

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assessor Bill Postmus Announces Taxpayer Relief Now Available Online
Property Owners “Just A Click Away” From Possible Substantial Savings

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus today announced that property owners can request immediate tax relief. In 1979, California voters passed Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that allows a temporary reduction in assessed value when a property suffers a “decline-in-value.” A decline-in-value occurs when the current market value of your property on the annual January 1 assessment lien date is less than the Proposition 13 based taxable value. The provisions of Proposition 8 require the Assessor to enroll the lower of the current market or factored base value for each fiscal taxation period.

It is estimated that several thousand properties in San Bernardino County may be subject to revisions under the guidelines of Proposition 8 for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

San Bernardino County property owners now have the option of filing electronically via the World Wide Web for tax reductions pursuant to the provisions of Proposition 8.

San Bernardino County is the **FIRST** – and so far, the only – county to offer taxpayers the option of requesting Proposition 8’s tax savings via the Internet.

“Once again, San Bernardino County is leading the way in innovative technology to help taxpayers save money,” stated Assessor Bill Postmus. “By being the first county in California to allow taxpayers to save money using their home computer, we are taking an unprecedented step toward the goal of providing significant savings.

“And, at this trying time,” Postmus continued, “every dollar saved is meaningful for hardworking families.”

An assessment made pursuant to Proposition 8 is temporary. Once a reduction has been made under Proposition 8, the value of the property must be reviewed as of January 1 of each year to determine whether the current Fair Market Value remains less than its Base Year Value plus inflationary adjustments. As the Proposition 8 value represents current Fair Market Value, it can fluctuate from year to year without limitation to reflect changes in the market. The factored Base Year Value will be restored once the market value exceeds the Base Year Value.

For the 2008-09 annual roll the Assessor’s Office is utilizing systematic means to proactively identify parcels subject to Proposition 8 adjustment. Since it is not possible to electronically discover every eligible property, Assessor Postmus hopes that owners will take advantage of the new Internet means of filing for adjustment that has been added to the traditional mail-in and over the counter applications.

“I encourage taxpayers to request any and all potential reductions under Proposition 8,” concluded Assessor Postmus.

Taxpayers may access the online form at www.sbassessor.org and by clicking on the “Proposition 8 Application” link.

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