



Henry C. Levy, Treasurer-Tax Collector

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Offices are Closed to the Public Starting Friday, March 20th

Starting March 17th, and continuing until at least April 7th, the Alameda County Health Officer has issued an order which mandates that only essential activities may be performed outside one's residence. For now, the payment of property taxes is considered essential; the government and schools are essential activities which must continue to be funded. However, our paramount concern is to protect the health of the public and our employees.

Due to health care concerns for our staff and the public, we have decided to close the Oakland Treasurer-Tax Collector and Hayward Business License Tax Offices to the public starting tomorrow, Friday, March 20, 2020, until further notice. During the tax season rush, thousands of taxpayers come into our office every day. Due to public health concerns, we cannot have this a situation.

The deadline for the second installment remains as April 10th, after which penalties and interest are assessed. Neither I, nor the Board of Supervisors, have the authority to extend this deadline.

There are many ways to pay property taxes without coming into the office:

- **Mail in your check, postmarked by April 10th**
- **Pay On-Line, either by E-Check (no fee) or by credit card (2.5% fee). Go to <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>, which also has a video from the Treasurer explaining how to pay by e-check**
- **Pay via the phone system at (510) 272-6800**
- **Pay by Bank Bill-Pay, but this must be done well before April 10th as each bank has its own process for mailing the payments, often over 1 week.**
- **Avoid cash payments; purchase a cashier's check from a bank/ credit union or money order from the Post Office/banks or retail stores and mail this to the Tax Collector. Money orders can be obtained through most post offices; they are sold in amounts of \$1,000 or less; proper identification is needed; the cost is \$1.75 per \$1,000. Typically, banks will waive a fee for cashier's checks for their customers.**
- **You can wire your payment (see wiring instructions at <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/wire.htm>)**
- **Dropbox at the entrance of the County Administration building.**

We are aware that many taxpayers feel it is necessary to have an official receipt. Please note that your cancelled check is your receipt. If you pay on-line, by providing your e-mail address, you will get an immediate receipt via e mail. You can also request a receipt even though your payment is being mailed by including a self-addressed stamped envelope.

No matter how you pay, please sign up for e mail reminders:
<http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/email.htm>. And, after signing up for reminders, sign up for the Treasurer's blogs at Subscriber Preferences.

We appreciate patience and cooperation. We want to control this virus. One silver lining is that you may learn new habits of paying your taxes, which could become lifetime habits.

If you have questions, please call 510-272-6800 or e-mail: ttaxpublicmail@acgov.org. Also, to keep up-to-date on this and other County services, please visit www.acgov.org, where there are online services available 24/7.

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