



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

1000 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
P.O. BOX 1799, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95808
(916) 445-4982

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Executive Secretary

No. 81/160

December 22, 1981

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS:

VALUATION OF OPEN-SPACE TIMBERLAND
LOCATED IN A TIMBERLAND PRESERVE ZONE

On September 26, 1981 the Governor approved Senate Bill 481 Chapter 845. This act amends Section 51246(d) of the Government Code relating to timberland and will be applicable to the 1982 lien date.

Existing legislation, Section 51246, was enacted to provide for land under land conservation act contract and also falling within a timberland preserve zone. It prohibited any city or county from renewing a land conservation contract for land within a timberland preserve zone after the lien date in the fiscal year 1977-78. It also provided that for the first five years, until fiscal year 1982-83, of this mandated nonrenewal period, that land in this category was to be assessed according to Section 423.5 (as timberland under open-space contract). Commencing with the 1982-83 lien date and for the next five years such land was to be assessed according to Section 426 (nonrenewal).

This legislation will require the assessor to assess property in this category according to Section 434.5 (as timberland) commencing with the 1982-83 lien date and on each lien date thereafter. It should be noted that the proper timberland value schedule for the Pine and Mixed Conifer Region for 1982-83 will be the schedule which, we anticipate, will be certified by the Board to county assessors early in 1982 as the result of the appellate court's decision in Soper Wheeler Company et al vs. the State Board of Equalization, 124 Cal. App. 3d 913. The schedule for the Redwood Region for 1982-83 is currently set forth in Property Tax Rule 1025. The old value schedules in Section 434.5 itself should not be used.

Enclosed is a copy of this legislation for your information. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bill McKay at (916) 445-4982.

Sincerely,

Verne Walton
Verne Walton, Chief
Assessment Standards Division

VW:bjb
Enclosure
AL-05-0358A