

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

[www.slocounty.ca.gov/assessor](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/assessor)

### San Luis Obispo Office

1055 Monterey Street, Suite D360  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5643



### North County Office

6565 Capistrano Avenue  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
(805) 461-6143

## What are the duties of the Assessor?

- Discover, inventory, and value all real and personal property in the county
- Create and maintain assessment maps for all real property in the county
- Track and update property ownership for all property in the county

## What information is available to the general public from the Assessor's Office?

- Assessor's Parcel Numbers
- Name and mailing address of assessee of record (person or entity responsible for payment of taxes)
- Ownership history
- Copies of Assessment Maps, aerial imagery, and property attributes
- Historical assessed values

## Does the Assessor's Office have copies of building permits and floor plans?

Permits and plans are officially the responsibility of the local planning agency. However, our files sometimes contain copies of plans and permits. Only the property owner has access to their file, and only to the parts that pertain to their period of ownership, including building record information.

## May I find out the sales price of a property?

The Assessor's Office does not provide the sales price of property. (A real estate agent may be able to help you find this information). We do have a listing of transfers that provides the "indicated consideration" paid for a property based on the Documentary Transfer Tax. In general, this figure can be used to calculate the approximate previous sales price.

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*"The Assessor and staff seek excellence in providing information, services, and accurate property assessments through our personal commitment to integrity, mutual respect, and teamwork."*

## **Why does my name not show on correspondence I receive from the Assessor's Office?**

We are limited in the amount of space available for the mailing address, and frequently all the owners' names do not fit. Therefore, the name listed first on the last recorded document will be the name showing on correspondence.

## **What do "Tre", "Et al", "Et ux", and "Et con", mean?**

"Tre" is an abbreviation that indicates the assessee named is the trustee of a trust that holds title.

"Et al", "Et ux", and "Et con" are abbreviations for Latin terms with the following meanings:

- Et al = and others
- Et ux = and wife
- Et con = and husband

## **I bought my property this year. Why is my Notification of Amount of Assessment and the Property Tax Bill in the previous owner's name?**

The Assessor's Office is required by law to assess the property to the owner as of 12:01 a.m. on January 1 (lien date) of each year. If you were not the owner of the real property as of lien date, the notification and tax bill will be in the previous owner's name. However, the tax bill does apply to and is often secured by your property, and the annual tax bill is yours to pay.

## **Does the Assessor's Office need to be notified when a property owner dies?**

Yes. An owner's death always creates an ownership change, and the Assessor's Office must be notified as soon as possible. The surviving owners may be entitled to certain exclusions or exemptions. Please call our office for more information.

## **How do I change my name on the Assessor's records?**

The name showing on our records is based on a recorded document. If you have changed your name, or your name is spelled incorrectly on the document, you will need to record a new document in the San Luis Obispo County Recorders' Office.

## **How do I change my mailing address with the Assessor's Office?**

Requests to change your mailing address must be in writing, and must be signed by a property owner. You can either send us a letter requesting the change, or call our office and we will mail you an address change form. The form is also available on our website. Be sure to include the Assessor's Parcel Numbers of all affected properties on the request. If you do not know your Assessor's Parcel Numbers, please call our office for assistance.

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