



## Office of Tom J. Bordonaro, Jr., County Assessor

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Press Release From San Luis County Assessor, Tom J. Bordonaro, Jr.

Criminal charges were filed by the Los Angeles and Ventura County District Attorneys' Consumer Protection Divisions on May 13, 2009 against Sean McConville. McConville and his brother, Michael McConville, are the owners of "Property Tax Reassessment" and "Property Tax Adjustment Services." In addition, the California Attorney General filed a suit in San Diego County Superior Court last month against the brothers and their businesses. The suit seeks an end to the scam and at least \$2.5 million in civil penalties.

The firms sent thousands of letters to San Luis Obispo County property owners in February 2009, and again, sometime in late April or early May. The letters urge property owners to send a fee of \$189.00 by May 31<sup>st</sup> to a Simi Valley address in order to apply for a reduction of their property assessment. San Luis Obispo County Assessor, Tom Bordonaro, Jr., warns property owners about the scams, and reminds them that assessment reviews can be done without charge through the County Assessor's Office. Tom Bordonaro said *"District Attorney Gerry Shea and I will continue our efforts to identify those who may have sent money to the firm so that they can be reimbursed if there is any restitution order that arises from the litigation."*

Shea added, *"We have been keeping track of those property owners who have reported sending checks to these businesses, but we feel there may be more who may have fallen victim to this scheme. I would encourage them to contact our office."*

Bordonaro and Shea are working together to identify all current victims of this scam by the McConville brothers and are hopeful that these two legal actions will help put an end to this scam and any others like it in the future.

Any property owner who sent money to these firms, and whose check was cashed, is asked to obtain a photocopy of both sides of the check from their bank. That copy, along with the original solicitation they received, should be sent to:

Consumer Fraud Division  
San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office  
County Government Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1035 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408