

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

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**REQUIREMENTS FOR STATEMENTS, GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS, MAPS AND FEES  
SECTIONS 54900 THROUGH 54903, GOVERNMENT CODE  
AUGUST 1, 2005**

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Tax-Rate Area System is administered by the State Board of Equalization (Board) and used by counties for the proper allocation of property tax revenues between counties, cities, and special tax districts. The requirements and fees described herein apply to all statements filed pursuant to sections 54900 through 54903 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> This document is provided as a guideline for the proper submission of geographic descriptions, maps and fees. Copies of this document, the *Statement of Boundary Change* (Form BOE-400-TA), sample map, sample geographic description, and other information are available on the Board's website at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) and can be accessed by selecting the Taxes & Fees tab, clicking on Property Tax, and then choosing Special Revenue District Boundaries.

In regard to a jurisdictional boundary change filing, please note the following:

1. The final date to file with the Board for a change of jurisdictional boundary for all special revenue districts is **on or before December 1** of the year immediately preceding the year in which the assessments or taxes are to be levied (*GC § 54902*).
2. **All fees shall accompany the filing.** Make checks payable to the "Board of Equalization." Please reference: Tax Area Services Section, MIC: 59.
3. Mail the completed filing to:

*US Postal Delivery*

State Board of Equalization  
Tax Area Services Section  
P.O. Box 942879  
Sacramento, CA 94279-0059

*FedEx or UPS Delivery*

State Board of Equalization  
Tax Area Services Section  
450 N Street, MIC: 59  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Inquiries concerning these requirements should be directed to the Tax Area Services Section at 916-274-3250, or by fax at 916-285-0130.

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<sup>1</sup> All references are to the Government Code unless otherwise specified.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FILE A CHANGE OF JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARY

*Please submit Items 1 through 9 as a single package:*

1. Statement of Boundary Change (Form BOE-400-TA)
2. Certified copy of election results
3. Certificate of Completion (if applicable)
4. Resolution(s)
5. Written geographic description of the project area
6. Maps and supporting documents
7. List of assessor's parcel numbers of the project area
8. Letter of tax-rate area assignment (if applicable)
9. Fees

**INCOMPLETE FILING PACKAGES** will delay processing and may result in the boundary change being held until the following assessment roll year.

The following information is provided to assist you in filing your jurisdictional boundary change. Fees charged for processing jurisdictional boundary changes are listed on Page 6, and definitions and special fee provisions are provided on Page 7.

### Statement of Boundary Change

Filings must be submitted on Form BOE-400-TA, *Statement of Boundary Change*. This form is available on the Board's website at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/pdf/400ta.pdf>.

### Certified Copy of Election Results

A certified copy of the election results authorizing the change and the resulting assessment must be submitted, pursuant to Article XIII C, Section 2 of the State Constitution (commonly referred to as Proposition 218).

### Certificate of Completion

A certificate of completion must be included for all filings submitted through the Local Agency Formation Commission. All documents must be recorded before submittal. (Conformed documents are acceptable.)

### Resolution(s)

The resolution(s) with signatures from the tax levying authority shall be submitted with the filing. Resolution(s) shall have a resolution number, the title of the project, and a detailed description of the content of the boundary change.

## Written Geographic Description(s) of the Project Area(s)

Descriptions of the territory that are filed with the Board's Tax Area Services Section (TASS) are used to establish geodetic position and are not intended to establish property ownership in a court of law.<sup>2</sup> Subdivision maps, tract maps, recorded survey maps, survey monuments, and deeds are not on file with the Board. Boundary descriptions that merely cite recorded documents or refer to assessor's parcel numbers will not be accepted. Any supporting documents may be used as reference only and cannot be used as a substitution. Written geographic descriptions shall conform to the following specifications:

1. Every written geographic description (a document separate from the maps) must stand on its own without the necessity of reference to any extraneous document; a description that relies solely on the use of secondary references will not be accepted. The TASS cartographic staff must be able to plot the boundaries from the written description alone.
2. The written description shall be of the project area only. If a complete description of the special district is filed, the project area shall be clearly identified in a separate document.
3. The geographic description shall:
  - a. State the township and range, section number(s) or rancho(s)
  - b. Have a **point of beginning** (POB) referenced to a known major geographic position (e.g., section corners, intersection of street centerlines, or the intersection of street centerline and an existing district boundary at the time of filing). A description will be rejected if the POB refers only to a tract map, a subdivision map or a recorded survey map. It is preferable that the POB be the point of departure from an existing district boundary (when applicable).
  - c. Be expressed as a specific parcel description in sectionalized land (e.g., "The SW 1/4 of Section 22, T1N, R1W") or by bearings and distances. When the description is by bearings and distances, **all courses shall be numbered and listed individually** in a consistent clockwise direction. The description shall not be written in a narrative format. All courses required to close the traverse of the project area must be stated. All curves must be described by direction of concavity. Delta, arc length, chord, and radius shall be listed, including radial bearings for all points of non-tangency.

Following are examples of unacceptable and acceptable descriptions:

Unacceptable (*This description refers only to extraneous documents and does not stand alone.*)

"From the point of beginning, northerly to the southwest corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 15 of Recorded Deeds, thence easterly to the southeast corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 16 of Recorded Deeds...."

Acceptable (*This is the same description with the courses numbered and the bearings and distances added.*)

"From the point of beginning:

Course 1. North 1° 18'56" West a distance of 150' to the southwest corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 15 of Recorded Deeds, thence,

Course 2. North 85° 7'56" West a distance of 75' to the southeast corner of that certain property recorded in Book 12, Page 16 of Recorded Deeds, thence...."

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<sup>2</sup> The Board's Tax Area Service Section is not involved in issues relating to property ownership.

4. The written description shall state the acreage for each separate single area (see Definitions and Special Fee Provisions for the definition of a single area) and a combined total acreage of the project area.

Example: "Area A containing 2.50 acres, Area B containing 1.75 acres: Total computed acreage containing 4.25 acres more or less."

5. All information stated on the description must match with the map(s), such as the name of the short title, the point of beginning, the course numbers, all the bearings and distances, and the acreage(s).

### **Map(s)**

**It is strongly recommended that all maps submitted to the Board be filed in electronic/digital form. Digital information will not be shared without the permission of the applicant.**

Maps submitted as part of the jurisdictional boundary change filing shall conform to the following specifications:

#### **Map Documents:**

1. All maps shall be professionally and accurately drawn or copied. Rough sketches or pictorial drawings will not be accepted. Assessor's parcel maps will not be accepted as a substitute for the project map.
2. Original or copies of the same size project map must be submitted. Reduced maps are not acceptable and will be rejected.
3. A vicinity map shall be included. The vicinity map shall show the location of the project area in relationship to a larger geographic area that includes major streets and highways or other physical features.
4. Any portion of an existing district boundary in close proximity to the project area shall be shown and identified.
5. Every map must clearly show all existing streets, roads and highways with their current names that are within and adjacent to the project area. Additionally, every map shall indicate each township and range, section lines and numbers, or ranchos that are in proximity of the project area.
6. Every map shall bear a scale and a north arrow. The **point of beginning** shall be clearly shown and match the written geographic description.
7. The boundaries of the project area shall be distinctively delineated on each map without masking any essential geographic or political features. The boundaries of the project area must be the most predominant line on the map. Boundary lines that are delineated by a line that exceeds 1.5 millimeter in width shall be rejected. The use of graphic tape or broad tip marking pens to delineate the boundary is not acceptable.
8. All dimensions needed to plot the boundaries must be given on the map of the project area. Each map shall have **numbered courses matching the written geographic description**. Index tables may be utilized.
9. All parcels within the project area that touch the new boundary shall be clearly labeled with the assessor's parcel number. Interior parcels that do not touch the boundary need not be identified on the map.

10. If the project area has an interior island(s) of exclusion or the boundary has a peninsula of exclusion (or inclusion), that area(s) should be shown in an enlarged drawing. This drawing should be of sufficient size and scale to allow TASS to plot the boundary without difficulty.
11. When it is necessary to use more than one map sheet to show the boundaries of the project area, the sheet size should be uniform. A small key map giving the relationship of the several sheets shall be furnished. Match lines between adjoining sheets must be used. While the geography on adjoining sheets may overlap, the project boundaries must stop at the match lines. TASS has standardized the D size (24" x 36") map sheet, but will accept larger or smaller map sizes depending on the size and complexity of the individual single area(s).

### **Digital Maps:**

*Maps that are filed electronically shall conform to the same requirements as described in this section under map documents (Items 1 through 11 above). Additional items for digital maps are as follows:*

Required files -- The disk or CD shall contain only the following files:

- a. Map/drawing file(s) using AutoCAD.dwg format in vector format:
  - Plotting: The map drawing file shall have the same appropriate borders, legends, title blocks, signature block and any necessary information that is required for a manually drawn map.
  - Scale: The drawing shall be at real-world scale.
  - Layers: A listing of the layers and their definitions shall be included in the "read\_me" file.
  - File Format: File shall be in vector format only. Raster files, raster-vector hybrid, .pdf, .tiff, .pcx, .eps, .gif, .jpeg or any other image formats will not be accepted.
  - Compressed Files: Files shall be uncompressed; compressed files will not be accepted.
- a. A text file labeled "read\_me" listing:
  - The name, address, and phone number of the agency/special district
  - County name and city or district name
  - Project/short title of the action
  - Name, address and phone number of office that prepared the map file
  - List of files on the disk or CD
  - Map projection and datum
  - Layer definitions
  - Sheet size
  - Plotting scale
  - Date of creation
- a. Labels: The disk or CD must have a label that identifies:
  - The agency and/or special district submitting the map
  - Name of the project/short title
  - County name(s)
  - Date of creation

List of Assessor's Parcel Numbers for the Project Area

A list of all affected assessor's parcel numbers must be submitted as part of the jurisdictional boundary change filing.

Letter of Tax-Rate Area Assignment

The jurisdictional boundary change filing must include a letter of the tax-rate area (TRA) assignment on consolidated counties only. This TRA assignment letter is provided by the county auditor's office. The current list of consolidated counties can be found on the Board's website.

Fees

**All fees are required to be submitted at the time of filing.** Please use the following schedule to calculate the fees. Make checks payable to the "Board of Equalization." Please reference: Tax Area Services Section, MIC: 59.

<b>Single Area Transactions</b>		<b>Special Fee Provisions</b>	
<u>Acres per Single Area</u>	<u>Mapping Fee</u>	The following transactions may supersede or combine with the fees for single area transactions:	
Less than 1 acre	\$300	Additional county, per transaction	\$300
1.00 – 5.99	\$350	Consolidation per resolution or ordinance	\$300
6.00 – 10.99	\$500	Entire district transaction	\$300
<b>11.00 – 20.99</b>	<b>\$800</b>	Coterminous transaction	\$300
21.00 – 50.99	\$1,200	District dissolution or name change	\$0
51.00 – 100.99	\$1,500		
101.00 – 500.99	\$2,000		
501.00 – 1,000.99	\$2,500		
1,001.00 – 2,000.99	\$3,000		
2,001.00 and above	\$3,500		

**Example:** A district is formed coterminous with a city boundary and contains 2 areas of exclusion of 4 and 7 acres.

Coterminous transaction	\$300	(Entire city)
Single Area #1	\$350	(4 acres)
Single Area #2	\$500	(7 acres)
<b>Total Fee</b>	<b>\$1,150</b>	

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have questions regarding filing requirements and fees, please contact the Tax Area Services Section at 916-274-3250, or by fax at 916-285-0130.**

Definitions and Special Fee Provisions

1. A *single area* means any separate geographical area regardless of ownership. A lot, subdivision or section could each be a single area. A geographical area that is divided into two or more parcels by a roadway, railroad right-of-way, river or stream is considered a single area. Geographic areas that are non-contiguous are not considered a single area.
2. Two areas are *contiguous* when the two polygons that define the areas share a common line segment.

3. A *concurrent transaction* is defined as:

- a) Any combination of formation, annexation or detachment of a single area under one resolution or ordinance, each independent action must be dependent on the other action(s) in order to complete concurrent transaction, e.g., a reorganization.
- b) When there are more than one resolution or ordinance that is required to complete the action, each single area must have identical boundaries, identical actions, and the multiple resolutions or ordinances shall be inter-dependent for completion.

The fee shall be according to the fee schedule provided on Page 6. There is no additional cost for the number of transactions involved.

Multiple formations, annexations, or detachments of a single area under one resolution or ordinance that are not inter-dependent, must be filed separately and fees paid accordingly.

4. *Coterminous transaction*: If an annexed or detached territory comprises an entire city, district, or zone without affecting the existence of that city, district or zone, the total processing fee is \$300. Such a transaction is completely coterminous. However, if a coterminous transaction involves areas of exclusion, each area of exclusion shall constitute a single area transaction and all fees and requirements pertaining to single area transactions apply.
5. The fee schedule assumes that an action is confined to a single county. If more than one county is involved, add \$300 for each additional county.
6. *Multiple area filings* for special revenue districts shall be calculated as a separate fee for each single area. A separate fee must be computed for each ordinance or resolution.
7. Payment of the fee for the formation of a city or district may be deferred until that city or district receives its first revenue (section 54902.5).
8. *Entire District transaction*: When the action involves the whole district and the district's boundary is not altered by the action, it is considered an entire district transaction, e.g., annexation of a county service area countywide, annexation of a zone of improvement to the entire district.
9. *Zones* include temporary zones in highway lighting districts, zones of improvement, zones of benefit, improvement districts, or any other sub-units of a county, city or parent district.

CHECKLIST (This checklist is for your convenience only. Please, do not submit it with your filing.)

Did you include the following items?

- Statement of Boundary Change (Form BOE-400-TA)
- Certified copy of election results (Proposition 218)
- Certificate of Completion (if applicable)
- Copy of the Resolution(s)
  
- Written geographic description:
  - Can the geographic description stand alone?
  - Is the description of the project area only?
  - Does it include the township & range, section number(s) or rancho?
  - Is there a point of beginning?
  - Are the courses numbered to follow a clockwise direction from the point of beginning?
  - Is the total acreage included?
  - Does the information on the description match with the map(s)?

Map(s):

- Is the map accurately drawn to professional standards?
- Is it the original size copy?
- Is a vicinity map included?
- Are existing boundaries shown and identified?
- Are existing streets, roads, and highways referenced with their current names? Does it include the township & range, section number(s), or rancho?
- Does it have a north arrow and scale bar?
- Is the Point of Beginning clearly shown?
- Is the boundary made apparent without masking adjacent background features? Are all courses numbered to follow the written description?
- Is each parcel that touches the new boundary and is within the project area labeled with an APN?
- Is an enlarge drawing included to show smaller areas of exclusion or inclusion, if applicable?
- Is there a key map for multiple sheets?
- Does the electronic filing conform to TASS standards?

List of assessor's parcel numbers

Letter of tax-rate area assignment from the county auditor (consolidated counties only)

Fee. Make checks payable to the "Board of Equalization" with reference to Tax Area Services Section, MIC: 59.

Mail completed package to:

US Postal Delivery

State Board of Equalization  
Tax Area Services Section  
P.O. Box 942879  
Sacramento, CA 94279-0059

FedEx or UPS Delivery

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