

From: [Brenden Vlahakis](#)
To: [Kinkle, Sherrie L](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed Revisions to Application for Changes Assessment form
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 9:33:49 AM

Ms. Kinkle,

I am with the County of Ventura Assessor's Office. As already apparent by the previous suggestions we have made, we are very interested in participating in the revision of the appeal application. We have had several staff changes, so I am unsure who we originally had as our contact. For future reference, I will be the Ventura County Assessor's Contact for the Assessment Appeal Application.

We have been working closely with our Clerk of Assessment Appeals to brainstorm needed changes for the appeal application. While many of our suggested changes are already part of your document, we have a few more. They are as follows:

Suggested Changes from Ventura County Assessor and Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board:

"Application Number:" field, we request this field be enlarged. It is currently only a 16th of an inch tall, which makes it very difficult to stamp in an application number. We suggest the field be at least .5 inches tall and 1.5 inches long. This will allow for easier stamping/writing of a case number and make it easier to view.

Revise Section 4, Value: Additional rows should be added for Aircraft Value and Boat Value.

Add Section 9, Hearing Officer. While this is already on the list of suggestions, there is only a hearing officer in the county if the Board of Supervisors has the ordinance to. Because of this reason, there should be two versions of the appeal application, one for counties with hearing officer, and one for counties without a hearing officer. Counties with hearing officer need the ability for an applicant to select one, but the Findings of Facts section also has to include that Hearing officer selection is not available when findings of facts are requested. The hearing officer section should also include language that instructs the applicant is not eligible for hearing officer if the appeal is to protest a change in ownership re-appraisal.

Suggested Changes from Ventura County Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board:

They would like the application to be landscape oriented and only 1 page in length. Although the application is lengthy, it would be desired if you could make it fit on one page.

We support/second these suggestions made by other counties:

8. Calaveras County Assessor - Section 5, 2 copies not needed.

10. Calaveras County Assessor - Revise Section 6, Facts. Applicants are extremely confused by the terminology used in this section. They frequently check, "No Change in Ownership", thinking this is a fact they need to state, and not realizing that it means that they want to challenge the change in ownership re-assessment processed by the Assessor. Also, home owners do not realize what personal property is, and often check that section. It should clarify that it is business personal property. Same issue with Audit, people often think checking that box will get them an audit, when it actually means that they want to appeal a personal property audit. There are many issues as to clarity with section 6.

Please incorporate these suggested changes into your proposal.

Thank you,

Brenden Vlahakis
Office Assistant II

Appeals & Standards Unit
County of Ventura Assessor
Brenden.Vlahakis@Ventura.org
(805) 654-2162