



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 25, 2021

NEWS RELEASE

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**ASSESSOR PAUL DICTOS URGES BUSINESS OWNERS TO
PROVIDE EQUIPMENT VALUATION INFORMATION**

Recognizing that many businesses have suffered because of COVID-19, Fresno County Assessor-Recorder Paul Dictos is proactively planning to provide temporary property tax relief. “This Recession is very different than the 2008 Great Recession when we reduced the property assessments of 110,000 homes. The 2008 Recession was caused by subprime mortgage credit fraud, and excessive risk-taking by major financial institutions. This time it is businesses, such as hotels, restaurants and retail that have been most severely impacted. COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the government have severely impacted many businesses. For others, there has been no measurable impact. The Assessor’s Office intends to provide proactive reductions where warranted,” said Assessor-Recorder Paul Dictos.

There are two very different types of relief the Assessor can provide to property owners. One for the owners of the buildings and land, and another for the owners of business equipment and machinery.

To assist business operators, the Assessor is inviting the owners of businesses, such as restaurants, movie theaters, and gyms and fitness facilities, to submit valuable information about their business equipment. The Assessor’s Office is legally required to assess business personal property, e.g. machinery equipment valued more than \$5,000, as of January 1. “Clearly, many businesses have suffered due to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order and other health restrictions. We intend to review potential value reductions if the market value of equipment and machinery has declined,” said Dictos.

To provide relief, the Assessor’s Office is legally required to have qualitative evidence to support a reduction. The Assessor’s Office is requesting that businesses provide information, such as how long a business has been closed or experienced reduced hours of operation in 2020, how business income may have been effected, and the extent to which the utilization of business equipment has been impaired. Businesses are asked to complete the request for information through the Assessor’s on-line filing system <https://public.calbpsfile.org/home>. Businesses must file property statement filings, due April 1, and no later than May 7, without penalty.

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“ASSESSOR – Never Underestimate the Value of the Office”