Dear Mr. Crook,

In response to LTA 2022/014, titled, “Interested Parties Process: Amendments to Property Tax Rule 462.520 and 462.540 Through the Emergency Rulemaking Process,” Sacramento County (34) has one suggested revision to Rule 462.540(c)(16). It currently reads:

RULE 462.540. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP – BASE YEAR VALUE TRANSFERS.
(c) DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this section:
(16) Property is “substantially damaged or destroyed by misfortune or calamity” if either the land or the improvements sustain physical damage amounting to more than 50 percent of either the land’s or the improvement’s full cash value immediately prior to the misfortune or calamity. Damage includes a diminution in the value of property as a result of restricted access to the property where the restricted access was caused by the misfortune or calamity.

The amendment intent appears to be to ensure the Rule reflects R&T Code 170(a)(1). If that is the case, we recommend that Rule 462.540(c)(16) read:

(16) Property is “substantially damaged or destroyed by misfortune or calamity” if either the land or the improvements sustain physical damage amounting to more than 50 percent of either the land’s or the improvement’s full cash value immediately prior to the misfortune or calamity. In the event the major misfortune or calamity occurs in an area or region subsequently proclaimed by the Governor to be in a state of disaster, such damage includes a diminution in the value of property as a result of restricted access to the property where the restricted access was caused by the misfortune or calamity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to these proposed rules.

Best Regards,

Linda Cogburn
Chief Appraiser, Standards Division

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