Contra Costa County



Office of Assessor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSUMER SCAM ALERT!

GUS S. KRAMER, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ASSESSOR ISSUES IMPORTANT WARNING TO TAXPAYERS

April 22, 2009

Many property owners throughout Contra Costa County are receiving an official looking document in the mail regarding a fee based service to have their property's taxable value reduced. Although these documents have the appearance of an official government document, the documents are not from the Contra Costa County Assessor or any other Contra Costa County Office. The California Attorney Generals Office has posted warnings to California Property Owners on their website about the practices of these companies. For more information about these companies and the Attorney General's Consumer Alert please see the following websites:

http://ag.ca.gov/consumers/pdf/prop_tax_scam.pdf http://ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1680

It is important for property owners to know that the Contra Costa County Assessor's Office does not charge a fee to review their property's value —— THIS IS A FREE SERVICE. In fact, the Contra Costa County Assessor Assessor's Office is in the process of proactively reviewing the value of single family residential and commercial/industrial properties throughout the county and lowering assessments wherever appropriate. Property owners who believe that the current market value of their property may be less than its assessed value can file a free property tax reassessment request with the Contra Costa County Assessor's Office by calling our Public Service Division at (925) 313-7400, by faxing your request to (925) 313-7488, or by completing a downloadable application available on the Assessor's Website at:

http://www.cccounty.us/assessor