

Please Mail Completed Application
and include **\$30.00 Filing Fee**
(Fee is Non-Refundable) to:

Merced County Assessment Appeals Board
County Administration Building
2222 "M" Street, Third Floor
Merced, CA 95340

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FOR CHANGED ASSESSMENT

FILING FEE: A non-refundable filing fee of \$30.00 for each application/parcel will be charged and must be included at the time of filing the application. Payment can be made by check, money order or cash. Make checks or money orders payable to: County of Merced. Applications submitted without the Fee will not be processed.

The State Board of Equalization has prepared a pamphlet to assist you in completing this application. You may download a copy of Publication 30, *Residential Property Assessment Appeals*, at www.boe.ca.gov or contact the clerk of your local board for a copy.

Filing this application for reduced assessment does not relieve the applicant from the obligation to pay the taxes on the subject property on or before the applicable due date shown on the tax bill. If a reduction is granted, a proportionate refund of taxes paid will be made by the county.

Based on the evidence, the Assessment Appeals Board can increase as well as decrease an assessment. The decision of the Board upon this application is final; the Board may not reconsider or rehear any application. However, either the applicant or the assessor may bring timely action in superior court for review of an adverse action.

An application may be amended until 5:00 p.m. on the last day upon which the application might have been timely filed. After the filing period, an invalid or incomplete application may be corrected at the request of the clerk or amendments may be made at the discretion of the board. Contact the clerk for information regarding correcting or amending an application.

The Assessment Appeals Board can hear matters concerning an Assessor's allocation of exempt values. However, it cannot hear matters relating to a person's or organization's eligibility for a property tax exemption. Appeals regarding the denial of exemptions are under the jurisdiction of the County Assessor and/or the courts.

The following numbered instructions apply to the corresponding numbers on the application form. **Please type or print in ink all information on the application form.**

SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Enter the name and mailing address of the applicant. If the applicant is other than the assessee (e.g., leased property), attach an explanation. NOTE: An agent's address may not be substituted for that of the applicant.

SECTION 2. AGENT OR ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT.

Provide the name and mailing address of the agent or attorney, if applicable. If the agent is not a California-licensed attorney, you must also complete the *Agent's Authorization* section, or an agent's authorization may be attached to this application. An attached authorization must contain all of the following information.

- The date the authorization is executed.
- A statement that the agent is authorized to sign and file applications in the calendar year of the application.
- The specific parcel(s) or assessment(s) covered by the authorization, or a statement that the agent is authorized to represent the applicant on all parcels and assessments located within the county that the application is being filed.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the agent.
- The applicant's signature and title.
- A statement that the agent will provide the applicant with a copy of the application.

SECTION 3. PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

If this application is for an assessment on secured property, enter the Assessor's Parcel Number from your assessment notice or from your tax bill. If the property is unsecured (e.g., an aircraft or boat), enter the account/tax bill number from your tax bill. Enter a brief description of the property location, such as street address, city, and zip code, sufficient to identify the property and assessment being appealed.

For a single-family dwelling, indicate if the dwelling is owner-occupied.

SECTION 4. VALUE

COLUMN A: Enter the amounts shown on your assessment notice or tax bill for the year being appealed. If you are appealing a current year assessment (base year or decline in value) and have not received an assessment notice, or are unsure of the values to enter in this section, please contact the assessor's office. If you are appealing a calamity reassessment or an assessment related to a change in ownership, new construction, roll change, or escape assessment, refer to the reassessment notice you received.

COLUMN B: Enter your opinion of value for each of the applicable categories. **If you do not state an opinion of value, it will result in the rejection of your application.**

SECTION 5. TYPE OF ASSESSMENT BEING APPEALED CHECK ONLY ONE ITEM PER APPLICATION.

Check the item that best describes the assessment that you are appealing.

REGULAR ASSESSMENT FILING DATES for all property located in Merced County are: July 2 through November 30.

Check the *Regular Assessment Box* for:

- Decline in value appeals
- Change in ownership and new construction appeals filed **after** 60 days of the mailing of the supplemental assessment notice or supplemental tax bill

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSESSMENT FILING DATES are within 60 days after the mailing date printed on the supplemental notice or supplemental tax bill or the postmark date of the notice or tax bill, whichever is later. Check the *Supplemental Assessment box* for:

- Change in ownership and new construction appeals filed **within** 60 days of the mailing date printed on the supplemental assessment notice or supplemental tax bill, or the postmark date of the notice or tax bill, whichever is later.

ROLL CHANGE AND ESCAPE ASSESSMENT FILING DATES are within 60 days after the mailing date printed on the assessment notice, or the postmark date of the notice, whichever is later. **CALAMITY REASSESSMENT FILING DATES** are within six months after the mailing of the assessment notice. Check the *Roll Change/Escape Assessment/Calamity Reassessment box* for:

- Roll corrections
- Escape assessments, including those discovered upon audit
- Property damaged by misfortune or calamity

For *Supplemental Assessment and Roll Change/Escape Assessment/Calamity Reassessment* appeals, indicate the roll year and provide the date of the tax bill. Typically, the roll year is the fiscal year that begins on July 1 of the year in which you file your appeal. Attach one (1) copy of the supplemental or escape assessment notice or tax bill.

SECTION 6. FACTS

Please check the item or items describing your reason(s) for filing this application. If you prefer, you may attach 1 copy of a brief explanation. You are not required to provide evidence with this application.

If you selected **DECLINE IN VALUE**, be advised that the application will only be effective for the one year appealed. Subsequent years will normally require additional filings.

In general, *base year* is either the year your real property changed ownership or the year of completion of new construction on your property; *base year value* is the value established at that time. The base year value may be appealed during the regular filing period for the year it was placed on the roll or during the regular filing period in the subsequent three years.

CALAMITY REASSESSMENT includes damage due to unforeseen occurrences such as fire, earthquake, and flood, and does not include damages that occur gradually due to ordinary natural forces.

A penalty assessed by the Tax Collector cannot be removed by the Assessment Appeals Board.

Indicate whether you are appealing an item, category, or class of property or a portion thereof. If you are appealing only an item, category, or class of property, please attach a separate sheet identifying what property will be the subject of this appeal.

APPEAL AFTER AN AUDIT **must** include a complete description of each property being appealed, and the reason for the appeal. Contact the clerk to determine what documents must be submitted. If you do not submit the required information timely, it will result in the denial of your application.

SECTION 7. WRITTEN FINDINGS OF FACT

Written findings of facts are explanations of the appeals board's decision and will be necessary if you intend to seek judicial review of an adverse Assessment Appeals Board decision. Findings may be requested in writing at any time prior to the commencement of the hearing. Requests for a tape recording or transcript **must** be made no later than 60 days after the final determination by the Assessment Appeals Board. You may contact the clerk to determine the fee for these items; do not send payment with your application.

SECTION 8. DESIGNATION AS CLAIM FOR REFUND

Indicate whether you want to designate this application as a claim for refund. If action in superior court is anticipated, designating this application as a claim for refund may affect the time period in which you can file suit. NOTE: If for any reason you decide to withdraw this application, that action will also constitute withdrawal of your claim for refund.

REQUESTS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

If the assessed value of the property exceeds \$100,000, the assessor may initiate an "exchange of information" (Revenue and Taxation Code section 1606). You may also request an "exchange of information" between yourself and the assessor regardless of the assessed value of the property. Such a request may be filed with this application or may be filed any time prior to 30 days before the commencement of the hearing on this application. The request **must** contain the basis of your opinion of value. Please include comparable sales, cost, and income data where appropriate to support the value. In some counties, a list of property transfers may be inspected at the assessor's office for a fee not to exceed \$10. The list contains transfers that have occurred within the county over the last two years.

Original signatures are required for each application. Check the box that best describes your status as the person filing this application.