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# NEWS

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**RICK AUERBACH**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASSESSOR**

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MARCH 14, 2005  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **HISTORIC ONE-STOP ELECTRONIC BUSINESS STATEMENT FILING BEGINS**

Los Angeles has joined a consortium of counties taking part in a first-ever program allowing California businesses to file their property statements electronically with participating counties and eliminate the need for multiple paper submissions to each jurisdiction, County Assessor Rick Auerbach announced today.

Under the new system beginning March 14, Los Angeles and 21 other counties will allow companies with locations in multiple counties to file all Business Property Statements electronically at one time in one location.

"The counties initially involved in this process account for more than 500,000 statements annually throughout California," Auerbach said. "A reduction in the need for handling paper documents will reduce errors; save business the cost of postage, storage and printing; and cut down the waste of thousands of pounds of paper every year to help conserve the environment. This program will also allow assessors to become more efficient."

Auerbach noted that related cost savings will pay for development and operation of the new system.

Counties taking part in the initial phase of the California Business Property Statements Standard Data Record (BPS/SDR) program include Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Bernardino, Alameda, Santa Clara, and Santa Barbara.

"It is truly historic," said State Controller Steve Westly. "Assessors are to be applauded for stepping forward to make government more productive and California more business friendly."

The one-stop concept was first considered and developed at a meeting hosted last year by Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone with the Silicon Valley Tax Directors, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group and members of the California Assessors' Association, including Assessor Auerbach, who is CAA President-elect.

Support came quickly from the State Board of Equalization and the Silicon Valley Tax Directors. "Assessors have brought a valuable product to the marketplace," said Carl Guardino, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. "They've worked collaboratively with job providers to make sure this is useful for the end user – the taxpayers of California."

Auerbach praised Orange County Assessor Webster Guillory for his work in overseeing development of the one-stop system, which will receive ongoing operational support from Orange County Information and Technology and Affiliated Computer Services (ACS).

"This is an outstanding example of how technology and government cooperation go hand in hand to improve the business climate through efficiency. This, in turn, benefits consumers who are also taxpayers," said Auerbach.

Details about the new program can be accessed on the Internet at [www.calbpsfile.org](http://www.calbpsfile.org).