



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Michelle Steel, Member

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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Michelle Steel Releases San Diego County Assessment Practices Survey Report

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced the release of the San Diego County 2010 Assessment Practices Survey Report on the quality of the 2008-09 San Diego County assessment roll, consisting of approximately 1.2 million assessments representing approximately \$400 billion in value.

The San Diego County Assessment Practices Survey Report states that most properties in San Diego County are assessed properly, and that the overall quality of the assessment roll meets state standards. The Assessment Practices Survey Report notes six recommendations to the San Diego County Assessor's programs and includes the San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk David L. Butler's response to implement the BOE's recommendations. The Board of Equalization thanked Mr. Butler and his staff for their complete cooperation during the survey.

The [2010 San Diego County Assessment Practices Survey Report](http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/pdf/37apsr1110.pdf) is available online at:
<http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/pdf/37apsr1110.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. 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 December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. 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 \$48 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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