



County of San Bernardino

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

**NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**March 26, 2020**

## **TAX COLLECTOR MASON CANCELS 2020 PROPERTY TAX SALE**

**San Bernardino, CA** — San Bernardino County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector (ATC) Ensen Mason today announced that he is canceling the scheduled 2020 May and August tax sales of tax-defaulted properties located within the County.

In normal circumstances, sales of tax-defaulted properties are to the advantage of taxpayers as a whole because they level the playing field by ensuring everyone follows the same rules. If everyone doesn't have to pay their property taxes, then no one will pay them because there is no consequence for non-payment. Tax sales restore the equilibrium by satisfying the unpaid tax debt, and restoring the property to taxpaying status.

"This crisis, however, calls for government to go the extra mile in giving taxpayers every possible opportunity to save their properties from being sold due to unpaid taxes," said Mason. "It sends the wrong message for us to be selling tax-defaulted properties at auction while millions of people are losing their jobs, businesses are having trouble staying afloat, and kids can't even go to school. I'm doing everything I can to help. There is a provision in the law that allows me to do this and so I have chosen to cancel our tax sale for this year."

For further information regarding the cancellation of the 2020 May and August tax sales, please contact Tax Sales Services Manager Kelly McKee at 909-387-8308.

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