

## SECTION 441(d) NON-COMPLIANCE HEARINGS

(Proposed Amendments to Property Tax Rules 302, ~~305.1 and 305.2~~ and 323)

1. **The Proposed Amendments are only stating what the current law is; the Proposed Amendments do not create any new laws.**

Local Assessment Appeals Boards (AABs) are **not** empowered to dismiss assessment appeal applications or to postpone hearings on assessment appeal applications when a taxpayer/assessee/applicant does not respond to an R&TC Section 441(d) information request from an assessor.

2. **There are already remedies available to assessors for handling situations in which applicants do not respond to a Section 441(d) information request.**

- a. R&TC Section 501. If applicant does not supply information, assessor estimates value of property based on information in his possession.
- b. R&TC Section 441(h). When applicant presents information during an AAB equalization hearing that assessor previously requested, assessor may request and shall be granted a continuance.
- c. R&TC Section 454. Assessor may issue a subpoena to examine the taxpayer/assessee/applicant.
- d. R&TC Section 468. Assessor may apply to Superior Court for an order compelling taxpayer/assessee/applicant to appear and answer before the Court.

3. **Legal provisions that require AABs to determine whether information has been supplied to an assessor do not contemplate or permit AABs to dismiss or postpone the hearing on an assessment appeal application.**

- a. R&TC Section 1604(c)(2), 2<sup>nd</sup> ¶ and Property Tax Rule 309(c)(3).
  - AAB required to determine whether applicant's opinion of value must be enrolled if assessment appeal application not decided by AAB within two years.
  - AAB's determination is contingent upon whether "applicant has failed to provide full and complete information as required by law."
  - If AAB determines applicant has not supplied information, applicant's opinion of value is not enrolled.
  - AAB IS NOT EMPOWERED TO DISMISS APPEAL OR POSTPONE THE HEARING ON THE APPEAL.

b. Property Tax Rule 313(f).

- AAB required to determine whether assessor has burden of proof when assessor requests that AAB find higher value than value on the assessment roll (“raise letter” situation).
- AAB’s determination is contingent upon whether “applicant has failed to supply all the information required by law to the assessor.”
- If AAB determines applicant has not supplied information, burden of proof does not fall on the assessor.
- AAB IS NOT EMPOWERED TO DISMISS APPEAL OR POSTPONE THE HEARING ON THE APPEAL.

c. Property Tax Rule 321(d).

- R&TC Section 167 and Property Tax Rule 321(a) put burden of proof in AAB proceedings involving owner-occupied single-family dwellings and escape assessment on the assessor (also remove presumption of correctness in favor of the assessor).
- Placing burden of proof on assessor and waiver of presumption of correctness in favor of assessor are contingent on a finding by the AAB that “the applicant ... has supplied all information to the assessor as required by law.”
- If AAB determines applicant has not supplied information, burden of proof does not fall on assessor and assessor retains presumption of correctness.
- AAB IS NOT EMPOWERED TO DISMISS APPEAL OR POSTPONE THE HEARING ON THE APPEAL.

4. **Denial of assessment appeal applications by AABs only occurs in two situations.**

- a. Property Tax Rule 313(a). Applicant fails to appear at equalization hearing before AAB.
- b. Property Tax Rule 324(a). Applicant fails to carry burden of proof by preponderance of evidence at equalization hearing before AAB.

## Proposed Amendment to Property Tax Rule 305 (adding subparagraph (e))

Chanslor-Western Oil v. Cook (1980) 101 Cal.App.3d 407

Respondent argues that in defending his assessment of the Chevron property the assessor has the right to use any information in his possession, even if it relates to the business affairs of another taxpayer. Respondent relies upon section 1609.4, which sets forth certain procedures to be used in a hearing on an application for reduction of assessments, and which states in part: “The assessor may introduce new evidence of full cash value of a parcel of property at the hearing and may also introduce information obtained pursuant to Section 441.” However, the procedural rules for the conduct of such hearings are subject to the qualification that they shall not “be construed as permitting any violation of Section 408 or 451.” (§ 1609.6 (formerly § 1609.1).) In order to construe all sections harmoniously, which we are required to do (Code Civ.Proc., § 1858), we must conclude that the assessor’s use of “information obtained pursuant to Section 441” **is limited to either market data or information obtained from the taxpayer seeking the reduction.** (Ehrman and Flavin, *Taxing California Property* (1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1967) § 270, pp. 247-247 & fn. 9; Id. (2d ed. 1979), pp. 357-358.) (Bolding and underscoring added)

- Assessor cannot use confidential information of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties at all
- Assessor cannot use confidential information of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties even if it is de-identified
- *Trailer Train* is an SBE case and does not apply to local assessment
- SBE’s *Assessment Appeals Manual* does not mention or follow *Trailer Train*

There is great unfairness in assessors’ use of de-identified 3<sup>rd</sup> party information in assessment appeal hearings

- Only assessor has the 3<sup>rd</sup> party information and only assessor knows the source of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party information
- De-identification denies applicants’ due process right to cross-examine evidence, even though case law and Property Tax Rule 313(e) mandate “reasonable opportunity ... for cross-examination”
- De-identification keeps AABs from obtaining reliable and credible information which the SBE’s *Assessment Appeals Manual* says is required for AABs to adjudicate appeals
- Some counties use de-identified 3<sup>rd</sup> party information, but others do not, so there is lack of uniformity
- Cost of obtaining the confidentiality order referred to in R&TC 408(e)(3) is prohibitive - most applicants cannot afford the cost

**Rule 302. THE BOARD'S FUNCTION AND JURISDICTION.**

Authority: Section 15606, Government Code.

Reference: Sections 531.1, 1603, 1604 and 1605.5, Revenue and Taxation Code.

(a) The functions of the board are:

(1) To lower, sustain, or increase upon application, or to increase after giving notice when no application has been filed, individual assessments in order to equalize assessments on the local tax assessment roll,

(2) To determine the full value and, where appealed, the base year value of the property that is the subject of the hearing,

(3) To hear and decide penalty assessments, and to review, equalize and adjust escaped assessments on that roll except escaped assessments made pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 531.1,

(4) To determine the classification of the property that is the subject of the hearing, including classifications within the general classifications of real property, improvements, and personal property. Such classifications may result in the property so classified being exempt from property taxation.

(5) To determine the allocation of value to property that is the subject of the hearing, and

(6) To exercise the powers specified in section 1605.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(4), the board has no jurisdiction to grant or deny exemptions or to consider allegations that claims for exemption from property taxes have been improperly denied.

(c) The board has no jurisdiction to deny an application solely on the ground that the applicant has not responded to a request for information made under section 441 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(d) The board acts in a quasi-judicial capacity and renders its decision only on the basis of proper evidence presented at the hearing.

History: Adopted May 11, 1967, effective June 11, 1967.  
Amended May 21, 1968, effective June 26, 1968.  
Amended June 4, 1969, effective June 6, 1969.  
Amended May 5, 1971, effective June 10, 1971.  
Amended December 17, 1975, effective January 25, 1976.  
Amended January 6, 2000, effective April 22, 2000.  
Amended June 30, 2004, effective August 25, 2004.

**Rule 305. APPLICATION.**

Authority: Section 15606, Government Code.

Reference: Sections 51, 166, 170, 408.1, 469, 619, 1603, 1603.5, 1604, 1605, 1636, 5097, and 5097.02, Revenue and Taxation Code. Section 25105.5, Government Code.

No change in an assessment sought by a person affected shall be made unless the following application procedure is followed.

**(a) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.**

(1) An application is filed by a person affected or the person's agent, or a relative mentioned in regulation 317 of this division. If the application is made by an agent, other than an authorized attorney licensed to practice in this state who has been retained and authorized by the applicant to file the application, written authorization to so act must be filed with the application. For purposes of signing an application on behalf of an applicant, an agent shall be deemed to have been duly authorized if the applicant's written agent authorization is on the application or attached to each application at the time it is filed with the board. In any county that provides for a taxpayer to file an appeal on line, the board shall provide a mechanism for an agency authorization to be attached to the on-line filing. The attached authorization shall include the following:

- (A) The date the authorization statement is executed;
- (B) A statement to the effect that the agent is authorized to sign and file applications in the specific calendar year in which the application is filed;
- (C) The specific parcel(s) or assessment(s) covered by the authorization, or a statement that the agent is authorized to represent the applicant on all parcels and assessments located in the specific county;
- (D) The name, address, and telephone number of the specific agent who is authorized to represent the applicant;
- (E) The applicant's signature and title; and
- (F) A statement that the agent will provide the applicant with a copy of the application.

(2) If a photocopy of the original authorization is attached to the application, the agent shall be prepared to submit an original signed authorization if requested by the board. The application form shall show that the agent's authorization was attached to the application. An agent must have authorization to file an application at the time the application is filed; retroactive authorizations are not permitted.

(3) If the applicant is a corporation, limited partnership, or a limited liability company, the agent authorization must be signed by an officer or authorized employee of the business entity.

(4) No application shall be rejected as a duplicate application by the clerk unless it qualifies as a duplicate application within the meaning specified in section 1603.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(5) No application shall be rejected because the agency authorization is signed by a taxpayer in a different calendar year than the application was filed.

**(b) SIGNATURE AND VERIFICATION.** The application shall be in writing and signed by the applicant or the applicant's agent with declaration under penalty of perjury that the statements made in the application are true and that the person signing the application is one of the following:

(1) The person affected, a relative mentioned in regulation 317 of this division, an officer of a corporation, or an employee of a corporation who has been designated in writing by the board of directors or corporate officer to represent the corporation on property tax matters;

(2) An agent authorized by the applicant as indicated in the agent's authorization portion of the application; or

(3) An attorney licensed to practice law in this state who has been retained by the applicant and who has been authorized by the applicant, prior to the time the application is filed, to file the application.

**(c) FORMS AND CONTENTS.** The county shall provide, free of charge, forms on which applications are to be made.

(1) The application form, both hardcopy and on-line versions, shall be prescribed by the State Board of Equalization and shall require that the applicant provide the following information:

(A) The name and address of the applicant.

(B) The name and address of the applicant's agent, if any. If the applicant is represented by an agent, both the applicant's actual mailing address and the agent's mailing address shall be provided on the application.

(C) The applicant's written authorization for an agent, if any, to act on the applicant's behalf.

(D) A description of the property that is the subject of the application sufficient to identify it on the assessment roll.

(E) The applicant's opinion of the value of the property on the valuation date of the assessment year in issue.

(F) The roll value on which the assessment of the property was based.

(G) The facts relied upon to support the claim that the board should order a change in the assessed value, base year value, or classification of the subject property. The amount of the tax or the amount of an assessed value increase shall not constitute facts sufficient to warrant a change in assessed values.

(2) The form shall also include:

(A) A notice that a list of property transfers within the county, that have occurred within the preceding two-year period, is open to inspection at the assessor's office to the applicant upon

payment of a fee not to exceed ten dollars (\$10). This requirement shall not apply to counties with a population under 50,000 as determined by the 1970 decennial census.

(B) A notice that written findings of fact will be prepared by the board upon request if the applicable fee is paid. An appropriate place for the applicant to make the request shall be provided.

(3) An application may include one or more reasons for filing the application. Unless permitted by local rules, an application shall not include both property on the secured roll and property on the unsecured roll.

(4) An application that does not include the information required by subsection (c)(1) of this regulation is invalid and shall not be accepted by the board. Prompt notice that an application is invalid shall be given by the clerk to the applicant and, where applicable, the applicant's agent. An applicant or the applicant's agent who has received notice shall be given a reasonable opportunity to correct any errors and/or omissions. Disputes concerning the validity of an application shall be resolved by the board.

(5) An application that includes the correct information required by subdivision (1) is valid and no additional information shall be required of the applicant on the application form.

(6) If the county has appointed hearing officers as provided for in Revenue and Taxation Code section 1636, the application form shall advise the applicant of the circumstances under which the applicant may request that the application be heard by such an officer.

(7) If an application appeals property subject to an escape assessment resulting from an audit conducted by the county assessor, then all property, both real and personal, of the assessee at the same profession, trade, or business location shall be subject to review, equalization, and adjustment by the appeals board, except when the property has previously been equalized for the year in question.

**(d) TIME OF FILING.**

(1) An application appealing a regular assessment shall be filed with the clerk during the regular filing period. A regular assessment is one placed on the assessment roll for the most recent lien date, prior to the closing of that assessment roll. The regular filing period for all real and personal property located in a county is:

(A) July 2 through September 15 when the county assessor elects to mail assessment notices, as defined in section 619 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, by August 1 to all owners of real property on the secured roll; or

(B) July 2 through November 30 when the county assessor does not elect to mail assessment notices by August 1 to all owners of real property on the secured roll.

Additionally, an application appealing a base year value for the most recent lien date, where that value is not the value currently on the assessment roll, shall be filed with the clerk during the regular filing period beginning July 2 but no later than September 15 or November 30, as applicable.

(2) An application appealing an escape assessment or a supplemental assessment must be filed with the clerk no later than 60 days after the date of mailing printed on the notice of assessment or the postmark date, whichever is later, or no later than 60 days after the date of mailing printed on the tax bill or the postmark date, whichever is later, in the county of Los Angeles and in those counties where the board of supervisors has adopted a resolution to that effect, pursuant to section 1605 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(3) An application appealing a proposed reassessment made for property damaged by misfortune or calamity pursuant to section 170 of the Revenue and Taxation Code must be filed with the clerk no later than six months after the date of mailing of the notice of proposed reassessment by the assessor. The decision of the board regarding the damaged value of property shall be final, however, the decision regarding the reassessment made pursuant to section 170 shall create no presumption regarding the value of the property subsequent to the date of the damage.

(4) An application may be filed within 60 days of receipt of a notice of assessment or within 60 days of the mailing of a tax bill, whichever is earlier, when the taxpayer does not receive the notice of assessment described in section 619 of the Revenue and Taxation Code at least 15 calendar days prior to the close of the regular filing period. The application must be filed with an affidavit from the applicant declaring under penalty of perjury that the notice was not timely received.

(5) An application will be deemed to have been timely filed:

(A) If it is sent by U.S. mail, properly addressed with postage prepaid and is postmarked on the last day of the filing period or earlier within such period; or

(B) If proof satisfactory to the board establishes that the mailing occurred on the last day of the filing period or within such period. Any statement or affidavit made by an applicant asserting such a timely filing must be made within one year of the last day of the filing period.

(6) An application filed by mail that bears both a private business postage meter postmark date and a U.S. Postal Service postmark date will be deemed to have been filed on the date that is the same as the U.S. Postal Service postmark date, even if the private business postage meter date is the earlier of the two postmark dates. If the last day of the filing period falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, an application that is mailed and postmarked on the next business day shall be deemed timely filed. If the county's offices are closed for business prior to 5 p.m. or for the entire day on which the deadline for filing falls, that day shall be considered a legal holiday.

(7) Except as provided in sections 1603 and 1605 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the board has no jurisdiction to hear an application unless filed within the time periods specified above.

**(e) AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS.**

(1) An applicant or an applicant's agent may amend an application until 5:00 p.m. on the last day upon which it might have been timely filed.

(2) After the filing period has expired:



(A) An invalid application may be corrected in accordance with subsection (c)(4) of this regulation.

(B) The applicant or the applicant's agent may amend an application provided that the effect of the amendment is not to request relief additional to or different in nature from that originally requested.

(C) (i) Upon request of the applicant or the applicant's agent, the board, in its discretion, may allow the applicant or the applicant's agent to make amendments to the application in addition to those specified in subdivisions (A) and (B) to state additional facts claimed to require a reduction of the assessment that is the subject of the application.

(ii) The applicant or the applicant's agent shall state the reasons for the request, which shall be made in writing and filed with the clerk of the board prior to any scheduled hearing, or may be made orally at the hearing. If made in writing, the clerk shall provide a copy to the assessor upon receipt of the request.

(iii) As a condition to granting a request to amend an application, the board may require the applicant to sign a written agreement extending the two-year period provided in section 1604 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(iv) If a request to amend is granted, and upon the request of the assessor, the hearing on the matter shall be continued by the board for no less than 45 days, unless the parties mutually agree to a different period of time.

(3) An applicant or an applicant's agent shall be permitted to present testimony and other evidence at the hearing to support a full value that may be different from the opinion of value stated on the application. The presentation of such testimony or other evidence shall not be considered a request to amend or an amendment to the application.

**(f) CLAIM FOR REFUND.** If a valid application is designated as a claim for refund pursuant to section 5097 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the applicant shall be deemed to have challenged each finding of the board and to have satisfied the requirements of section 5097.02 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

**(g) RETENTION OF RECORDS.** The clerk may destroy records consisting of assessment appeal applications when five years have elapsed since the final action on the application. The records may be destroyed three years after the final action on the application if the records have been microfilmed, microfiched, imaged, or otherwise preserved on a medium that provides access to the documents. As used in this subsection, "final action" means the date of the final decision by the board.

**(h) CONSOLIDATION OF APPLICATIONS.** The board, on its own motion or on a timely request of the applicant or applicants or the assessor, may consolidate applications when the applications present the same or substantially related issues of valuation, law, or fact. If applications are consolidated, the board shall notify all parties of the consolidation.

Amended May 21, 1968, effective June 26, 1968.  
Amended November 20, 1968, effective November 22, 1968.  
Amended June 4, 1969, effective June 6, 1969.  
Amended May 6, 1970, effective June 6, 1970.  
Amended April 14, 1972, effective May 14, 1972.  
Amended June 13, 1974, effective June 14, 1974.  
Amended April 7, 1977, effective May 22, 1977.  
Amended July 31, 1980, effective November 19, 1980.  
Amended July 27, 1982, effective December 30, 1982.  
Amended and effective October 23, 1997.  
Amended April 5, 2000, effective June 30, 2000.  
Amended June 30, 2004, effective August 25, 2004.

**Rule 305.1. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.**

Authority: Section 15606(c), Government Code.

Reference: Sections 408, 441, 451, 1606 and 1609.4, Revenue and Taxation Code.

**(a) REQUEST FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.** When the assessed value of the property involved, before deduction of any exemption accorded the property, is \$100,000 or less, the applicant may file a written request for an exchange of information with the assessor; and when the assessed value before deduction of any exemption exceeds \$100,000, either the applicant or the assessor may request such an exchange pursuant to section 1606 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. The request may be filed with the clerk at the time an application for hearing is filed or may be submitted to the other party and the clerk at any time prior to 30 days before the commencement of the hearing. For purposes of determining the date upon which the exchange was deemed initiated, the date of postmark as affixed by the United States Postal Service, or the date certified by a bona fide private courier service on the envelope or package containing the information shall control. The clerk shall, at the earliest opportunity, forward any request filed with the application or a copy thereof to the other party. The request shall contain the basis of the requesting party's opinion of value for each valuation date at issue and the following data:

(1) COMPARABLE SALES DATA. If the opinion of value is to be supported with evidence of comparable sales, the properties sold shall be described by the assessor's parcel number, street address or legal description sufficient to identify them. With regard to each property sold there shall be presented the approximate date of sale, the price paid, the terms of sale (if known), and the zoning of the property.

(2) INCOME DATA. If the opinion of value is to be supported with evidence based on an income study, there shall be presented: the gross income, the allowable expenses, the capitalization method (direct capitalization or discounted cash flow analysis), and rate or rates employed.

(3) COST DATA. If the opinion of value is to be supported with evidence of replacement cost, there shall be presented:

(A) With regard to improvements to real property: the date of construction, type of construction, and replacement cost of construction.

(B) With regard to machinery and equipment: the date of installation, replacement cost, and any history of extraordinary use.

(C) With regard to both improvements and machinery and equipment: facts relating to depreciation, including any functional or economic obsolescence, and remaining economic life.

The information exchanged shall provide reasonable notice to the other party concerning the subject matter of the evidence or testimony to be presented at the hearing. There is no requirement that the details of the evidence or testimony to be introduced must be exchanged.

**(b) TRANSMITTAL OF EXCHANGE DATA TO OTHER PARTY.** If the party requesting an exchange of data under the preceding subsection has submitted the data required therein within the specified time, the other party shall submit a response to the initiating party and to the clerk at least 15 days prior to the hearing. The response shall be supported with the same type of data required of the requesting party. When the assessor is the respondent, he or she shall submit the response to the address shown on the application or on the request for exchange of information, whichever is filed later. The initiating party and the other party shall provide adequate methods of submission to ensure to the best of their ability that the exchange of information process is completed at least 10 days prior to the hearing.

**(c) PROHIBITED EVIDENCE; NEW MATERIAL; CONTINUANCE.** Whenever information has been exchanged pursuant to this regulation, the parties may introduce evidence only on matters pertaining to the information so exchanged unless the other party consents to introduction of other evidence. However, at the hearing, each party may introduce new material relating to the information received from the other party. If a party introduces such new material at the hearing, the other party, upon request, shall be granted a continuance for a reasonable period of time.

**(d) NONRESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.** If one party initiates a request for information and the other party does not comply within the time specified in subsection (b), the board may grant a postponement for a reasonable period of time. The postponement shall extend the time for responding to the request. If the board finds willful noncompliance on the part of the noncomplying party, the hearing will be convened as originally scheduled and the noncomplying party may comment on evidence presented by the other party but shall not be permitted to introduce other evidence unless the other party consents to such introduction.

**(e) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.** An assessor's request for information pursuant to section 441 of the Revenue and Taxation Code shall be made in writing, limited to information relating to the property at issue, and be issued no less than 20 days prior to a hearing before a county board of equalization or assessment appeals board. The assessor's request shall also recite the Revenue and Taxation Code section or sections authorizing the request so that the recipient is notified of his or her legal obligations in responding to the request. The assessor's request shall not state that the assessor has authority to impose criminal penalties or administrative sanctions against the recipient of the request. Information supplied in response to an assessor's request must be held secret by the assessor under sections 451 and 481 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. Information supplied by one taxpayer shall not be used by the assessor in an assessment appeals board hearing of another taxpayer, including a taxpayer in another county, without written authorization from the first taxpayer. The issuance of an assessor's request for information shall not entitle the assessor to take a deposition, issue interrogatories, or seek requests for admissions. Nor shall the recipient of an assessor's request be required to submit a declaration under penalty of perjury when responding to an assessor's request.

History: Adopted May 6, 1970, effective June 6, 1970.  
Amended May 5, 1971, effective June 10, 1971.  
Amended June 13, 1974, effective June 14, 1974.  
Amended July 27, 1982, effective February 10, 1983.  
Amended January 5, 2000, effective April 22, 2000.  
Amended and effective September 19, 2002.

**Rule 305.2. PREHEARING CONFERENCE.**

Authority: Section 15606(c), Government Code.

Reference: Article XIII, Section 16, California Constitution; and Section 1601 et seq., Revenue and Taxation Code.

(a) A county board of supervisors may establish prehearing conferences. If prehearing conferences are established, the county board of supervisors shall adopt rules of procedure for prehearing conferences. A prehearing conference may be set by the clerk at the request of the applicant or the applicant's agent, the assessor, or at the direction of the appeals board. The purpose of a prehearing conference is to resolve issues such as, but not limited to, clarifying and defining the issues, determining the status of exchange of information requests and requests for information, stipulating to matters on which agreement has been reached, combining applications into a single hearing, bifurcating the hearing issues, and scheduling a date for a hearing officer or the board to consider evidence on the merits of the application.

(b) At a prehearing conference, the board shall not deny an application solely on the ground that the applicant has not responded to a request for information made under section 441 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. The board shall not continue a prehearing conference to a later date in order to compel an applicant to respond to a request for information under section 441.

(c) The clerk of the board shall set the matter for a prehearing conference and notify the applicant or the applicant's agent and the assessor of the time and date of the conference. Notice of the time, date, and place of the conference shall be given not less than 30 days prior to the conference, unless the assessor and the applicant stipulate orally or in writing to a shorter notice period.

History: Adopted January 5, 2000, effective April 22, 2000.

**Rule 323. POSTPONEMENTS AND CONTINUANCES.**

Authority: Section 15606, Government Code.

Reference: Sections 1605.6 and 1606, Revenue and Taxation Code.

(a) The applicant and/or the assessor shall be allowed one postponement as a matter of right, the request for which must be made not later than 21 days before the hearing is scheduled to commence. If the applicant requests a postponement as a matter of right within 120 days of the expiration of the two-year limitation period provided in section 1604 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the postponement shall be contingent upon the applicant's written agreement to extend and toll indefinitely the two-year period subject to termination of the agreement by 120 days written notice by the applicant. The assessor is not entitled to a postponement as a matter of right if the request is made within 120 days of the expiration of the two-year period, but the board, in its discretion, may grant such a request. Any subsequent requests for a postponement by the applicant or the assessor must be made in writing, and good cause must be shown for the proposed postponement. A stipulation by an applicant and the assessor shall be deemed to constitute good cause, but shall result in extending and tolling indefinitely the two-year limitation period subject to termination of the agreement by 120 days written notice by the applicant. Any information exchange dates remain in effect based on the originally scheduled hearing date notwithstanding the hearing postponement, except as provided in regulation 305.1(d) of this subchapter.

(b) A board of supervisors may delegate decisions concerning postponement to the clerk in accordance with locally adopted rules. Requests for postponement shall be considered as far in advance of the hearing date as is practicable.

(c) The board shall not postpone the hearing on an application solely on the ground that the applicant has not responded to a request for information made under section 441 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(d) At the hearing, the board or a hearing officer may continue a hearing to a later date. If the assessor requests a continuance, it shall be for no more than 90 days unless the assessor demonstrates undue hardship to the satisfaction of the board or the assessor and the applicant mutually agree to a longer period of time. The board shall not grant the assessor a continuance after the applicant has presented his or her case, however, the assessor may be granted a continuance under section 441(h) of the Revenue and Taxation Code if the applicant has introduced information at the hearing which had previously been requested of the applicant by the assessor.

(e) If the applicant requests a continuance within 90 days of the expiration of the two-year period specified in section 1604 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the board may require a written extension signed by the applicant extending and tolling the two-year period indefinitely subject to termination of the agreement by 120 days written notice by the applicant. The clerk shall inform the applicant or the applicant's agent and the assessor in writing of the time and place of the continued hearing not less than 10 days prior to the new hearing date, unless the parties agree in writing or on the record to waive written notice.

History: Adopted May 11, 1967, effective June 11, 1967.  
Amended May 21, 1968, effective June 26, 1968.  
Amended November 20, 1968, effective November 22, 1968.  
Amended October 6, 1999, effective April 22, 2000.