



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Michelle Steel, Member

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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Michelle Steel Announces Release of San Bernardino County Assessment Practices Survey Report

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released the San Bernardino County Assessment Practices Survey Report on the quality of the 2007-08 San Bernardino County assessment roll, consisting of 820,526 assessments representing approximately \$172.94 billion in value.

The San Bernardino County Assessment Practices Survey Report states that most properties in San Bernardino County are assessed properly, and that the overall quality of the assessment roll meets state standards. The Report notes nine recommendations for improvement to the San Bernardino County Assessor's programs and includes the San Bernardino County Assessor's response to the BOE's recommendations. To view the 2010 San Bernardino County Assessment Practices Survey Report, click here: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/pdf/36APSR.pdf>

The BOE is the agency responsible for promoting statewide uniformity and consistency in property tax assessment, reviewing each county's property assessment practices and procedures once every five years and publishing an assessment practices survey report. The report provides an overview of how well the assessor's duties are performed and identifies where improvements should be made. Every assessor is required to identify and assess all properties located within the county – unless specifically exempt – and maintain a database or "roll" of the properties and their assessed values. If the assessor's roll meets state requirements, the county is allowed to recapture some administrative costs.

The assessment practices survey program is one of the State's major efforts to address both a public policy interest and a financial interest in promoting fair and equitable assessments throughout California. For more information on the BOE assessment practices survey program, visit: www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/apscont.htm.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate. In 2008, Steel uncovered a \$42 million mistake in the agency's sales tax refund procedures. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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