

Application Help

System Usage

- Log in to the system using your Property ID and the password supplied by the County Assessor.
- Please note that you will be automatically logged off if more than one hour passes between page submissions.
- You may wish to print out the form "Instructions for filing the Business Property Statement".
- Make sure you answer all required fields
- Submit and Save the form.
- Print the form.

System Requirements

- Internet Explorer 5 or better required for operation (Macintosh version not supported at this time)
- For best results, screen resolution should be set to 1024x768 and IE maximized.

Printing Requirements

- The form prints from a PDF file.

Frequently Asked Questions

BUSINESS PROPERTY STATEMENTS

Q: What is a Business Property Statement (form 571L)?

A: California Law prescribes a yearly ad valorem tax based on property as it exists at 12:01 a.m. on January 1 (tax lien date). The form 571L or 571A constitutes an official request that you declare all assessable business property situated in this county which you owned, claimed, possessed, controlled or managed on the tax lien date.

Q: Why did I receive a Business Property Statement?

A: The Assessor's office sends a Business Property Statement to all known businesses in the county. Each person owning taxable personal property having an aggregate cost of \$100,000 or more for any assessment year shall file a signed property statement with the assessor. Every person owning personal property that does not require the filing of a property statement shall, upon request of the assessor, file a signed property statement. Failure of the assessor to request or secure the property statement does not render any assessment invalid. (Revenue and Taxation Code 441)

Q: What is the due date for filing the Business Property Statement (571-L)?

A: The due date is April 1st of each year. The final date for filing the form without penalty is May 7th, or the next business day if May 7th falls on a Saturday or Sunday. You have until May 31st to amend your filing without penalty if the Business Property Statement was filed timely. The Assessor does not have the authorization to grant extensions to the due dates.

Q: What happens if I do not file the Business Property Statement?

A: Failure to complete and file the form (571-L) will result in an estimated assessment. A mandatory 10% penalty is added for failing to file by the due date. (Revenue and Taxation Code 441, 463 & 501)

Q: What constitutes business personal property?

A: Business personal property includes all property, except inventory items held for sale or short-term rental and real estate owned and/or used by a business. Examples of business personal property include office furniture, computers, machinery, and hand tools.

Q: I moved out of the county or sold my business after lien date (January 1). Do I still have to pay the bill?

A: Yes. You must pay the whole amount. The legal obligation to pay taxes is determined by ownership, possession, claim to, or control of the property on the lien date (January 1). The law does not provide for pro-ration of personal property taxes by the assessor.

Q: I received a tax bill and believe that the assessment is incorrect and too high. What can I do?

A: It is recommended that you first contact an Auditor in the Assessor's Business Property Division to get a full explanation of how the assessment was determined. At that time you can provide the Auditor with any new information that he or she may not have had at the time the assessment was originally determined. The Auditor may request additional documentation. If an adjustment is warranted the Auditor will recommend a correction of the original assessment. Additionally, you have the right to formally appeal your assessment by filing an Application for Changed Assessment with the Clerk of the Board.

Q: How do I file an appeal of my assessment?

A: An Application for Changed Assessment may be obtained from the Clerk of the Board for Santa Barbara County (805 568-2240). The application must be filed by November 30 of the year in which the tax is due. If you wish to appeal an audit finding, the Application for Changed Assessment must be filed within 60 days of your notification regarding the changed assessment.

The staff of the Assessor's Business Property Division is available to assist you with filing your Business Property Statement and to answer any additional questions. Please call (805) 568-2550 and ask for an Auditor in the Business Property Section.