

Q1: *What is the Clean, Safe Creeks property tax exemption?*

When the Clean, Safe Creeks measure was written and put on the ballot for voter approval, the district included an exemption for low income seniors age 65 or older. The measure was approved by two thirds of the voters in the county assigning a special tax charged to all property in the county. Low income seniors are allowed to request an exemption from this property tax if they qualify.

Q2: *What is acceptable documentation for proof of age?*

Any **one** of the following:

Copy of your driver's license, even if you have not renewed it

Copy of your birth certificate, even if you have a different last name now

Copy of a medical card that shows birth date

All documents are shredded after confirming date of birth.

Q3: *Do I have to re-apply every year?*

You do not have to re-apply every year. Once you have sent in your application and been accepted into the exemption program, we create an account for you. Every annual enrollment period we will automatically send you a verification letter and form. You do not have to request this form.

This form is needed to tell us that you still live in your home and your income level has not changed since the previous year. Answer yes or no to three questions, sign the form and send it back in the envelope provided. You do not have to include any proof of income or age.

If we do not receive this form your account will become inactive and we will bill you again on your property tax the following year. You will have to wait until the next annual enrollment period to re-apply for the program.

Q5: *How can I tell if I am getting my exemption?*

You are receiving your exemption if you do not see the charge on your property tax bill. The graphic below shows the portion of your property tax bill where the charge would be shown. You are getting your exemption if the line '820 SCVWD CIn Safe Crks' is not on your bill. Refer to the box showing a portion of an actual property tax bill on page 2.

Q6: *I thought I applied for an exemption, why am I still paying a special assessment on my property tax for SCVWD flood control?*

The assessment on your property tax bill for "SCVWD - flood control" is not included in our exemption program. When the Benefit Assessment Act creating the flood control special assessment was passed by the voters, it did not have a provision that allowed for a low income senior exemption.

Q7: *I thought I was applying for a discount on my water bill?*

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the wholesale supplier for water in Santa Clara County. We provide water to your water company. Since we do not bill you directly for your water, we cannot give you a discount on your water bill. You must contact the company that sends you the bill for your water.

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA SECURED PROPERTY TAX BILL

TAXING AGENCY	TAX RATE
1% MAXIMUM TAX LEVY	1.00000
CO RETIREMENT LEVY	.03880
CO LIBRARY RETIREMENT	.00240
ELEM OR UNIF SCH BONDS	.03750
COMM COLLEGE BONDS	.01380
TOT ASSESSED VAL RATE	1.09250
SCVWD-STATE WATER PROJ	.00590
TOT LAND & IMPR RATE	.00590
820 SCVWD CLN SAFE CRKS	\$50.02
847 SCCO VECTOR CONTR	5.08
848 MOSQUITO ASMT #2	8.36
850 COUNTY LIBRARY	33.66
884 SCVWD FLOOD CONTR	16.70
990 SCCOSA ASMT DIST 1	12.00
TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	\$125.82

Q8: *If the Santa Clara Valley Water District is not my water company, what does it do?*

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County. Visit our website, www.valleywater.org.

Contact us

If you have questions or concerns about this topic, contact **Julie Wilson** at **(408) 265-2607**, ext. **2810** or juliewilson@valleywater.org