

From: July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
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STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION



Michael Russo _____ Item # ____
Item Name: Info Hearing – Split Roll Initiative
Meeting Date: 7/23/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 7.148

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Michael Russo

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Agenda Item(s):

7. Public Comment

Comment:

I submit my comment on behalf of Advancement Project California, a civil rights organization that works to end racial disparities by transforming public systems. As part of that mission, we perform budget analysis to support advocates, community organizers, and residents from across the state, including the Central Valley and Inland Empire, as they call for equity-based-investments in low-income communities of color. The inequities of our property tax system mean that some owners of commercial and industrial property gain a tax windfall based solely on how long they have held a property, undermining competition and starving our communities of the resources they need to support residents. For too long, communities of color have been told there aren't enough resources for the things they need -- things as simple as a good education, clean air and water, health care, and job training and services -- while these loopholes direct billions of dollars to profitable corporations and deep-pocketed investors. At this time of crisis for America and for California, we can no longer afford policies that make a mockery of equity and drive disinvestment from California's people -- our greatest resources. We urge the Board to embrace the long-overdue changes Prop 15 will make, and think creatively about how to ensure that implementation is effective, efficient, and realizes the critical goals of the measure. Mike Russo Managing Director Advancement Project California