

**April 29, 2009**

**From: The Imperial County Assessor's Office**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

County Assessor Roy Buckner advises the taxpayers of Imperial County to be aware that there are private companies sending out letters soliciting clients to file appeals on their real property tax assessments upon payment of a substantial fee.

First of all, though these solicitations are designed to look like an official government document, they are not coming from the County of Imperial, nor from any other governmental agency.

Second, the Assessor's Office currently does informal reviews of property tax assessments, and will do so upon request of any Imperial County taxpayer.

Third, the Clerk of the Board of Equalization for Imperial County can assist taxpayers in filing a formal appeal, if necessary.

Therefore, it is not required to pay a fee for a service already being provided by the County of Imperial.

Mr. Buckner announced, "The Assessor's Office is actively reviewing all residential values in the county under Proposition 8 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and is systematically reducing values where warranted."

"Furthermore," Buckner stated, "taxpayers can do most of what is being offered by these firms directly with the appropriate County office and without paying a fee." The County strongly discourages the use of such fee-based services.

If any member of the public has any questions regarding the tax re-assessment process, please call the Imperial County Assessor's Office at (760)482-4244 or the Clerk of the Board of Equalization for Imperial County at (760)482-4220