



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
TAXPAYERS' RIGHTS ADVOCATE OFFICE MIC: 70
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State Controller

CYNTHIA BRIDGES
Executive Director

September 18, 2014

Mr. Robert Skillin

Dear Mr. Skillin:

Thank you for your participation in the June 24, 2014, Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings held in Culver City. I appreciate your taking the time to express your concerns about the assessment appeal process in San Luis Obispo County. Specifically you stated that the taxpayer is at a disadvantage in the appeal process and that the assessor's office withheld information from you. A copy of your June 22, 2014 correspondence was provided to the Members of the Board of Equalization on June 26, 2014 and a reference to your concerns was made for the record at the hearings on June 24.

Taxpayers, while they have various resources available to them, are not typically as knowledgeable about property assessments as are the county assessors. Many attempts have been made to level the playing field. These attempts include the sharing of information about an assessment with the taxpayer. That however was not done to your satisfaction in your appeal.

The assessment appeal process can be intimidating to a person that simply doesn't agree with their assessed value. Assessors generally explain how they arrived at their value and try to resolve any disputes prior to an appeal hearing. This did not happen to your satisfaction in your case. We urge you to continue dialogue with the assessor however.

Thank you again for sharing your ideas and concerns as part of the annual hearing process. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-324-2798. You may also contact Mr. Mark Sutter of my office at 916-324-2797.

Sincerely,

Todd C. Gilman
Chief, Taxpayers' Rights and
Equal Employment Opportunity Division

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SkillinResponse091814.pdf

cc: Honorable Jerome E. Horton, Chairman
Honorable Michelle Steel, Vice Chair
Honorable Betty T. Yee, First District
Senator George Runner (Ret.), Second District
Honorable John Chiang, State Controller
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Mr. David Gau, Chief Deputy Director, MIC 101
Mr. Randy Ferris, Chief Counsel, MIC 83
Mr. Robert Tucker, Assistant Chief Counsel, MIC 82
Mr. Richard Moon, Legal Department, MIC 82
Mr. Dean Kinnee, Chief, County-Assessed Properties Division, MIC 64
Mr. Dan Leddy, Manager, Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office, MIC 70
Ms. Lauren Simpson, Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office, MIC 70
Mr. Mark Sutter, Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office, MIC 70
Honorable Tom Bordonaro Jr., San Luis Obispo County Assessor