

# PHONG LA

ALAMEDA COUNTY ASSESSOR



---

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

### Message from Assessor La

Dear County Residents:

It is important to remain strong in our shared commitment to try to help slow the spread of COVID-19 from person-to-person and begin to bend the curve. As we enter the seventh week of the COVID-19 related shelter-in-place, Alameda County's Public Health Department, along with the five neighboring Bay Area counties extended the shelter-in-place (SIP) order today through the end of May.

The full details of this new shelter-in-place order have some new guidelines that ease restrictions which can be found here: <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/shelter-in->

[place.aspx](#)

**The Order allows a limited number of additional Essential Businesses and certain lower risk Outdoor Businesses to resume operating.**

- All construction projects that follow the Construction Project Safety Protocols included with the order
- All real estate transactions will also now be able to resume, but with continued restrictions on open houses and limitations on in-person viewings
- Childcare, camps and educational/ rec programs that provide care for children of people who are allowed to work outside of their homes
- Outdoor businesses such as nurseries, landscaping, and agriculture that normally operated outdoors prior to the shelter in place orders
- Use of certain outdoor recreational facilities, such as skate parks and athletic fields. Golf courses are permitted under local orders, but prohibited under state orders
- Residential moves

Note: as a condition of operating under this Order, the operators of all businesses must prepare or update, post, implement, and distribute to their personnel a Social Distancing Protocol for each of their facilities in the County frequented by personnel or members of the public, as specified in Section 16.h.

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) also issued an order on April 17th for all residents and workers to wear face covering when conducting essential business and when around others outside of their immediate household. Combined with physical distancing and frequent handwashing, face coverings may reduce the risk of infection posed by people who are infected and without symptoms. For the full order please click [here](#).

I would like to remind you that the Assessor's Office remains open and following the recommendations of the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), are serving the residents of Alameda County via email, phone or regular mail. We are not taking in-person appointments currently but if you have any questions or concerns relating to property assessments or business personal property, please call us during normal business hours 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ,or send an email to [AssessorWebResponse@acgov.org](mailto:AssessorWebResponse@acgov.org).

I also wanted to provide an update on relief efforts for small business owners. The Small Business Administration has resumed accepting applications for the Payment Protection Program, which will help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

The following entities affected by Coronavirus (COVID-19) may be eligible:

- Any small business concern that meets SBA's size standards (either the industry based sized standard or the alternative size standard)
- Any business, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 501(c)(19) veterans organization, or Tribal business concern (sec. 31(b)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act) with the greater of:
  - 500 employees, or that meets the SBA industry size standard if more than 500
  - Any business with a NAICS Code that begins with 72 (Accommodations and Food Services) that has more than one physical location and employs less than 500 per location
- Sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed persons

Due to demand of the Payment Protection Program, you are encouraged to begin preparing your application as soon as possible. You can download a copy of the [PPP borrower application form](#) to see the information that will be requested from you when you apply with a lender. All this information and more can be found [here](#).

I would also like to update those of you who file a Business Personal Property Form 571-L regarding late fee penalties. Business property owners must file a property statement (Form 571-L) each year detailing the acquisition cost of all supplies, equipment, fixtures, and improvements owned at each location in Alameda County. As your Assessor, I do not have the jurisdiction to move the May 7th due date. However, the California Association of Assessor's is seeking an emergency order from the Governor to grant each Assessor discretion to waive penalties for late payments. I have lobbied for this discussion and if the emergency order is granted I will waive late fees in Alameda County.

Finally, I would like to offer special thanks to all our essential workers, especially our first responders, grocery workers, public transit operators, nurses, doctors, and our staff at the Assessor's Office who continue to serve us during this crisis.

In Service,



**Phong La**

Alameda County Assessor

## Assessor's Program of the Month



### HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION

Assessor La encourages Alameda County homeowners to apply for the Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption that can save owners of residential property \$70 off their property tax bill each year.

This is how it works: Once a homeowner submits an application and qualifies for the exemption, the property's assessed value is reduced by \$7,000, thereby lowering the property tax bill by approximately \$70 each year. There is no need to re-apply, which means the savings will continue until a change of ownership or re-assessment occurs. To qualify for the exemption, the home must be the owner's principal place of residence on January 1st.

Who would not want to save \$70 per year in property taxes? An annual savings of \$70 can buy 26 cups of coffee, 25 gallons of gasoline, dinner and a movie, or 2 gallons of paint to brighten the look of a home.

Please contact our Office for more information on how to file for this exemption. You can contact us by phone at (510) 272-3787 or by email at [AssessorWebResponse@acgov.org](mailto:AssessorWebResponse@acgov.org).

# Assessor's Office in the Community

Associated Real Property Broker's Meeting via Zoom on April 15th, 2020



*Assessor La was the guest speaker at the Associated Real Property Broker's Monthly Meeting on April 15th, 2020. He presented on the programs and services available at the Assessor's Office.*

## Feature Story

**A Fond Farewell**





*Melanio "Mel" Ednalaga's retirement luncheon at the Assessor's Office.*

Last month the Assessor's Office bid farewell to a valuable member of our team, Melanio "Mel" Ednalaga. Mel had been an employee of Alameda County for 21 years and with the Assessor's Office for 19 years. Prior to working for Alameda County, Mel served 20 years of honorable service in the U.S. Navy. In a farewell letter to his coworkers Mel said, "the Assessor's Office feels like a family. Although I know that I will see many of you, leaving today feels like moving away from home. It has great promise – and yet the thought of no longer seeing my "family members" every day is hard to imagine". Mel ended his career as a Supervising Appraiser with the Assessment Appeals Unit and then briefly served as Supervising Appraiser for the Hayward and Union City Apartment unit. The Assessor's Office wishes Mel an enjoyable retirement and looks forward to keeping in contact.

## Important Dates

**May 7th** - Legal deadline for filing business personal property statements without penalty.

**July 1st** - Assessment roll delivered by Assessor to County Auditor-Controller.

**Mid-July** - Annual mailing of assessment notices to all Alameda County real property owners stating the taxable value of the property.

**August 31st** - Regular roll unsecured taxes due.

**September 15th** - Last day to file an Assessment Appeal.

**December 10th** - Legal deadline for filing a late exemption claim for homeowners and disabled veterans. Also, last day to pay the first installment of property taxes without penalty.



### **BUSINESS RESOURCES**

ALAMEDA COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER – [click here](#)

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LOANS – [click here](#)

CALIFORNIA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER – [click here](#)

### **BUSINESS RESOURCES BY CITY**

ALBANY – [click here](#)

ALAMEDA - [click here](#)

BERKELEY - [click here](#)

DUBLIN - [click here](#)

EMERYVILLE - [click here](#)

FREMONT - [click here](#)

HAYWARD - [click here](#)

LIVERMORE - [click here](#)

NEWARK - [click here](#)

OAKLAND - [click here](#)

PIEDMONT - [click here](#)

PLEASANTON - [click here](#)

SAN LEANDRO - [click here](#)

UNION CITY - [click here](#)

### AVAILABLE CITY GRANTS FOR BUSINESSES

ALAMEDA COVID-19 BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM – [click here](#)

BERKELEY BUSINESS CONTINUITY GRANTS – [click here](#)

---

---

---



Follow us on Twitter: [@acassessor](#)

Like us on Facebook!



[www.acassessor.org](http://www.acassessor.org)

(510) 272-3787

1221 Oak Street, Room 145  
Oakland, California 94612



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)