



For Immediate Release

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

**Assessor-Recorder Announces Transfer Tax Revenue Exceeds Expectation;
Increases of More Than 24% Compared to Last Year.**

2009-2010 Year-To-Date: \$61 Million.

2008-09 End-of-Year Transfer Tax Total: \$48.9 Million.

San Francisco, CA– The Assessor-Recorder’s Office announces transfer tax revenue has increased by more than 24% compared to last year. As of April 26th, 2010 the Assessor-Recorder’s office has collected over \$61 million in transfer taxes, higher than the projected \$58.7 million in this years’ budget. The increase of transfer taxes signifies an upward trend in the real estate market.

“For the first time in more than two years, we finally have some good news to report about the real estate market in San Francisco.” Ting said. “The recovery is a slow process, but the dramatic increase in transfer tax collection is one of the first discernible signs that the real estate market is trending in the right direction.”

In 2008-2009, given the economic downturn, transfer tax was at a low, recording only \$49 million. The original budget in FY 2009-2010, projected \$45.3 million in transfer taxes. After revisions, the most recent projection was \$58.7 million. Year to date, the Assessor-Recorder’s office has already collected above the year end projected total.

Property transfer taxes are a reflection of the overall economic conditions, particularly interest, mortgage, and unemployment rates as all three will have a direct impact of purchasing power of residents and businesses.

Generally, transfer tax revenue is generated when interest in realty is transferred for consideration or value. The transfer tax is applied to the sale price of the property in a tiered rate structure according to the value of the transaction.

In 2009, Proposition N passed, increasing the transfer tax rate to 1.5% for all sales of real estate valued at more than \$5 million. Ting reports, “In this fiscal year, we have collected transfer taxes from 73 properties valued over \$5 million, which resulted in approximately \$16.7 million. Without the passage of Prop N, we would have only collected approximately \$8.4 million.”

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR-RECORDER
SAN FRANCISCO



PHIL TING
ASSESSOR-RECORDER

With due diligence and hard work, San Francisco has become the leading county in California in transfer tax policy. To ensure that every person pay their share of transfer tax, the Assessor-Recorder's office has evolved operations to closely scrutinize all claimed transfer tax exemptions. The Assessor-Recorder's office regularly audits transfer tax payments in order to ensure that the amount received accurately reflects revenue owed to the city.

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