



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Vice Chairwoman Betty T. Yee**

**1<sup>st</sup> District – San Francisco**

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## **Betty T. Yee Releases Assessment Practices Survey for Santa Clara County**

Betty T. Yee, Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Equalization (BOE), today released the Santa Clara County 2008 Assessment Practices Survey Report. As the agency responsible for promoting statewide uniformity and consistency in property tax assessment, the BOE reviews each county's property assessment practices and procedures once every five years.

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 BOE's report focused on the quality of the 2006-07 Santa Clara County assessment roll, which contained about 534,500 assessments totaling about \$261.9 billion in value. The report found most properties in Santa Clara County are assessed properly, and the overall quality of the assessment roll meets state standards.

The assessor has improved his overall effectiveness and operation with a continued commitment to technology. He launched a major document-imaging project to electronically image most of his documents and moved from an outdated mainframe to a server environment.

The assessment practices survey report contains several recommendations for the Santa Clara County Assessor, which include properly applying the low-value property tax exemption, properly assessing restricted open-space properties, and ensuring that pollution control devices are assessed.

Vice Chairwoman Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization 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.

*Click [here](#) to view the 2008 Santa Clara County Assessment Practices Survey Report*

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