

## **BOATS/VESSELS**

### **AUTHORITY TO TAX**

The California Constitution and the Revenue and Taxation Code state that all property is taxable (including boats and other vessels such as jet skis) unless the property is specifically exempt by law.

Boat/vessel owners pay a license fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), but the personal property taxes are payable to the county in which the boat/vessel is moored or located. If you own a boat/vessel in California on the tax lien date (January 1, 12:01 AM), you are responsible for the property tax levied by the county that has jurisdiction.

Boat/vessel property taxes are assessed on the unsecured tax roll. The tax bills are generally mailed during the first week of July and full payment is due by August 31.

### **SITUS OF THE BOAT/VESSEL**

Section 14 of the California Constitution states, "All property taxed by the local government shall be assessed in the county, city, and district in which it is situated." Revenue and Taxation Code Section 1141 further provides that "boats shall be assessed where they are habitually moored when not in use." Domicile (residence) of the boat/vessel owner is the usual tax situs (location). However, proof that the boat/vessel is habitually moored or located elsewhere when not in use overrides that presumption.

Registration information on boats/vessels is obtained directly from the DMV. Boats/vessels are required to be registered at their principal location, and this determines the county that has taxing jurisdiction. It is important to provide the DMV with timely, accurate information regarding the status of your boat/vessel.

Proof of location other than the DMV registration address may include receipts of docking fees, verification of registration in another county or state, and/or a copy of a paid tax bill from another county.

## **VALUE OF THE BOAT/VESSEL**

The initial taxable value of a boat/vessel is determined from marine market value guides and information provided by the taxpayer on the *Vessel Property Statement* (BOE-576-D). Adjustments for actual condition are made, as appropriate. Boat/vessel values for subsequent years are generally derived using depreciation rates calculated from marine market value guides. Boats/vessels subject to Riverside County's low value resolution (85-65) are not assessed.

Damage (beyond normal wear and tear) to a boat/vessel must be documented in order to receive consideration for value adjustment.

### **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- Q) Do I have to pay the full property tax if I sell my boat/vessel after the January 1 lien date?
- A) Yes. Unsecured property taxes are not prorated for the affected fiscal year. Sales, ownership changes, and boat/vessel relocations occurring after the lien date will become effective (for property tax purposes) on the following lien date.
- Q) Should I notify the Assessor's office if I sell or move my boat/vessel?
- A) Yes. This information will help prevent you from receiving a tax bill for property you no longer own (effective the next lien date) and/or having the boat/vessel assessed at the wrong location.
- Q) Why do I have to pay property tax on my boat/vessel, when a friend/relative/acquaintance doesn't?
- A) If a boat/vessel has taxable situs in Riverside County, it is subject to assessment by this office. Inaccurate DMV information is often the cause of non-discovery, or the boat/vessel may not be assessed due to the county's low value resolution (85-65).

## **NON-COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT**

The California Revenue and Taxation Code requires the annual assessment of non-commercial aircraft as of the tax lien date (January 1, 12:01 AM). Information on registered aircraft owners in the county is obtained from F.A.A. records, airport operators, physical inspections, and referrals from other jurisdictions.

Aircraft owners are requested to file an *Aircraft Property Statement* (BOE-577) each year. This form assists the Assessor in determining the fair market value of the aircraft.

Property statements are mailed to aircraft owners in January and are required to be returned by April 1. The statement should be completed in its entirety, with as much detail as possible regarding the condition of the aircraft. Instructions are located on the back of the form.

Aircraft market value guides are the primary source for determining taxable values. Information (current engine and airframe hours, status of paint and upholstery, etc.) provided on the *Aircraft Property Statement* will allow the Assessor to make appropriate value adjustments (if necessary) based on the actual condition of the aircraft. The Assessor may request additional information.

If an aircraft was sold, destroyed, or permanently removed from Riverside County **PRIOR** to January 1, this information should be documented and provided to the Assessor. Attach a copy of the aircraft bill of sale, if sold. The sale or removal of an aircraft after lien date does not relieve the owner of the tax liability for the upcoming fiscal year. The taxes are not prorated.

Aircraft of historical significance may be eligible for exemption, if certain criteria are met. A Claim for Exemption from Property Taxes of Aircraft of Historical Significance form (BOE-260-B) and supplemental information must be filed by February 15 to receive full exemption (if the aircraft is eligible).

## CONFIDENTIALITY

"All information requested by the assessor or furnished in the property statement shall be held secret by the assessor. The statement is not a public document and is not open to public inspection, except as provided in Section 408" (Revenue and Taxation Code Section 451).

## IMPORTANT DATES

- January 1: Lien date (12:01 AM).
- February 15: Deadline for filing exemption claims for welfare, cemetery, college, & historical aircraft.
- April 1: Deadline for filing the *Business Property Statement* (Form 571-L) and other property statements.
- April 10: Deadline for payment of second installment of secured property taxes.
- May 7: Last day to timely file a property statement without penalty.
- July 1: Assessment roll delivered by Assessor to County Auditor.
- July 2 thru Nov. 30: Period for filing assessment appeal applications for regular assessments.
- August 31: Deadline for payment of unsecured property taxes.
- December 10: Deadline for payment of first installment of secured property taxes.

## PUBLIC SERVICE BROCHURES

The following brochures are also available to the public:

### **From the Assessor**

- *Answers to Your Property Tax Questions*
- *Answers to Your Business Property Tax Questions*

### **From the Treasurer-Tax Collector**

- *Understanding Property Taxes ... The Simple Story*
- *When Property Taxes Become Delinquent ... A Cause for Redemption*
- *The Moving Saga of Mobilehome Property Taxes*
- *The Case of the Supplemental Tax... Who, What, When, and Why*

# *The Assessment of Boats/Vessels and Non-Commercial Aircraft*



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**For hours of operation and additional  
information, please call our office or visit  
our website at [www.riversideacr.com](http://www.riversideacr.com)**

Riverside County Property Tax Portal  
[www.riversidetaxinfo.com](http://www.riversidetaxinfo.com)