



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 5, 2017

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PROPERTY TAX PROGRAM BENEFITS ELDERLY, DISABLED

County of Santa Cruz Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector Edith Driscoll is urging eligible homeowners who need help paying property taxes to consider applying for California State Property Tax Postponement Program.

The program is open to elderly and disabled residents, and information is available at www.santacruzcounty.us/Departments/TaxCollector/PropertyTaxPostponementProgram.aspx. Applications will be available beginning in September.

Under the program, the State pays the property taxes on the homeowner's behalf. Repayment at 7 percent interest is due if the homeowner moves or sells the property, transfers title, defaults on a senior lien, refinances, passes away or obtains a reverse mortgage.

Homeowners who meet the following criteria are eligible: at least 62 years of age, or blind or disabled; earn \$35,500 or less annually; have a minimum 40 percent equity stake in their home; and meet other requirements. Visit the website above for information in English, Spanish, Chinese and Tagalog.

The State Property Tax Postponement Program is operated on a first-come, first-served basis with applications accepted beginning October 1. For more information, visit the website or call the State Controller at 800-952-5661 (toll-free), or email postponement@sco.ca.gov.