



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street
Sacramento
California 95814

CAROLE MIGDEN
Chairwoman, BOE
First District
Member, FTB

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NR# 44-M
Date: September 20, 2004
Contact: Sherilyn Larsen
Customer and Taxpayer Services Division
(916) 445-3192
Website: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/>

**ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY REPORT RELEASED
FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

Carole Migden, Chairwoman of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released an assessment practices survey report on Contra Costa 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 Contra Costa 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:

- Exempt property used exclusively for public school purposes.
- Appraise mineral properties as a unit.
- Include only accounts with an aggregate cost of less than \$100,000 in the direct billing program.

The review focused on the quality of the 2002-2003 Contra Costa County assessment roll, which contained 374,331 assessments having a total enrolled value of \$100.7 billion.

###

Note: A copy of the Contra Costa County Assessment Practices Survey Report is available upon request or can be found on the BOE's Web site at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/>.