



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

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Executive Secretary

No. 86/42

June 12, 1986

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS:

POSSESSORY INTERESTS IN UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE CAMPGROUNDS

Recently, the Sierra County Assessor brought to our attention the fact that private concessions are being granted by the United States Forest Service (USFS) to operate certain Forest Service campgrounds. Once a permit is obtained, the concessionaire is expected to keep the grounds and facilities clean, provide for waste disposal, and collect the campground fees. In addition, they are expected to maintain a high level of service to the public if they wish to continue to operate under the permit. In our opinion such leases constitute a taxable possessory interest.

The USFS is expanding the number of commercial leases such as these throughout the state. To date there are approximately 25 similar concessions statewide and apparently many more permits will be granted during 1986. Some of the concessions granted so far are in Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, and Sierra Counties.

You may wish to survey USFS campgrounds within your county to determine if similar concessions exist, or are currently being negotiated so that a possessory interest assessment can be processed once a permit is granted.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to call our technical services section at (916) 445-4982.

Sincerely,

Verne Walton, Chief  
Assessment Standards Division

VW:wpc  
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