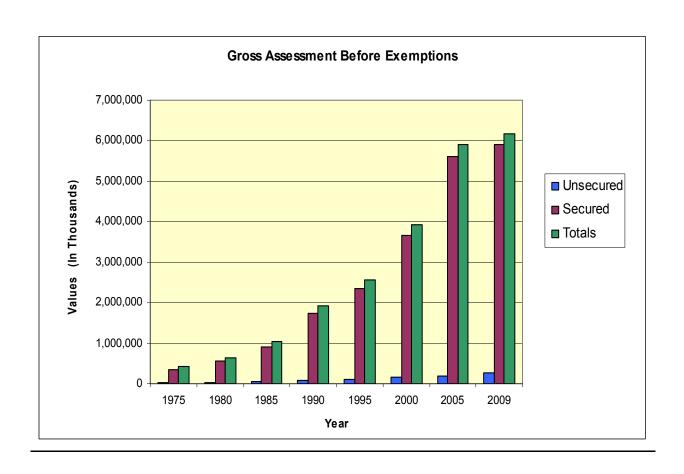
POPULATION (2005 stats.)	57,064
HOUSEHOLDS (2005 stats.)	18,014
SQUARE MILES	1,396
<u>ACRES</u>	893,440
CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL ACRES	126,400
LAND CONSERVATION ACT (THE WILLIAMSON ACT)	-
TOTAL ACRES UNDER THE ACT (INCLUDING NON-RENEWALS)	583,700
ACRES UNDER NON-RENEWAL	7,680
PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATELY OWNED LAND UND THE LAND CONSERVATION ACT	
2009 SECURED PARCEL COUNT	19,487
2009 UNSECURED PARCEL COUNT	2,052

HISTORY OF COUNTY TAXABLE VALUE INCREASES - DECREASES

1999/00 13.1%	2000/01 12.9%	2001/02 11.5%	2002/03 8.5%	2003/04 7.3%	2004/05 7.0%	2005/06 9.1%	2006/07 10.1%
		007/08	2008/09	2009-10			
		6.3%	-1.0%	-8.5%			

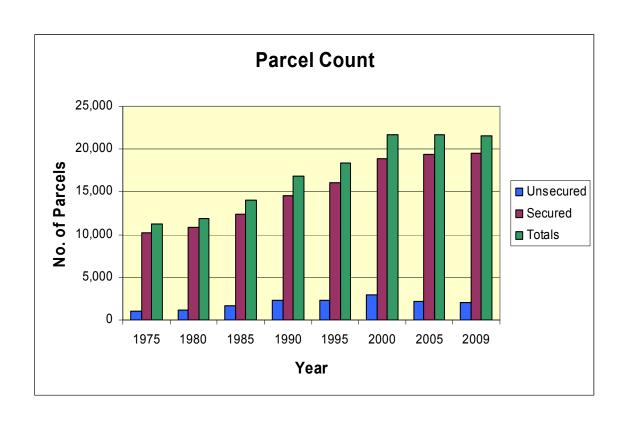
ASSESSMENT HISTORY - (GROSS ASSESSMENTS BEFORE EXEMPTIONS -

	SECURED	<u>UNSECURED</u>	<u>UTILITY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1975-1976	356,000,000	32,000,000	32,800,000	420,800,000
1980-1981	560,400,000	33,200,000	50,800,000	644,400,000
1985-1986	908,700,000	58,200,000	86,700,000	1,053,600,000
1990-1991	1,743,100,000	74,000,000	102,600,000	1,919,700,000
1995-1996	2,358,500,000	104,400,000	97,100,000	2,560,000,000
2000-2001	3,666,000,000	169,000,000	92,800,000	3,927,800,000
2005-2006	5,605,300,000	198,400,000	91,400,000	5,895,100,000
2006-2007	6,180,300,000	208,500,000	93,600,000	6,482,400,000
2007-2008	6,573,600,000	216,000,000	98,000,000	6,887,600,000
2008-2009	6,466,350,000	252,700,000	105,350,000	6,824,400,000
2009-2010	5,903,394,723	264,930,002	108,569,315	6,276,894,040



NUMBER OF ASSESSMENT PARCELS IN COUNTY -

LIEN DATE	SECURED	UNSECURED	<u>TOTAL</u>
3/1/75	10,176	1,046	11,222
3/1/80	10,792	1,101	11,893
3/1/85	12,413	1,661	14,074
3/1/90	14,511	2,285	16,796
3/1/95	16,045	2,286	18,331
1/1/00	18,864	2,871	21,735
1/1/05	19,431	2,224	21,655
1/1/06	19,465	2,201	21,666
1/1/07	19,509	2,113	21,622
1/1/08	19,579	2,160	21,739
1/1/09	19,487	2,052	21,539



LAND CONSERVATION ACT (WILLIAMSON ACT) - The Williamson Act is a statewide program enacted in San Benito County in 1968, allowing property owners to enter into a contract with the county to maintain the land in agricultural production. All contracts are for a term of ten (10) years and automatically renew each year unless a Notice of Non-Renewal is filed by the owner.

Our office is responsible for the assessment and administration of the Williamson Act. We annually update the taxable values and respond to the ever increasing information inquiries by property owners, prospective property owners, real estate agents, etc. Over the last several years, our Williamson Act statistics have remained fairly constant. In 2008 the subvention monies were reduced by 10% due to the State budget.

TAX <u>YEAR</u>	NO. OF PARCELS	ACRES UNDER CONTRACT	ACRES IN NON-RENEWAL <u>STATUS</u>	ANNUAL STATE SUBVENTION
2003-04	2,285	584,800	5,600	\$767,981
2004-05	2,284	584,900	6,000	\$768,630
2005-06	2,284	584,600	6,100	\$767,221
2006-07	2,291	584,600	7,200	\$765,998
2007-08	2,283	584,000	7,350	\$762,764
2008-09	2,296	584,000	7,900	\$687,870
2009-10	2,294	583,700	7,680	

Please see our web site for more information and statistics on the LCA Program in San Benito County.

www.san-benito.ca.us/departments/assessor

• FEE RESOLUTION	• FEE SCHEDULE
• <u>IMPORTANT NOTICE</u>	• ORDINANCE

FORMS

- **LCA CONTRACT (and instructions)**LCA COMPATABLE USE APPLICATION
- LCA DIVISION APPLICATION
 LCA NON-RENEWAL APPLICATION
- LCA LOTLINE ADJUSTMENT APPLICATION

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS*

Ad Valorem Property Tax Taxes imposed on the basis of the property's value.

Assessed Value The taxable value of a property against which the tax rate is applied.

Assessee The person to whom the property is being assessed.

Assessment Appeal The assessee may file an appeal for reduction of the assessed value on the

current local roll during the regular filing period for that year, between July 2 and November 30 with the Clerk of the Board. For supplemental or escape assessments, appeals must be filed within 60 days of the

mailing of the tax bill or receipt of the notice, whichever is earlier.

Assessment Appeals Board The Board of Supervisors, sitting as the Assessment Appeals Board

operating under state law, to review and adjust assessments upon request

of a taxpayer or his or her agent. (See "assessment appeal")

Assessment Number A number used to identify assessed property. Synonymous with

"APN" (Assessor's Parcel Number) when referring to the fee parcel. It is also the number given to identify improvements on leased lands, possessory interest, manufactured housing, etc. NOTE: An Assessor's

parcel may have more than one assessment number tied to it

Assessment Roll The official list of all property within the county valued by the Assessor's

Office.

Assessment Roll Year The year following the annual lien date and the regular assessment of

property beginning on July 1.

Assessment Review Requests by property owners for Assessor's staff to review the

assessment of their property to determine if the assessed value should be

changed.

Assessor's Map Also known as an Assessor's Parcel Map; these show details of Assessor's

parcels in a graphic format. They include such information as Assessor's Parcel Numbers, property bearings and dimensions, acreage, roads, and other information to assist the appraisal process. Not to be confused with

a (recorded) parcel map which subdivides property.

Assessor's Parcel This is the fee parcel for assessment purposes. These parcels are shown

in detail on Assessor's maps and each parcel is denoted by a specific APN. Assessor's parcels are created based on recorded documents and

maps.

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) Represents a specific configuration of property in a specific geographic

location of the county. This identifies the "Fee Parcel" for assessment purposes. These are the numbers reflected on Assessor's maps and usually designated as a twelve digit number. The grouping indicates

Book-Page-Parcel.

Base Year (Value)

The 1975-76 regular roll value serves as the original base value. Thereafter, changes to the assessment on real property value, or a portion thereof, caused by new construction or changes in ownership create the base year value used in establishing the full cash value of such real property.

Basic Aid

"Basic aid" school districts rely principally on locally derived property tax revenues to fund school operations, rather than on Statewide reallocation formulas based on average daily attendance and other factors. School districts become "basic aid" when the projected level of revenues provided by local property taxes exceeds the state formula.

Business Personal Property

Business personal property is assessable, and includes computers, supplies, office furniture and equipment, tooling, machinery and equipment. Most business inventory is exempt. (See personal property).

Change in Ownership

When a transfer of ownership in Real Property occurs, the Assessor determines if a reappraisal is required under state law. If required, the reappraised value becomes the new base value of the property transferred, and a supplemental assessment is enrolled.

CPI

Consumer Price Index as determined annually by the California Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Escaped Assessments

When property that should have been assessed in a prior year is belatedly discovered and assessed, it is referred to as an "escape assessment" because it is an assessment that levied outside the normal assessment period for the lien date(s) in question.

Exclusions from Reappraisal

Some changes in ownership may be excluded from reappraisal if a timely claim is filed with the Assessor's Office that meets the qualifications. Examples include the transfer of real property between parents and children or senior citizens over age 55 who replaces their principal residence.

Exemption

Allowance of a deduction from the taxable assessed value of the property as prescribed by law.

Exemptions: Homeowners

People who own and occupy a dwelling on the lien date as their principal place of residence are eligible to receive an exemption of up to \$7,000 of the dwelling's taxable value. The tax dollars reduced by the (HOX) homeowner's exemption are reimbursed to the County by the State of California.

Exemptions: Other

Charitable, hospital, religious or scientific organizations, colleges, cemeteries, museums, and disabled Veterans (for 100%, service-connected disabled Veterans) are eligible for exemption.

Factored Base Year Value

A property's base value is adjusted each year by the change in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI), not to exceed 2%. The factored base value is the upper limit of taxable value each year.

Fiscal Year

The period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

Fixture

An improvement to real property whose purpose directly applies to or augments the process or function of a trade, industry or profession.

Full Cash Value (FCV)

The amount of cash or its equivalent value which property would bring if exposed for sale in the open market and as further defined in Revenue and Taxation Code 110.1.

Improvements

Buildings or structures generally attached to the land. Improvements may also include certain business fixtures.

Legal Description

The geographical identity of a specific parcel of land which is acceptable in a court of law.

Lien

The amount owed and created by the assessment of the property, or the amount levied against property by a taxing agency or revenue district.

Lien Date

The time when taxes for any fiscal year become a lien on property; and the time as of which property is valued for tax purposes. The lien date for California property is 12:01 a.m. on January 1 (effective January 1, 1997) preceding the fiscal year for which the taxes are collected. The lien date for prior years was March 1. Revenue & Taxation Code Vol. 2 Section 2195.

Mobile Homes

On July, 1980, the Department of Motor Vehicles transferred all mobile home licensing and registration to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The law required that mobile homes be classified as personal property and enrolled on the secured roll.

New Base Year (Value)

The full cash value of property on the date it changes ownership or when new construction is completed.

New Construction

The construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings, or alterations which convert the property to another to another use or extends the economic life of the improvement, is reassessed, establishing a new base year value for only that portion of the property.

Parcel

Real property assessment unit. Land that is segregated into units by boundary lines for assessment purposes.

Personal Property

Any property except real estate, including airplanes, boats, and business property such as computers, supplies, furniture, machinery and equipment. (most business inventory, household furnishings, personal effects, and pets are exempt from taxation.)

Possessory Interest (PI)

The possession or the right to possession of real estate whose fee title is held by a tax exempt public agency. Examples of a PI include the exclusive right to use public property at an airport such as a hanger or a concession stand at the county fair. In both cases, the lessee is subject to property taxes. Regardless of the type of document evidencing the right to possession, a taxable PI exists whenever a private party has the exclusive right to beneficial use of tax exemption publicly owned real property.

Proposition 13

Passed by California voters in June 1978, Proposition 13 is a Constitutional Amendment that limits the taxation of property and creates a procedure for establishing the current taxable value of locally assessed real property, referencing a base year full cash value.

Proposition 8

Proposition 8 passed by the voters in 1978 allows the Assessor to temporarily lower assessments when the market value on January 1 is lower than the factored base year value for that year.

Upon written application by the property owner to the Assessor's Office or independent action by the Assessor, the property value will be reviewed as of the preceding January 1st lien date.

If the market value of the property is less than its factored base year value, market value will be enrolled for the specific assessment year.

Whenever such relief is provided, the Assessor is obligated to annually review and enroll the lesser of either market value or the factored base year value, but never higher than the factored base year value.

If it is determined that the market value of the property exceeds the factored base year value of the property, the factored base year value will be restored for the assessment year. At this point the property will no longer be annually reviewed and will be subject to annual increases not to exceed 2%.

Proposition 58 Exclusion Parent/Child or Grandparent/Grandchild

This may exclude from reassessment transfers of real property between parents and children or grandparents and grandchildren.

Proposition 60

This may allow a person who is at least 55 years of age, or any severely and permanently disabled person who resides on the property, and who is eligible for the Homeowners' Exemption, to transfer the base year value of their original property to a replacement dwelling of equal or lesser value within the same county.

Title

A person's right to ownership of real property, usually manifested by a recorded document such as a deed, decree of distribution, contract of sale, etc.

Welfare Exemption A property tax exemption for non-profit organizations that are charitable, religious, hospital, or scientific in nature.

Williamson Act (Land Conservation Act)

Legislation providing agricultural landowners the opportunity to enter into a contract with the county which restricts the use of their land to farming in exchange for alternative taxation procedures.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT DUE DATES

January 1	Lien date for next assessment roll year (July 1—June 30). This is the time when taxes for the next fiscal year become a lien on the property.
February 15	Deadline to file <u>ALL</u> exemption claims.
April 1	Due date for filing statements for business personal property, boats and aircraft.
April 10	Last day to pay second installment on secured property without penalty. This tax payment is based on property values determined for the January1 lien date fifteen (15) month earlier.
May 7	Last day to file business personal property, boat and aircraft statements without incurring a 10% late filing penalty.
July 1	Close of assessment roll and start of the new assessment roll year. The assessment roll is the official list of all assessable property in the county.
July 2	First day to file assessment application with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.
Mid-July	Annual assessment notices to all property owners having a 2% adjustment (+/-) to property values. Property owners should call the Assessor's Office with any questions.
August 31	Last day to pay unsecured property taxes without penalty.
November 30	Last day to file an assessment appeal for reduced assessment on the regular roll with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.
December 10	Last day to pay first installment of secured property taxes without

penalty.

^{*}Definition of terms are provided to simplify assessment terminology, but does not replace legal definitions.

What Does the Assessor Do?

The Assessor has the following basic responsibilities:

- Locate all taxable property in the County and identify the ownership.
- Establish a value for all property subject to property taxation.
- List the value of all property on the assessment roll.
- Apply all legal exemptions.
- Mapping of all parcels of real estate within the county.

Contrary to popular opinion the Assessor:

- <u>Does not compute property tax bills.</u>
- Does not collect property taxes.
- <u>Does not</u> establish property tax laws.
- <u>Does not</u> set rules by which property is appraised.

Please visit our web site for more information about the Assessor's Office:

www.san-benito.ca.us/departments/assessor

- Annual Report 2009 Annual Report 2008 Annual Report 2007 Annual Report 2006 Annual Report 2005 Annual Report
- Property Assessment Calendar Terms and Definitions
- A Word About Property Taxes
 Change of Ownership
- Assessment of Property
 Exemptions
- Assessor Forms
- Information Pamphlets
- 1. Facts About Supplemental Assessment
- 2. These Assessments Are Too High!
- 3. What Does The Assessor Do?
- 4. What Happens When I Build On My Property?
- 5. What Happens When I Buy A Home?
- Land Conservation Act Property Owner Tips
- Assessor Public Inquiry link
 Assessor Agency Inquiry link