
NEWS

From RICK AUERBACH

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASSESSOR

320 Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 974-3101 • Fax: (213) 617-1493 • <http://assessor.co.la.ca.us/>

CONTACT: ROBERT KNOWLES
(213) 974-3101

April 24, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIVATE FIRMS NOT NEEDED TO OBTAIN EXEMPTION BENEFITS

An increase in mailings from private firms offering to help homeowners obtain exemption benefits has prompted Los Angeles County Assessor Rick Auerbach to remind all property owners that such services and assistance in filing are available free of charge from his office.

"We have recently received many inquiries about a Los Angeles-based company which is mailing official-looking documents to property owners who have not taken advantage of the \$7,000 Homeowners' Exemption," Auerbach said.

"This exemption allows a reduction in assessed valuation prior to the calculation of value for tax purposes for owner-occupied residences," he added.

"While firms making offers to file exemption documents for a nominal processing fee, often \$25, frequently include small-print disclaimers that they are not a government agency," Auerbach cautioned, "many people are confused by the language and appearance of what is, essentially, a sales pitch."

These mailings sometimes include other offers to help find property information and comparable sales data for small fees. This material is also available free of charge on the assessor's website at <http://assessor.co.la.ca.us/> or at any regional assessor office.

Assessor's homeowner exemption forms, which involve only the principal place of residence, are automatically mailed to new buyers and may also be obtained by calling either (213) 974-3211 or toll-free 1-888-807-2111. They can be filed at any time.

Public service staff are available with explanations on how to fill out the forms and submit them by mail.

03/4

