



DRAFT COVID-19 STATEMENT

California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors (CACTTC) issues the following statement regarding April 10 Property Tax Collection Deadline:

We understand and share the public's anxiety and concern about the impacts of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. While we cannot change the April 10 deadline for the Second Installment of Property Taxes because critical county services, school and local financial obligations are dependent on those scheduled revenues, we can waive penalties, costs or other charges resulting from tax delinquency due to reasonable cause and circumstances related to this crisis.

Tax Collectors have the authority to handle specific scenarios where a taxpayer cannot physically pay their taxes on April 10 due to quarantine, illness or closure of the Tax Collector's office as a result of COVID-19. In such cases, the Tax Collector will utilize their authority pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code (RTC) 4985.2. to waive interest or penalties that would otherwise be imposed or collected with respect to a delinquent second installment of property taxes levied for the 2019-2020 fiscal year on residential real property.

- Taxes can be paid online, over the phone, though bill pay at one's own bank, by check, money order or in person in cash by April 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Postmark by April 10 is also acceptable.
- Please pay electronically if you are able to, in order to reduce transmission of the virus.
- If county offices are closed on April 10 and a taxpayer cannot pay their taxes, payments made the next business day that the county offices are open will be considered timely and no penalties will apply per Revenue and Tax code 2619.
- Tax Collectors have existing authority to waive penalties and interest that absolutely cover the circumstances of a pandemic that would impact county operations and individual inability to make a payment on or before April 10.
- If a large portion of taxpayers don't pay on April 10, there could be almost immediate and very serious impacts to school obligations and other local financial obligations that are funded through the payment of property taxes.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Which Revenue and Taxation Codes give County Tax Collectors authority to waive penalties and interest for late payment of property taxes?

A. Two Tax Code Sections provide authority for County Tax Collectors to waive penalties for late payment of property taxes. Below are the two code sections governing their authority:

RT 2619 - If December 10 or April 10 falls on Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, the time of delinquency is at 5 p.m., or the close of business, whichever is later, on the next business day. If the board of supervisors,

by adoption of an ordinance or resolution, closes the county's offices for business prior to the time of delinquency on the "next business day" or for that whole day, that day shall be considered a legal holiday for purposes of this section.

RT 4985.2. - Any penalty, costs, or other charges resulting from tax delinquency may be canceled by the auditor or the tax collector upon a finding of any of the following:

(a) Failure to make a timely payment is due to reasonable cause and circumstances beyond the taxpayer's control, and occurred notwithstanding the exercise of ordinary care in the absence of willful neglect, provided the principal payment for the proper amount of the tax due is made no later than June 30 of the fourth fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the tax became delinquent.

(Amended by Stats. 1996, Ch. 800, Sec. 19. Effective January 1, 1997.)

Q. Under what circumstances could a property tax deadline be extended?

A. Pursuant to Rev and Tax 2619, if the Tax Collectors office is closed, the next business day that it is open is when the deadline applies.

Q: What if I am quarantined on April 10 and unable to make my tax payment in person on April 10?

A: The majority of tax collectors accept most electronic payment, payments over the phone, checks and money order in addition to cash. Your bank may also be able to schedule a payment from your account through bill pay. If you are quarantined, your tax collector may be able to waive any penalties or interest because Revenue and Taxation Code Section 4985.2 grants authority for delays beyond the taxpayer's control (see above). If you cannot pay because the office is closed, the next day the office is open is the day it is due under RTC 2619, the tax collector will waive penalties and interest as long as the bill is paid the day the office reopens. (see links at bottom for reach county office.)

Q: What if the Tax Collector's Office is closed on April 10 or can't accept a cash payment because of the lack of staff available to process a cash payment?

A: Your tax collector has the authority to waive any penalties or interest because RTC Section 2619 (see above) covers what happens if a tax collector's office is closed on the date the tax is due. If the office is closed, then the next day the tax collector's office is open is the day the payment is due.

Q: How can I find out what my payment options are to make sure I don't have to pay penalties?

A: County tax collectors must accept all forms of legal tender: checks drawn on a US Bank in denominated in US Dollars, cash, money orders, and electronic funds transfer. Most banks offer a free or low cost electronic bill pay service to their customers. Payments are not delinquent if postmarked April 10.

For payment information for each county, please visit:

Amador County

www.amadorgov.org

Butte County

www.buttecounty.net/ttc

California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

1415 L Street, Suite 1000 • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 441-1850 • Fax: (916) 441-6178

Website: www.cacttc.org

Calaveras County	taxcollector.calaverasgov.us
City & County of San Francisco	www.sftreasurer.org
Colusa County	www.countyofcolusa.org
Contra Costa County	www.cctax.us
Del Norte County	www.co.del-norte.ca.us
El Dorado County	www.edcgov.us/taxcollector
Fresno County	www.fresnocountyca.gov
Glenn County	www.countyofglenn.net
Humboldt County	www.humboldtgov.org/tax
Imperial County	www.co.imperial.ca.us/taxcollectortreasurer/index.htm
Inyo County	www.inyocounty.us
Kern County	www.kcttc.co.kern.ca.us
Kings County	www.countyofkings.com
Lake County	www.tax.lakecountyca.gov
Lassen County	www.lassencounty.org
Los Angeles County	ttc.lacounty.gov
Madera County	www.madera-county.com/government/treasurer-tax-collector
Marin County	www.marincounty.org/dof
Mariposa County	www.mariposacounty.org
Mendocino County	www.mendocinocounty.org/ttc
Merced County	www.mercedtaxcollector.org
Modoc County	www.co.modoc.ca.us
Mono County	www.monocounty.ca.gov/tax
Monterey County	www.co.monterey.ca.us/taxcollector
Napa County	www.countyofnapa.org
Nevada County	www.mynevadacounty.com/348/treasurer-tax-collector
Orange County	www.ttc.ocgov.com
Placer County	www.placer.ca.gov/tax
Plumas County	www.countyofplumas.com
Riverside County	www.countytreasurer.org
Sacramento County	www.finance.saccounty.net
San Benito County	www.cosb.us
San Bernardino County	www.sbcounty.gov/atc
San Diego County	www.sdttc.com
San Joaquin County	www.sjcttc.org
San Luis Obispo County	www.slocountytaxca.gov
San Mateo County	www.sanmateocountytaxcollector.org
Santa Barbara County	www.countyofsb.org/ttccpag
Santa Clara County	www.sccgov.org
Santa Cruz County	www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/departments/taxcollector.aspx
Shasta County	www.co.shasta.ca.us/departments/ttc
Sierra County	www.sierracounty.ca.gov
Siskiyou County	www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/treasurer-tax-collector
Solano County	www.solanocounty.com
Sonoma County	www.sonoma-county.org/acttc

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Stanislaus County	www.stancounty.com/tr-tax
Sutter County	www.suttercounty.org/doc/government/dept/ttc/ttchome
Tehama County	www.tax.tehama.ca.us
Trinity County	www.trinitycounty.org
Tulare County	www.tularecounty.ca.gov/auditorcontroller
Tuolumne County	www.touolumnecounty.ca.gov/tax
Ventura County	www.ventura.org/ttc
Yolo County	www.yolocounty.org
Yuba County	www.co.yuba.ca.us/departments/treasurer