

**PROPOSITION 8  
DECLINE IN MARKET VALUE**

Pine Street, Room 106, Martinez, CA 94553;  
or by calling (925) 335-1901.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q. How do I request a review of the assessed value of my property?**

**A.** Write a letter or complete the form at right and mail it to the Assessor's Office. Be sure to include your parcel number and daytime phone number.

**Q. Is the Assessor's Office prevented from restoring my value at a rate more than 2% annually as provided under Proposition 13?**

**A.** No. Just as there is no limit to the amount of reduction, there is no limit to the amount being restored up to the protected Proposition 13 ceiling amount.

**Q. Do I have to request a review under Proposition 8 annually?**

**A.** No. Once you have been granted a reduction under Proposition 8, your assessed value will be automatically reviewed by our office each lien date, and you will be notified by letter of the result of that review each year that your property qualifies for a reduction.

**Q. What should I do if I disagree with the Proposition 8 value placed on my property?**

**A.** Contact our office at (925) 313-7400 and request a review of the Proposition 8 value and provide us with documentation to show why you disagree. If we still disagree, you have the right to file a formal appeal where you will present your reasons supporting your opinion of value before the Appeals Board. The Assessor's Office will do the same. The independent Appeals Board will then determine the value after considering all the facts.

**Q. Why isn't the reduction under Proposition 8 permanent?**

**A.** Proposition 8 reductions are temporary as mandated by State law. It is not a decision of the Assessor's Office.

**Q. What will happen to my assessment if values start to rise?**

**A.** Here are examples of that situation (using the State determined inflation factor for all years concerned):

**Example 1:** Property is purchased in 8/2005 for \$800,000. In 2007 a reduction is made and the temporary value is \$670,000.

In 2008 the market improves and real estate values make a dramatic turnaround. Under Proposition 8 the law requires us to pick the lower of your factored base year value or market value and enroll that value on the lien date. For the fiscal year 2008 the market value of the property in this example is now worth \$950,000. The factored base year value of the property would be  $\$800,000 \times 1.06121\% = \$849,968$ . The factor of 1.06121% was arrived at by compounding the State determined inflation factor over 3 years. Under Proposition 8 guidelines for the 2008 fiscal year, we would be required to raise your valuation to \$849,968, which is lower than the market value of \$950,000. In this example, your assessed value would be raised from \$670,000 to \$848,968 and you would no longer be under Proposition 8 review.

**Example 2:** Using the same facts, except in 2008 your property is worth \$825,000, we would raise your value to \$825,000, which is lower than the factored base year value of \$849,968. Again, the rule for any given year is to enroll either the factored base year value or the market value, whichever is lower. In this example, you would still be under Proposition 8 review as the market value of \$825,000 is less than the factored base year value.

**The information in this pamphlet is a general overview of the law and is not meant to be relied upon as complete information.**

DETACH AND MAIL TO: GUS KRAMER, ASSESSOR, PUBLIC SERVICE SECTION, 2530 ARNOLD DR, SUITE 100, MARTINEZ, CA 94553

REQUEST FOR VALUE REDUCTION (PROPOSITION 8) PARCEL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET CITY \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET CITY \_\_\_\_\_

WORK OR DAYTIME PHONE (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.): ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

**General Information:**

Public Service ..... 925 / 313-7400

**Value Questions:**

Agricultural Property ..... 925 / 313-7400

Boats & Aircraft ..... 925 / 313-7605

Business Property ..... 925 / 313-7600

Commercial ..... 925 / 313-7520

Industrial..... 925 / 313-7520

Mobile Homes ..... 925 / 313-7400

Multiple Properties ..... 925 / 313-7400

Personal Property..... 925 / 313-7600

Residential..... 925 / 313-7400

**Exemptions:**

Homeowners ..... 925 / 313-7481

Local ..... 925 / 313-7470

Change of Ownership ..... 925 / 313-7400

**OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

Tax Collector ..... 925 / 957-5280

625 Court St. Rm. 100, Martinez

☐ Copies of Tax Bills

☐ Payment of Taxes

Auditor..... 925 / 646-2236

625 Court St., Martinez

☐ Tax Rates

☐ Special Assessments

☐ Supplemental Assessment Refunds

Recorder..... 925 / 335-7900

555 Escobar St., Martinez

☐ Recording and Copies of Deeds

Dept of Conservation & Dev. 925 / 674-7200

30 Muir Rd., Martinez

☐ Zoning

☐ Planning

Building Inspector..... 925 / 646-1600

651 Pine St. North Wing, Martinez

☐ Building Permits

**GUS S. KRAMER  
ASSESSOR**

**PROPOSITION 8**

**DECLINE IN  
PROPERTY  
VALUE**

**QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS**



**GUS S. KRAMER, ASSESSOR  
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA  
2530 ARNOLD DRIVE, SUITE 100  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553**

TELEPHONE: (925) 313-7400

For more information, visit our Web site at:  
<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/assr/assr.htm>