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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

NEAL KELLEY, PRESIDENT

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April 7, 2015

Mr. Rick Bennion
Regulations Coordinator
State Board of Equalization
MIC: 80
P.O. Box 942879
Sacramento, CA 94279-0080

Via e-Mail to rbennion@boe.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Bennion:

**Property Tax Rule 308.6 – Application for Equalization by Member,
Alternate Member or Hearing Officer
SUPPORT**

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors members of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), strongly support your staff's proposed amendment to Rule 308.6, which will be before your Board at its April 28-30, 2015 meeting. We greatly appreciate the fine work done by your staff in drafting the proposed Rule and in working with stakeholders, including our organization. We urge your Board members to adopt the proposed amendments to the Rule, as drafted.

The proposed amended Rule accurately reflects changes to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 1622.6, as amended by AB 824 (Chapter 477 of the Statutes of 2009). It is entirely consistent with the intent of the members of our Association when we sponsored the bill.

The option for clerks to use sitting assessment appeals board members of another county in lieu of a new board appointed by the presiding judge of the county serves the best interests of all stakeholders in the process by expeditiously hearing and deciding qualified appeals, while protecting the integrity and transparency of the assessment appeals process. I want to stress that exercise of the option is purely voluntary on the part of not only the referring county, but perhaps more importantly, on the part of the receiving county, as well.

Since the bill's effective date, several counties successfully have availed themselves of this option. This method has been proven to be quick, effective, efficient, and has resulted in sound decisions made by experienced board members.

We respectfully request that you adopt Rule 308.6, as drafted.

Sincerely,

John McKibben, Chair
Board of Equalization Rules Work Group
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials