

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lawrence E. Stone, Assessor

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Increases reflect inflation

Fees for Assessor Parcel Maps, Property Characteristics, other data to increase on July 1

Earlier today the Board of Supervisors approved increases to the fees charged by the Assessor for a wide range of products and services. The new fee schedule which has not been updated since 2004, will be effective July 1, 2009. "We have increased our fees in some instances to cover the increased cost of doing business during the past five years," said Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone. On average, the fees increased between 3% to 4% per year.

The new fees will allow the Assessor's Office to continue to recover the costs associated with producing copies of maps, copies of data from electronic storage media and special reports, while maintaining the quality of services the general public has come to expect from the office. The new fees are also consistent with the Board of Supervisors Budget Strategy Statement to insure full cost recovery.

Fees charged by the Assessor cover only the Assessor's cost to produce the requested item. The Assessor's Office uses data from a sophisticated cost accounting system to develop the new fees. "It is important that our fees reflect only our true costs and not a penny more," said Stone.

The one increase that impacts the most customers is the customer service fee, which increased from \$3 to \$5 and covers the staff's cost to collect and process cash and checks. "We anxiously await the County's introduction of e-pay later this year, which will allow us to sell our products on-line, eliminating the customer service fee. It is expected the fee charged by the credit card company will be less than the Assessor's processing fee. More transactions online will allow our limited staff resources to focus on more important assessment issues. That is one fee I look forward to collecting less of," said Stone.

Attached is a complete list of the new and old fees, and the Assessors cost recovery totals.

Santa Clara County Assessor's Office

Fee Schedule for Products and Services(7/01/09)

Item	Description	Legal Authority	Current Fee, approved 8/19/03	Department Cost	Proposed Fee
Data Files (disk, mag tape or cartridge).					
1	Secured Master File with Use Codes (MF901)	R&T 409	\$ 1,645.00	1,991.23	1,990.00
2	Secured Master File without Use Codes (MF901B)	R&T 409	225.00	367.30	365.00
3	Property Situs (Address) File (SF902)	R&T 409	1,610.00	1,933.16	1,935.00
4	Property Characteristics File (PC851)	R&T 408.3	34,000.00	40,390.07	40,390.00
5	Legal Description File (LD852)	R&T 409	1,390.00	1,650.25	1,650.00
6	Key changes: Year to Date (KC101)	R&T 409	180.00	217.35	215.00
7	Annual (CK102)	R&T 409	180.00	217.35	215.00
8	Roll indices: Parcel Control (CI105)	R&T 409	1,530.00	1,803.78	1,805.00
9	Subdivision Tract (ST103)	R&T 409	1,530.00	1,803.78	1,805.00
10	Record of Survey (RS104)	R&T 409	1,530.00	1,803.78	1,805.00
11	Assessor's Parcel Maps on CD - entire County	R&T 409	2,575.00	2,575.00	2,575.00
12	Assessor's Parcel Maps on CD - yearly updates	R&T 409	260.00	260.00	260.00
Information Extract Files:(Setup charge plus cost per 1,000 records)					
13	Selection Set-up Charge	Co. Ord. A14-15	220.00	695.04	695.00
14	Master file and use code	R&T 409	\$3/1000	3.42	3.00/1000
15	Master file, use code and situs address	R&T 409	\$6/1000	8.00	8.00/1000
16	Master file, use code, situs address and acreage	R&T 409	\$11/1000	11.00	11.00/1000
17	Secured property physical characteristics(includes selected physical char., master file, use code, situs address and acreage)	R&T 409, 408.3	\$75/1000	86.00	86.00/1000
Other Products and Services					
18	Assessor's Map Page, per 11 x 17" page	Ord. 300.93	5.00	5.32	5.00
19	Printout, Property Characteristics, 1 parcel	R&T 408.3	5.00	5.32	5.00
20	Photocopy of one page of public microfische	R&T 408.3	5.00	6.63	7.00
21	Printout of one page of public information from data base	R&T 408.3	4.00	4.32	4.00
22	Inspection of 2-year sales list	R&T 408.1	10.00	mandated	10.00
23	Assessor's County Map, large or small	Ord. 300.93	5.00	5.32	5.00
24	Copy fee per document	SCC Proc.	1.70	mandated	4.75
25	Copy fee per additional page	Manual S 330.3	0.05	mandated	0.10
26	Certification fee for any document	R&T 162, Co. Ord. 14-16	1.00	mandated	1.00
27	Prop 90 - Transfer of base year value from out of county	R&T 69.5	60.00	78.15	78.00
Additional Charges					
28	Service fee per order	Co. Ord. A14-15	3.00	4.63	5.00
29	Return check charge-\$20 or actual cost, whichever is greater	Co. Ord. A14-30; Ord NS-300.323	20.00	mandated	50.00
30	Special projects authorized by the Assessor will be charged at the fully loaded labor rate.				Provided upon request
Recapture of development costs per parcel					
31	Real Property physical characteristics per parcel	R&T 408.3	0.075	0.09	0.09
32	Recapture of cost per parcel associated with mapping	R&T 408.3	0.005	0.01	0.01