

NEWS

From the Office of

Bill Postmus

Assessor

San Bernardino County

sbassessor.org



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San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus Announces Tax Relief For Hinkley Property Owners

BARSTOW – San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus today announced that property tax relief may be available to current and former property owners in the community of Hinkley. Owners whose property was purchased by Pacific Gas and Electric as part of the San Francisco-based utility provider's attempts to alleviate potential damaging effects of a chemical discharge may be afforded the opportunity for tax relief on a newly-purchased property.

An investigation and court action in the 1990s resulted in a judgment against the energy giant for its handling of hexavalent chromium, a chemical compound used by Pacific Gas and Electric at its Hinkley facility to prevent rust in its water cooling towers. Courts ruled that PG and E's use of the chemical resulted in polluted and contaminated properties for Hinkley residents. PG and E is purchasing polluted properties as part of cleanup efforts.

Assessor Postmus noted that state law affords property owners tax relief in circumstances such as the Hinkley matter.

“Under the provisions of Proposition One, displaced property owners, including those affected by chemical contamination in Hinkley are allowed significant property tax relief” stated Postmus. “Property owners may be able to transfer the base year value of that property to a comparable replacement property. This meaningful law allows property owners, who have already suffered enough hardship in dealing with residential relocation through no fault of their own , a step towards putting their lives back together.”

Assessor Bill Postmus noted that official letters bearing his signature have already been mailed or are in the process of being distributed to those who have been affected by the Hinkley contamination case.

Postmus called attention to the website of the County Assessor, where property owners can complete their Prop One application and learn the measures guidelines. Postmus also invited interested parties to contact his Barstow District Office at (760) 256-4730, or visit the office located at 301 E. Mt. View, Barstow. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

“For property owners who may benefit from Proposition One's tax relief, I encourage you to contact my office, as I stand ready to assist you in securing tax relief immediately.”

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