



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY REPORT
RELEASED FOR PLACER COUNTY**

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) today released an assessment practices survey report on Placer County.

Once every five years, the BOE conducts a review of each county's property tax assessment functions to determine whether properties are being assessed properly and to identify areas where improvements should be made. Issued as an *Assessment Practices Survey*, the report provides an overview of how well the duties of the assessor are performed and includes recommendations to correct assessment deficiencies and improve compliance with state law.

The BOE found that most properties in Placer County are being assessed properly and the overall quality of the assessment roll meets the minimum standards required by the state to qualify for augmentation funds. However, the report provides 11 recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the assessor's operations. Included among those recommendations are the following:

- Assess all taxable possessory interests.
- Revise the mineral properties assessment program by: (1) assessing unpatented mining claims by capitalizing the annual rental payments on a per claim basis, (2) reviewing mineral properties for declines in value, (3) calculating the annual depletion allowance of mineral reserves according to rule 469, and (4) enrolling settling ponds according to section 53.5.
- Annually review manufactured home assessments for declines in value.

The review focused on the quality of the 2003-2004 Placer County assessment roll, which contained 148,750 assessments having a total enrolled value of \$35.9 billion.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax commission, and is comprised of Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District, Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District, Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District, and Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District. State Controller Steve Westly also serves as a member of the Board.

The Board collects nearly \$42 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and also plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property tax.

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Note: A copy of the Placer County Assessment Practices Survey Report

is available upon request or can be found on the BOE's website at www.boe.ca.gov.