



County of San Bernardino



**Ensen Mason CPA, CFA • Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector**

**NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**April 30, 2019**

## **MASON REQUIRES LARGE CORPORATIONS TO PAY QUICK OR PAY PENALTY**

**San Bernardino, CA** — San Bernardino County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector Ensen Mason today announced that he will enforce a state law giving him the authority to require taxpayers who make aggregate tax payments to the County of \$50,000 or more in a calendar year to submit their payment by ACH credit or wire transfer.

“Paying by check at the last minute slows down the allocation process and has caused local jurisdictions to miss apportionments of tax dollars they needed to provide vital public services,” pointed out Mason. “The State Legislature passed a law in 1992 encouraging very large taxpayers to pay electronically by authorizing County Tax Collectors to require electronic payments by very large taxpayers. San Bernardino County started requiring these very large taxpayers to pay electronically in 2008, but never returned the check and imposed a late penalty, if an electronic payment was not received by the due date. That ends today.”

Mason cited a case earlier this month where a large utility mailed a last minute check to his office totaling over \$29 million, despite having been repeatedly informed of the code section in question, Revenue and Taxation Code Section 2503.2(b), and being repeatedly requested to make future payments electronically. This time, ATC Mason wrote the company’s Chief Executive Officer a personally signed, certified letter informing him that if it happens again, a late penalty will be enforced. Had it been enforced this month, the penalty would have amounted to \$2,945,999.49, in addition to the full amount of tax owed. The slowdown in payment this month negatively impacted 68 tax entities and three successor redevelopment agencies.

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