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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GETS BIG BOOST

On Monday, August 13, 2001, AB 440 was signed into law.

Among other things, AB 440 appears to increase the benefit levels of the Franchise Tax Board's Homeowners & Renters Property Tax Assistance program by **45% over its 1999 levels**.

Within a specified income range, this property tax relief program offers property tax rebates for property owners over 62, or owners of any age who are severely disabled or blind. Under the program, an owner must first pay the tax, and then file an application with the Franchise Tax Board for a refund.

Eligibility is currently computed on a sliding income scale, with \$35,251 being the maximum allowable household income for year 2001 applications. The maximum direct benefit anyone could receive for year 2000 taxes was approximately \$325 but, under the new law, the maximum benefit should approach \$470 in the future.

Beginning with the 2001 claim year, the **filing period** for this benefit has been changed to **July 1 through October 15**.

The State Franchise Tax Board has information about the current program and application forms posted on the Internet at www.ftb.ca.gov/geninfo/hra/index.html. Owners may also contact the FTB at 1-800-852-5711 for additional information.

For taxpayer convenience, the Assessor's Office keeps a small supply of Franchise Tax Board Property Tax Assistance applications in our customer service section at 700 H street, Room 3720; however, these applications must be filed with the Franchise Tax Board, not with the Assessor. Additionally, the Sacramento County Assessor's Internet site features information about a variety of other property tax relief and assistance programs at: **[www co.sacramento.ca.us/assessor/index.html](http://www.co.sacramento.ca.us/assessor/index.html)**.

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