



# Sandie Arnott

## TREASURER - TAX COLLECTOR

March 18, 2020

**Robin N. Elliott**  
ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR

### Statement to the Community Regarding the April 10<sup>th</sup> Property Tax Delinquency Date

As your Treasurer-Tax Collector I understand and share the public's anxiety and concern about the impacts of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. While I am sympathetic to all of our current challenges and am greatly concerned about the upcoming deadline, I do not have the power or authority to extend the delinquent date codified in state statute – only the State has this power.

I currently plan to re-open our 3 offices (RWC, SSF, HMB) to accepting walk-in tax payments on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. However, should that plan change and our offices remain closed to the public on April 10<sup>th</sup>, tax payments will be accepted without penalty on the next business day the office is open to the public. The April 10 payment for the second installment of property taxes supports among many things, critical county, city and special district services. Schools and many local financial obligations are dependent on those scheduled revenues, and as such, can't be deferred by my office. If a large portion of taxpayers don't pay on April 10, there will be very immediate and serious impacts to school obligations and other local financial obligations that are funded through the payment of property taxes. In a crisis, San Mateo County, Cities, Schools and Special Districts must retain the financial ability to provide critical services to the community.

Given the rapidly evolving situation and shelter in place recommendations I recommend that taxpayers make plans to remit payment by remote means. We offer electronic payment capabilities such as eCheck, home banking, online and phone credit card payments and, of course, accept checks and money orders, cashier checks via the mail.

Tax Collectors have the authority to handle specific scenarios where a taxpayer cannot physically pay their taxes on April 10 due to quarantine, illness or closure of the Tax Collector's office as a result of COVID-19. In such cases, I will utilize that authority pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code (RTC) 4985.2. to waive interest or penalties that would otherwise be imposed or collected with respect to a delinquent second installment of property taxes levied for the 2019-2020 fiscal year on residential real property with justifiable documentation. I promise to work with local taxpayers to provide any and all relief allowable under the law but at this time, again, I do not have the independent power or authority to extend any delinquent dates. Please access our website for FAQ's at: [tax.smcgov.org](http://tax.smcgov.org)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Please stay healthy!

Sincerely,

  
Sandie Arnott  
San Mateo County Treasurer-Tax Collector

Web Payments: [tax.smcgov.org](http://tax.smcgov.org)  
Telephone Payments: 1-866-220-0308

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Treasurer  
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[treasurer.smcgov.org](http://treasurer.smcgov.org)

Tax Collector  
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