Local Government Programs and Services Division Property Tax Postponement Lindsey Ross, Manager



BETTY T. YEE
California State Controller

PROPERTY TAX POSTPONEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Property Tax Postponement

The State Controller's Office (SCO) administers the Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program. This self-funded program allows eligible homeowners to postpone payment of property taxes on a primary residence.

The PTP Program returned in 2016 after being suspended by the Legislature in 2009 and the first filing period for the 2016-17 fiscal year concluded on February 10, 2017.

Eligibility

To qualify, applicants must prove:

- Senior (at least 62), or blind, or disabled
- Own and occupy the property as principal place of residence
- At least 40% equity in the property
- Total household income does not exceed \$35,500 and no reverse mortgage on the property
- Residence is not a mobile/floating home

Approved Applicants

- SCO makes payments for current-year property taxes on behalf of approved applicants directly to the county.
- Payments are sent via EFT or Warrant, and include the total amount of taxes requested for postponement.
- Approved accounts accrue simple interest at a rate of 7% per annum.
- A lien is recorded against the property until accounts are paid in full.

Collection Triggers

- No longer principal residence
- Claimant dies (and no approved surviving spouse)
- Sells or transfers title to property
- Defaults on a senior lien
- Refinances
- Obtains a reverse mortgage
- SCO learns the postponement was granted in error

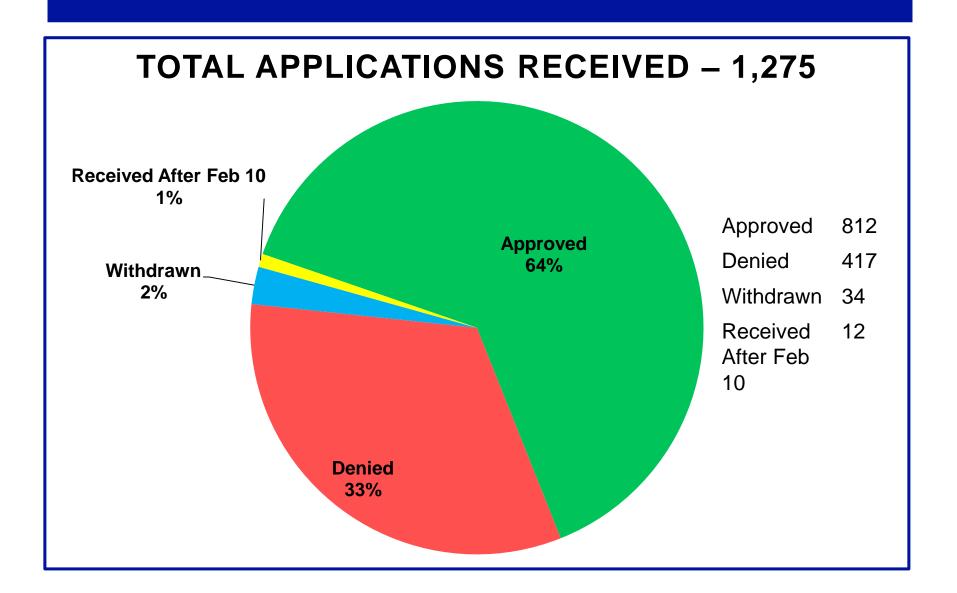
Funding

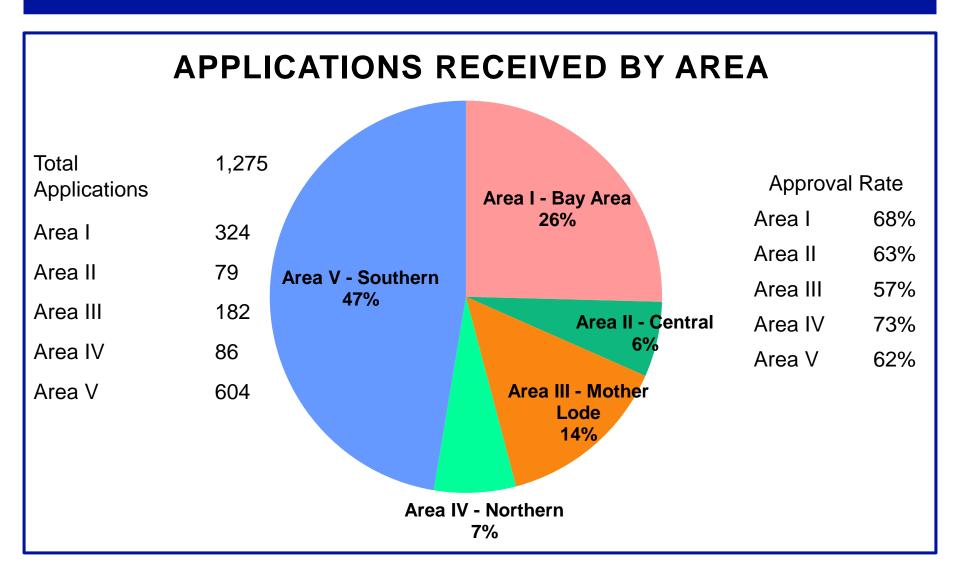
- The program is designed to be self-funded through collections of existing accounts.
- The fund supports postponements and the costs of administering the program.
- For 2016-17, SCO had \$13 million to spend on new postponements.
- We spent just under \$2.5 million in 2016-17, the remainder will roll over to next year.

2016-17 YEAR IN REVIEW

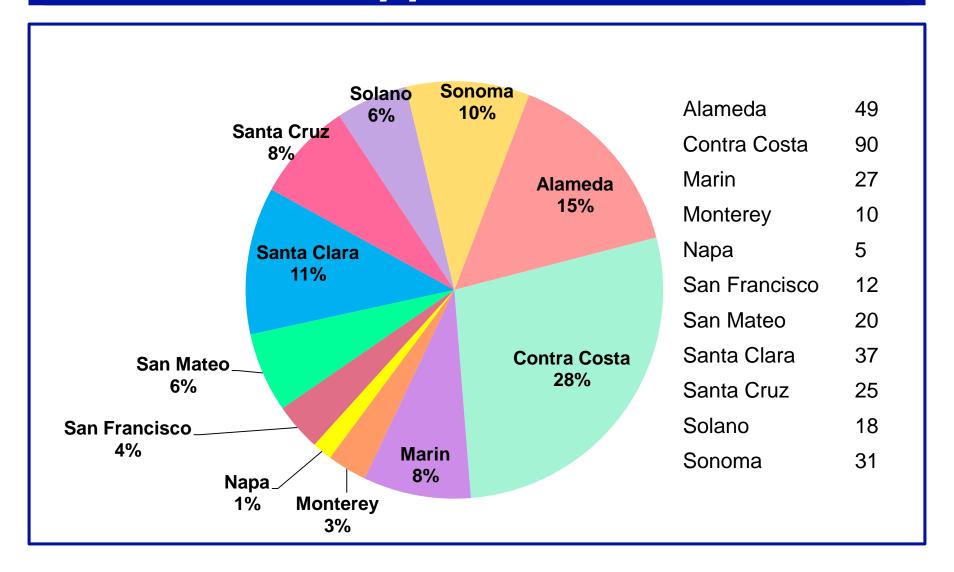
2016-17 Year At a Glance

Status	Number of Applications	Dollar Amount
Paid	812	\$2,303,960.84
Refunds	51	\$73,746.79
Denied	417	\$1,418,661.25
Withdrawn Applications	34	\$100,272.21
Received after February 10 th	12	
Total Applications Received	1,275	

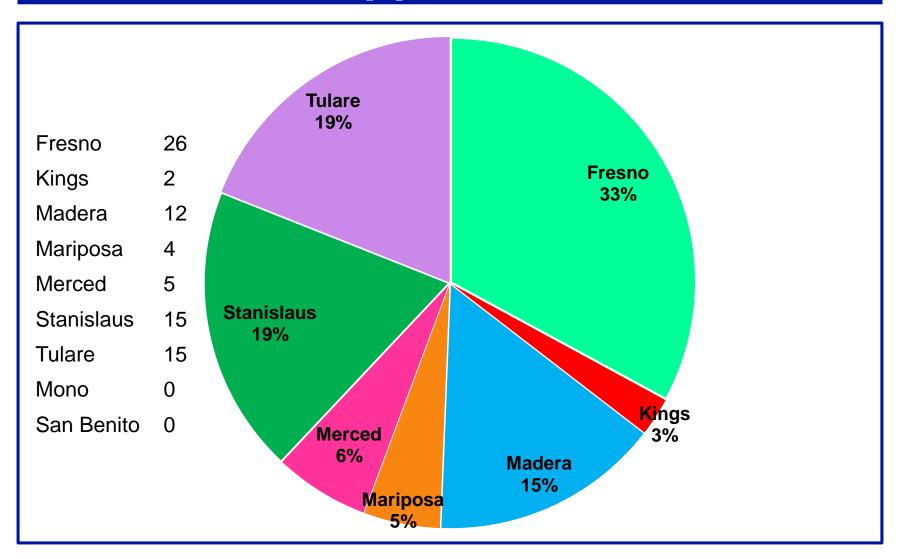




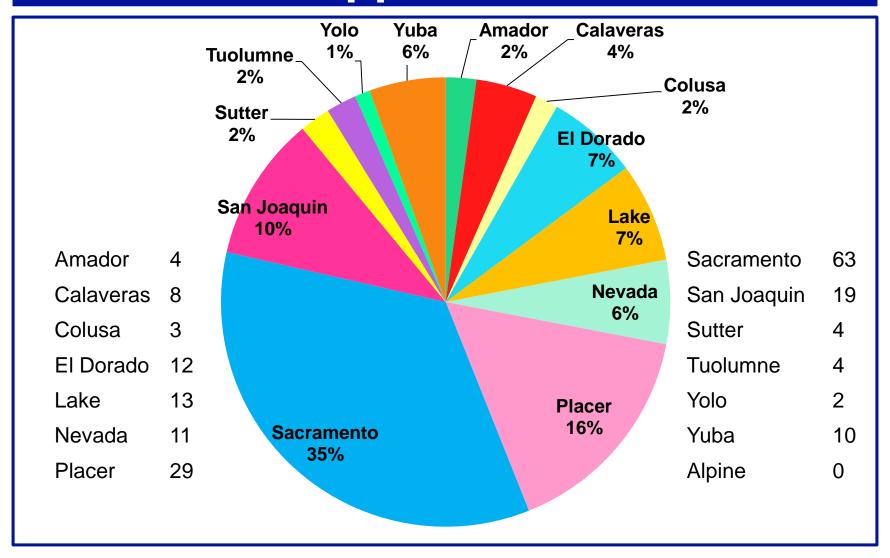
AREA I – BAY AREA Total Applications: 324



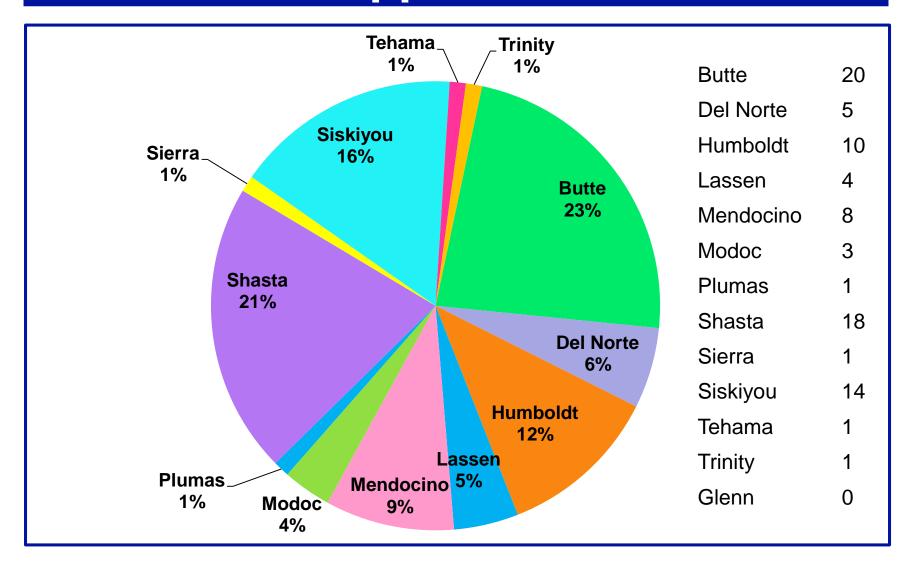
AREA II – CENTRAL Total Applications: 79



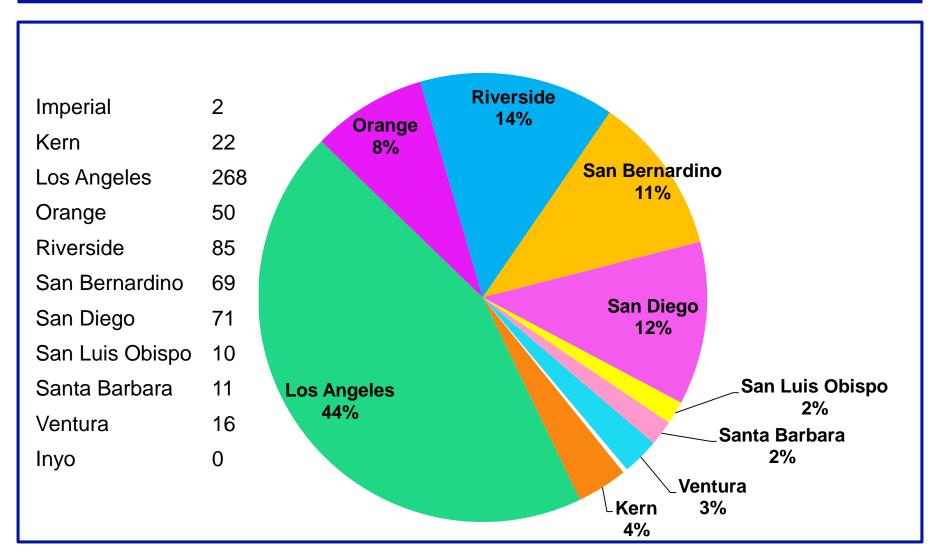
AREA III – MOTHER LODE Total Applications: 182

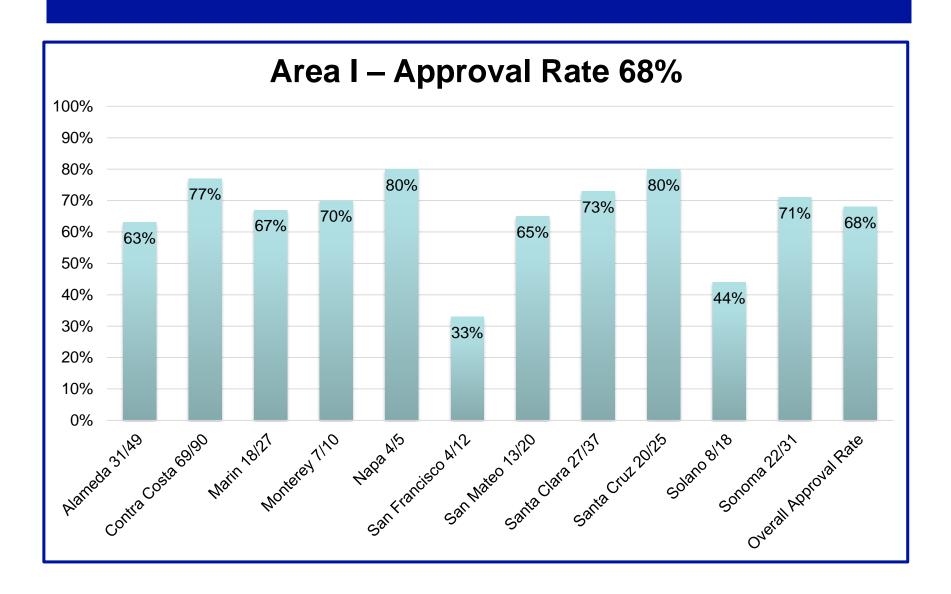


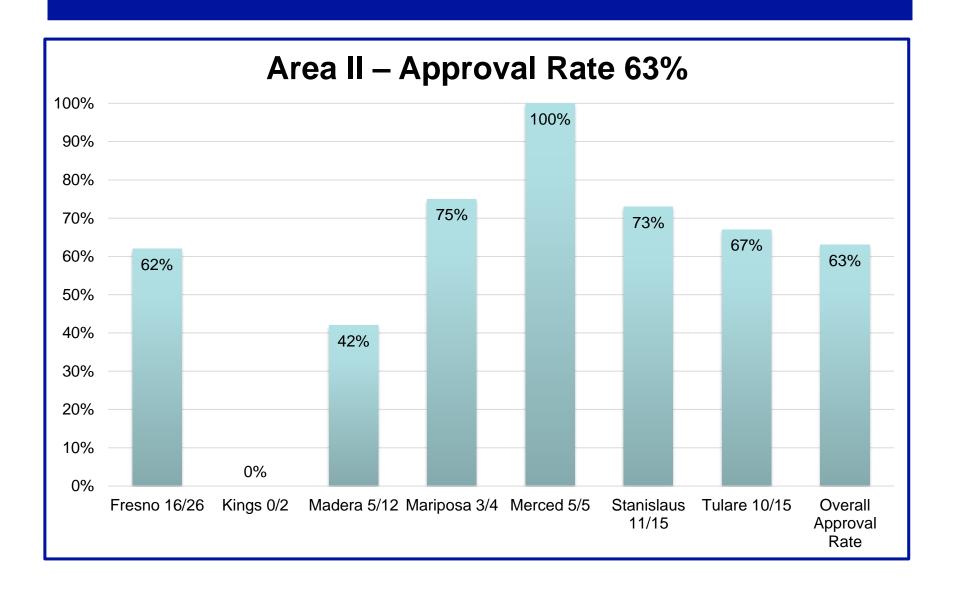
AREA IV – NORTHERN AREA Total Applications: 86

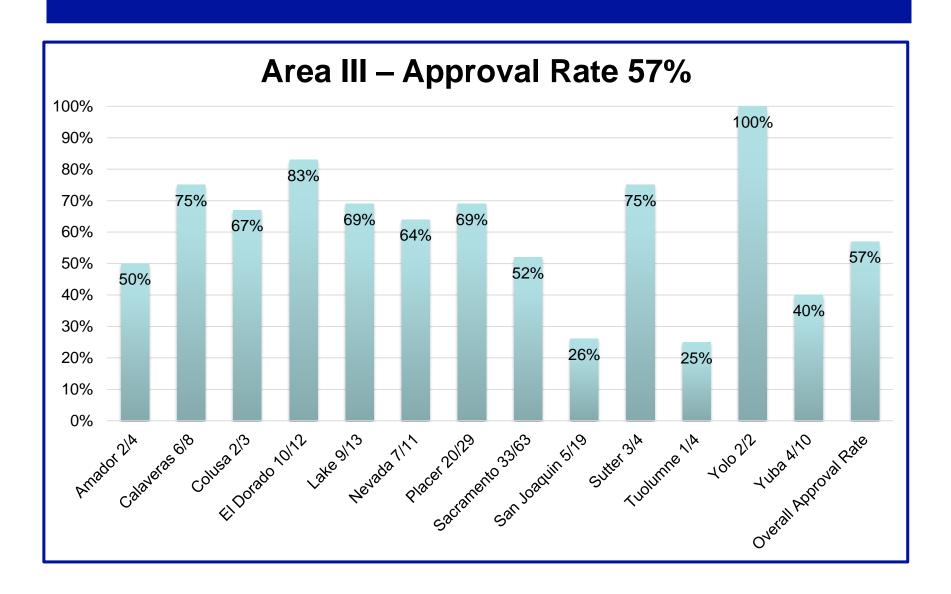


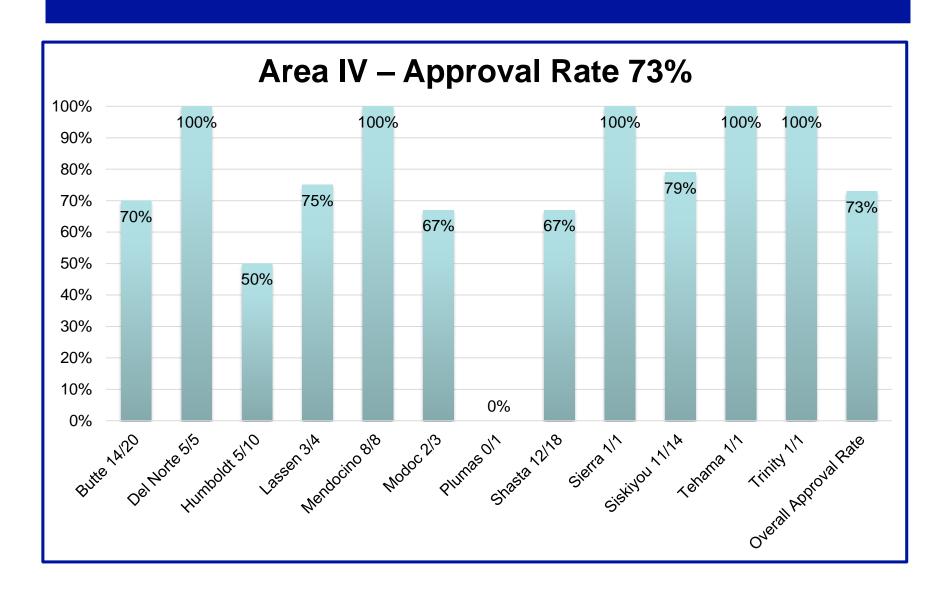
AREA V – SOUTHERN Total Applications: 604

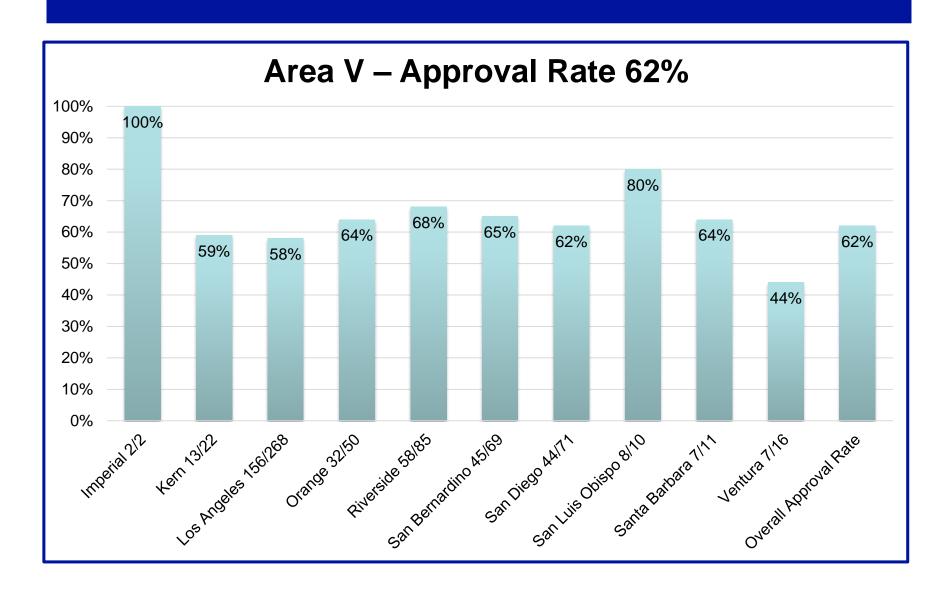


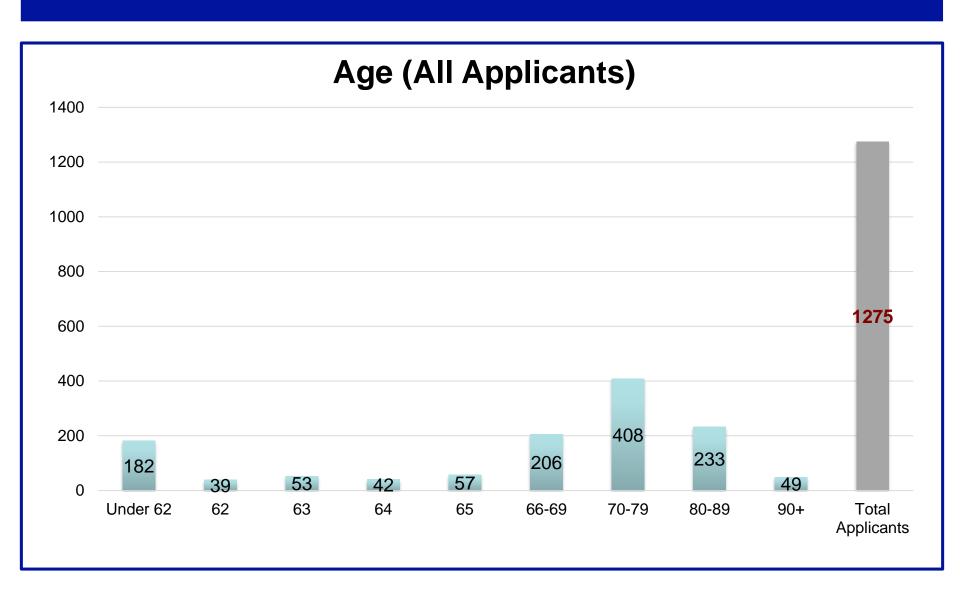








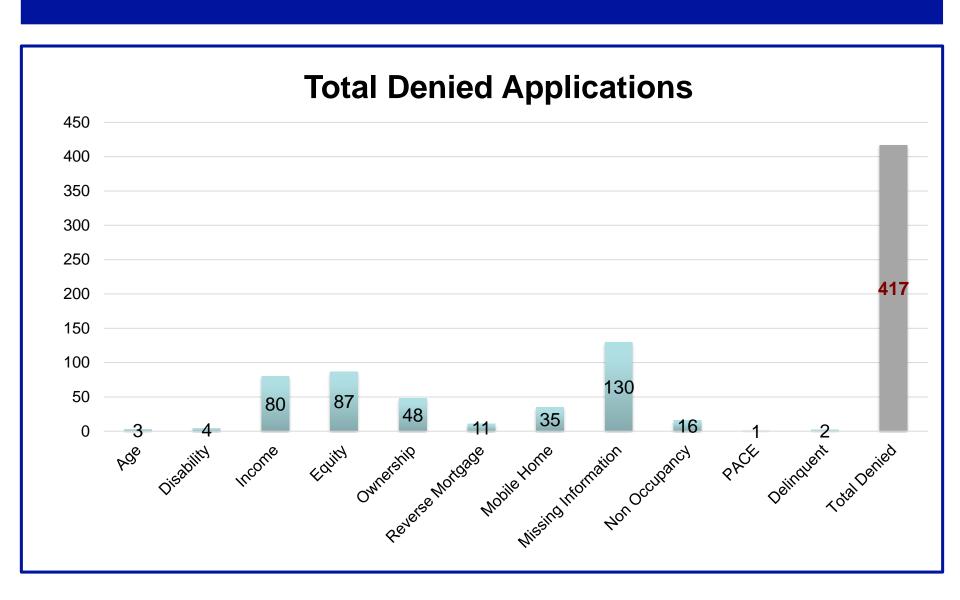


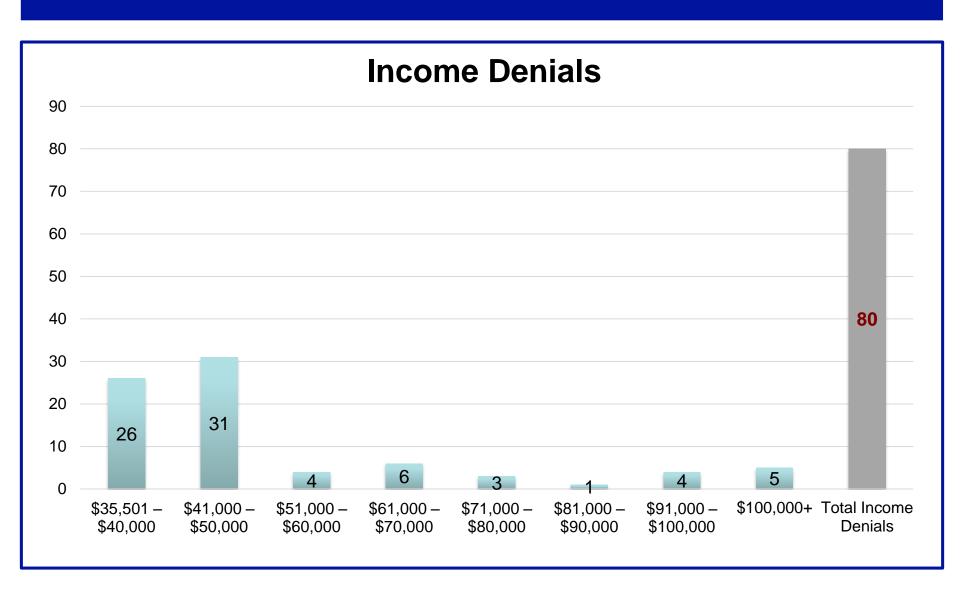


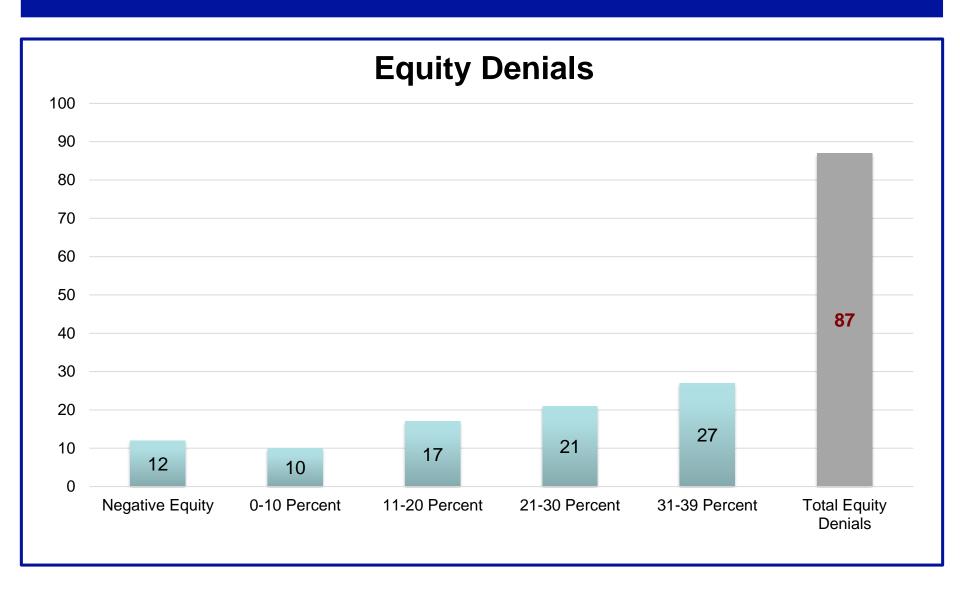
Typical Approved Applicant		
Age	72	
Household Income	\$18,285	
Equity	84%	
Current Market Value	\$418,967	
Postponement Amount	\$2,838	

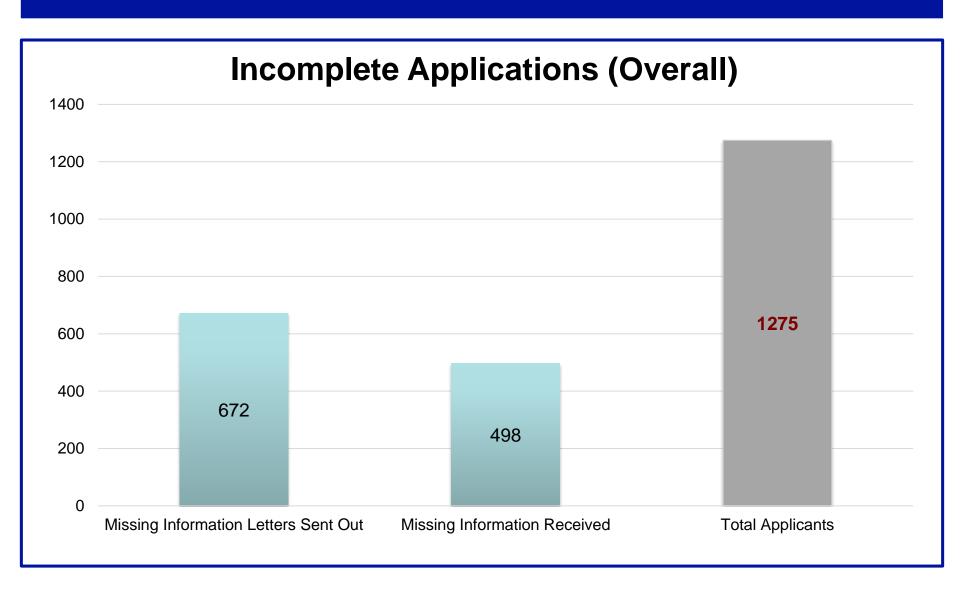
Typical Approved Applicant By Area

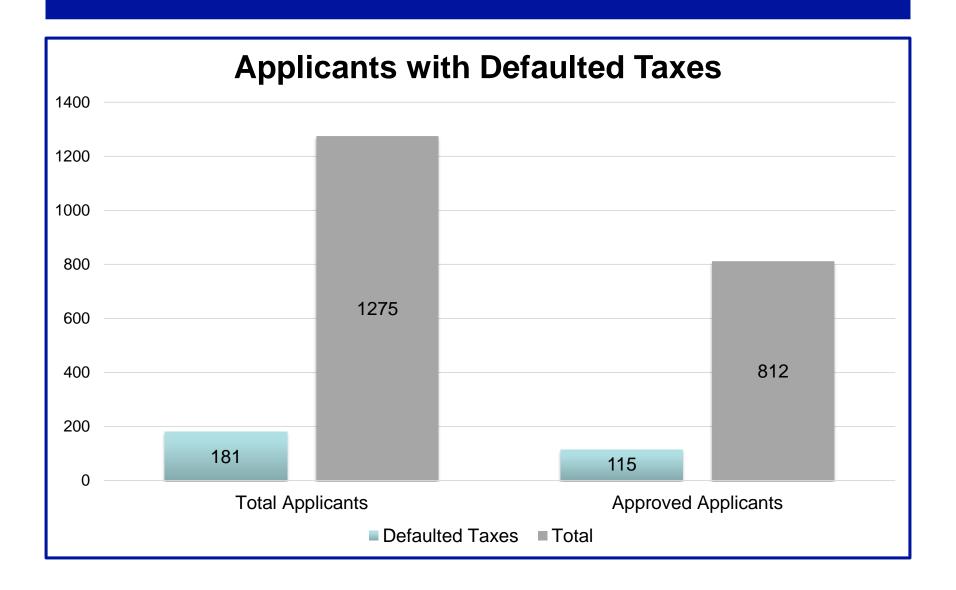
	Age	Household Income	Equity	Current Market Value	Postponement Amount
AREAI	73	\$18,791	85%	\$565,395	\$3,332
AREA II	71	\$15,564	83%	\$186,140	\$1,557
AREA III	72	\$19,456	84%	\$257,656	\$2,213
AREA IV	70	\$16,567	85%	\$221,487	\$1,637
AREA V	72	\$18,295	84%	\$441,145	\$3,093











2016-17 Filing Period in Review

- Applications processed in first-come, first-served order by postmark date.
- Average processing time for final determination was 6-8 weeks.
- Typical correspondence with applicant included, acknowledgement letter, missing information letter, phone call(s), approval/denial letter, and payment confirmation letter.

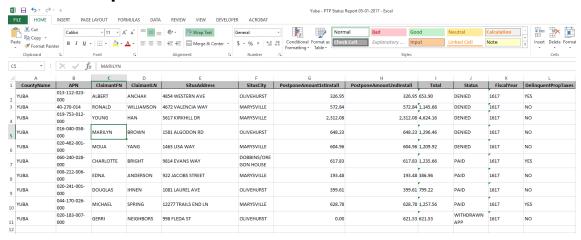
2016-17 Filing Period in Review

- Reports and payments were sent to counties once a month via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Warrant beginning December 2016.
- Counties canceled any delinquent penalties, costs, fees, and interest accrued if an approved applicant filed timely with SCO.
- SCO recorded Notices of Lien against all approved accounts.

2016-17 COUNTY SURVEY RESULTS

2016-17 Survey Results

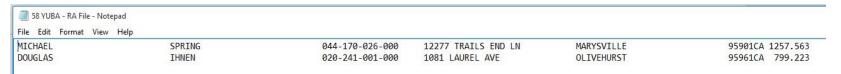
Status Reports



- Provide on a monthly basis.
- Report is in excel so columns can be sorted to fit your needs.
- The report is a snapshot in time.

2016-17 Survey Results

Remittance Advice



- Will continue to be a text file in the same format, provided 2-3 days before the EFT is issued.
- Email correspondence will include total EFT amount and all other information.
- Will include more information on partial payments.

2016-17 Survey Results

Additional Information Requested from SCO

- Updated information on law or program changes
- Annual Trainings/Webinars
- Additional outreach and/or materials
- Status updates on available funding
- Working with California Assessor's Association on dissemination of PTP information
- Outreach conducted by other counties

LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Program Timeline

Month	Program Function
July	Determine dollar amount available for postponements in upcoming filing period
July- August	SCO reconciliation with county tax collectors and assessors
August	County trainings and release County Guide
September	Application Release
October 1 – February 10	Filing Period
November – June	Payments to County Tax Collectors
June	Year in Review: SCO provides statistics and any updates, counties provide feedback

What's Next?

- County reconciliation with tax collectors and assessors June/July.
- Updated County Guide and webinar training in August.
- New applications will be distributed late August/early September.
- Payments to counties will begin in November.

Outreach

2016-17 Outreach included:

- Provided information and materials to:
 - California State Library
 - Congress of California Seniors
 - Legislative Member Services
 - California Alliance for Retired Americans
 - California Department of Aging
 - California Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Department of Business Oversight
 - California Department of Community Services and Development
 - California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
 - AARP

- SCO sent letters to all existing PTP claimants
- Mailed applications to approximately 1,200 individuals in September 2016
- Information and Flyers on SCO Website
- Tax Collectors included notice on the tax bills
- Various County Outreach

2017-18 Outreach will include the above as well as additional outreach to Meals on Wheels, County Health and Human Services Departments and/or Senior and Adult Services Divisions, California Senior Legislature, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and participating in various disability/senior-oriented events.

Contact Information

Property Tax Postponement

800-952-5661

(Option 4: Counties)

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