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UPGRADED OPTIONS MAKE PAYING PROPERTY TAXES ON-TIME EASIER

San Bernardino County Treasurer-Tax Collector's many automated payment options offer taxpayers more ways to pay their property taxes on or before the April 10 deadline.

San Bernardino County, CA — With the April 10th property tax deadline right around the corner, Treasurer-Tax Collector Dick Larsen is reminding property owners that there are several ways to safely and securely pay the second installment of their property taxes from home.

Since 2001, Larsen's office has continually worked to introduce new payment options to better meet the needs of taxpayers. To date, Larsen has redesigned the website to make it more user-friendly, upgraded the phone systems to significantly reduce wait times, and added various bilingual services for Spanish-speaking taxpayers. For this deadline, Larsen has improved the online payment process to make sure it is easy for users to navigate and understand.

"We want the payment process to be as convenient and simple as possible," Larsen said. "Prior to each deadline, we are always working to find more ways to make taxpayers comfortable with using our automated payment options to be sure they find them helpful and easy to use."

Property taxes can be paid online at www.MyTaxCollector.com by mailing a check or money order postmarked on or before the April 10 deadline, or by phone at (909) 387-8308. In addition, if taxpayers have lost their bill or would like another copy they can now go online to review and print a new tax bill.

Since the office began its effort to increase awareness about these automated options, Larsen said they have seen the use of alternative payment methods more than double. The number of tax bills paid online has increased by 64 percent since 2005. Larsen credited the 24-7 access to these payment options and the ability to pay multiple bills at once for this increase.

With the Hispanic population in San Bernardino County at nearly 47%, Larsen has also sought to assist Spanish-speaking homeowners by offering bilingual services through the phone payment system and website at www.ColeccionDelImpuestos.com. Both of these services allow taxpayers to utilize the office's automated payment systems and submit their payment without waiting in line or on the phone to speak to a Spanish-speaking representative.

"These bilingual features are essential for our taxpayers and are especially important in a county as diverse as San Bernardino," said Larsen. "We are hopeful that in the coming years more taxpayers will take advantage of the many options we offer."

San Bernardino County will collect nearly \$2.3 billion in property taxes this year. Once collected, property tax dollars are distributed to the County, redevelopment agencies, cities, special districts and school districts. The tax dollars are used to fund key public services including new schools and education, police and fire protection, social and public health services.

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