

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY LAUNCHES ONLINE ASSESSMENT APPEALS APPLICATION

Property owners have the right to dispute property tax assessments through a process called the assessment appeals process. Santa Cruz County is offering an online portal for property owners to begin the process.

The new online appeals portal allows property owners to initiate the appeals process, which will lead to a hearing held before the Assessment Appeals Board where both the property owner and the Santa Cruz County Assessor's Office must present evidence to support the value of a property.

The online appeals portal is available by clicking on the "e-File Portal" button located on the Santa Cruz County Assessment Appeals Board website at <u>https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Departments/ClerkoftheBoard/AssessmentAppealsBoard.aspx</u>.

The appeals period for regular assessments is July 2 through November 30, 2022. For supplemental assessments, escape assessments, and roll changes, applications must be filed no later than 60 days after the date printed on the assessment notice. Applications to appeal a calamity assessment may be filed up to six months after the date printed on the assessment notice. For more information regarding the assessment appeal process, please refer to the SCC AAB website, or call the Clerk of the Board at (831) 454-2323.

An ongoing assessment appeal does not suspend a property owner's obligation to pay property taxes. Owners must pay taxes on time to avoid penalties regarding of a pending assessment appeal.

Each year in Santa Cruz County, more than 200 property owners file assessment appeals.

Beginning with the 2022-23 regular assessment filing period on July 2, the fee for filing an assessment appeal will be \$50.