



TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

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Equal Opportunity Employer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR WARNS SENIORS OF TAX ASSISTANCE GROUP

Group charges fee for service which is free at County offices

MERCED – Merced County Treasurer-Tax Collector Karen Adams announced today that seniors should be cautious of the Senior Advisory Center, a Sacramento based organization, which offers tax assistance help.

Adams was recently forwarded a copy of a letter sent to seniors in the County from the Senior Advisory Center informing them that people over 62 years of age and those with disabilities, qualify for a Homeowner Assistance Claim that entitles them up to \$472.60 per year in the form of a property tax rebate. However, the organization charges \$36 to fill out the necessary paperwork on behalf of citizens who wish to claim the refund.

The Merced County Treasurer and Tax Collector's office offers this same assistance to seniors at no cost and can mail the claim directly to the Franchise Tax Board.

"Seniors face a number of escalating costs in their daily lives and every little bit of money helps," stated Adams. "Our office is here to help by providing this service at absolutely no cost."

The State Franchise Tax Board offers Homeowner and Renter Assistance Programs and rebates to qualified seniors with a total household income of \$40,811 or less. Eligible seniors can file for the rebate through June 30, 2007. For more information on the tax rebate, please call the Merced County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office at 209-385-7592.

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