

Santa Clara Valley Water District

SAFE, CLEAN, WATER SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Application Information for Low-Income Seniors

Enrollment Period: April 15th –June 30th

The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers a property tax exemption for qualifying low-income seniors from the Safe, Clean, Water special parcel tax. This special tax was approved by voters in November 2012. Voters also approved that qualifying low income seniors will not have to pay the Safe, Clean, Water tax. This exemption allows the water district to remove the charge from a qualifying senior household's property tax bill. Seniors must apply for the program by completing the enclosed application and delivering to our offices during the enrollment period:

You must apply between April 15th and June 30th.

Applications are not available until the enrollment period begins. Applications will not be accepted after June 30th.

What happens after you have applied?

We will remove the Safe, Clean, Water charge from the next property tax bill. In order to continue receiving your exemption for the subsequent years, we need to verify that you continue to qualify for our program. We need to know that you still live in your home and your income meets the income requirement for the next property tax year. We will automatically send a verification form to the qualifying senior once a year during the enrollment period. You do not have to request the form.

Please fill out the form, sign it, and return it to us to let us know that you still qualify. *If you do not return this form you will be dropped from the program and you will be billed on your next property tax bill for the Safe, Clean, Water property tax.*

When you return your verification form, we will remove the Safe, Clean, Water charge from your next property tax bill

Requirements for the Safe, Clean, Water property tax exemption:

A qualifying senior is 65 years or older during the property tax year, own their own home and live in it as their primary residence.

Homes that are in an irrevocable trust and mobile homes in parks are not eligible for this exemption.

In order to be eligible for this program you must have at least one qualifying senior in your household. The home must be the primary residence of the qualifying senior. Seniors who own more than one property can only get the property tax exemption for the home that is their primary residence.

The total household income must be below 75% of the state of California's Median Household Income. Refer to Appendix A for a full definition of income. The amount is listed on the application and it changes every year.

You must include the total gross income of all members of your household. (Exclude onetime pay outs and any capital gains. Include all non-taxable income such as Social Security.)

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people who occupy a housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit is also counted as a household.

What we do:

Your Safe, Clean, Water vote at work

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, hundreds of miles of streams and groundwater basins. The water district also provides flood protection throughout Santa Clara County. Visit our website, www.valleywater.org.

The project is funded by the countywide Safe, Clean, Water parcel tax passed by voters in November 2012. The 15-year plan makes it possible to protect homes, schools and businesses from flooding, while improving the health of creek and bay ecosystems and creating trails and parks for recreational enjoyment.

An independent monitoring committee reviews the water district progress on accomplishing the plan. The annual report is available at www.valleywater.org or may be requested using the contact information below.

Save Water

California is in a drought. Reducing water use is easy.

For water-saving tips, a free Water-Wise House Call or rebates offered by Valley Water, go to valleywater.org or call **408.265.2607**, ext. **2554**.

5750 Almaden Expwy

San Jose, CA 95118

www.valleywater.org

Once it's on it's gone.

Contact us

For more information, contact **Julie Wilson** at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2810** or juliewilson@valleywater.org.

Also, visit our website at www.valleywater.org and use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system. With three easy steps, you can use this service to find out the latest information on the project or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.