

# San Bernardino County



**Larry Walker**

**Auditor-Controller/Recorder/Treasurer/Tax Collector**

## **PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Distribution**

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**Date:** May 18, 2010

**From:** Larry Walker, Auditor-Controller/Recorder/Treasurer/Tax Collector

### **PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPERTY TAX BILLS ARE CHANGING IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

**San Bernardino, CA** — San Bernardino County Tax Collector Larry Walker announced today that from this day forward property taxpayers will be instructed to make their checks payable to “SBC Tax Collector”, not to the name of the person holding the office.

“My goal with this change is to simplify the process for taxpayers by emphasizing payment to the office, and not the individual,” Walker stated. “I recall the Grand Jury had previously made this recommendation, and at the time I agreed with their recommendation. Writing checks to “SBC Tax Collector” simplifies the process without any negative consequences.”

More than 766,000 annual secured tax bills were mailed to San Bernardino County property owners this past October, and regularly-scheduled mailings occur throughout the year. California State Law directs Tax Collectors to include on the bill the name and address of the Tax Collector and how to make a payment. Making checks payable to the name of the tax collector is at the discretion of the elected official. Walker has changed the policy in San Bernardino County, bringing to an end a business practice that has been in place for years.

“In studying this situation, I came upon an interesting case in another county where a taxpayer’s check was accidentally deposited to the name of a County Jail inmate who had the same name as the tax collector holding office,” Walker noted. “Although this was not in San Bernardino County, it’s an example of a situation to be avoided.”

Walker’s policy change goes into effect immediately and will be visible on annual tax bills mailed this fall. “I encourage taxpayers to pay by electronic check for maximum convenience,” Walker noted. “However, for those who prefer writing and mailing a check, this change will simplify the process,” he added.

Additional property tax information can be found at [www.MyTaxCollector.com](http://www.MyTaxCollector.com).

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