



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2008

Contact: Assessor-Recorder's Office
Katie Muehlenkamp (415) 554-7434

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**ASSESSOR-RECORDER PHIL TING'S OFFICE RECEIVES THOUSANDS OF
RESPONSES TO LANGUAGE SURVEY INDICATING GREATER NEED FOR
LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY**

San Francisco, CA Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting announced today that after a substantial number of Chinese-speaking property owners responded to a language survey his office distributed last year, he will be sending out notification of assessed value letters in Chinese to everyone who requested them. The notification letters, mailed to property owners every year in July, informs them of the current value of their property as well as any exemptions applied to their property.

In total, 1,508 language surveys were received requesting future notices from the Assessor-Recorder's office be mailed in Chinese. 101 surveys requesting Spanish were received, and other languages including Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, Greek, Italian and Tagalog were requested as well, though in comparatively low numbers. The Assessor's office will be mailing notices directly to property owners in Chinese and Spanish and will be posting the notices in the other languages on their website, www.sfgov.org/assessor.

"The fact that we received over 1,600 language surveys, 1,500 of them in Chinese, from property owners asking us to mail them information about their property in their native language is a clear indication for the need for more accessible and comprehensive language services in city departments," said Assessor-Recorder Ting. "I am pleased my office is proactively fulfilling this need by accommodating property owners who request language services."

The notification letters will be accompanied by frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding assessed property value which will also be translated. The letters are intended to serve several functions for property owners, including enabling them more time to prepare their tax payment, giving them the opportunity to appeal their assessed value, as well as providing eligible homeowners the opportunity to find out if they are receiving a homeowner's exemption.

Assessor-Recorder Ting has been championing cultural competency and increased language access among city departments for several years. He chaired Mayor Newsom's Cultural Competency Task Force and continues to work with San Francisco's Office of Language Services to help ensure the city meets today's language needs.

###