



County of Santa Cruz

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 6, 2016
Release: Immediately
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Elderly, disabled homeowners eligible for property tax deferral

County of Santa Cruz Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Edith Driscoll is encouraging elderly and disabled homeowners who need help paying their residential property taxes to consider applying for the recently launched California State Property Tax Postponement Program.

Information and applications are available online at http://www.sco.ca.gov/ardtax_prop_tax_postponement.html. The State will accept applications October 1, 2016.

Under the program, the State pays the County taxes on the homeowner's behalf. Repayment at 7 percent interest is due if the homeowner moves or sells the property, transfers title, defaults on a senior lien, refinances, passes away or obtains a reverse mortgage.

The State reestablished the program this year after it had been suspended in 2009. Homeowners who earn \$35,500 or less annually, have a minimum 40 percent equity stake in their home and meet other criteria are eligible. Prior to suspension, approximately 150 Santa Cruz County homeowners took advantage of the program annually.

However, the \$13 million program is first-come, first-served, with applications accepted beginning Oct. 1, 2016. For more information, visit the website or call the State Controller at 800-952-5661 (toll-free), or email postponement@sco.ca.gov.