

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Victims Eligible for Property Tax Relief

Tax Collector Lawrence Matheney and Assessor Dan Goodwin jointly announced that property owners who have suffered damage exceeding \$10,000 in the wildfires can apply for a temporary reduction in property taxes by contacting the Assessor's office at 805-642-8511. The Application for Reassessment form is available from the Assessor's website by going to www.assessor.countyofventura.org and following the guide to "forms".

The Tax Collector will work with the fire department to get a list of damaged properties and will allow fire damage victims to postpone the first installment of 2006/07 property taxes for at least 30 days provided the fire loss is confirmed by either the Assessor or the fire department. Between now and December 12, the most efficient way to contact the Tax Collector is by email sent to HelpingHand@ventura.org. For those unable to access the Internet, telephone assistance is also possible using the automated system at 805-654-3744.

Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Matheney express their sympathies to those who have suffered fire losses.