



2012 Bulletin 20

Orange County Makes Tax Reporting Pilot Project Permanent

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Last April, the Orange County Recorder's Office initiated a pilot project under which they required information showing the consideration paid for every deed recorded. This was used to confirm the correct documentary stamp taxes were being paid.

Yesterday, [they announced](#) that the pilot project is being continued as an ongoing policy position. This means:

- If Official Records staff is unable to determine the purchase/sale price or consideration amount from information you provide either 1) on the face of your document; 2) in a supplemental document, such as a cover letter; or 3) on a check stub, you will be asked to complete a copy of the [Comptroller Documentary Stamp Explanation Form](#).
- When you submit a document for recording and pay either no doc stamps or minimal doc stamps (\$0.70), and there is no consideration or exception information to help determine the correct assessment for doc stamp tax payments, you will be asked to complete a copy of the [Comptroller Documentary Stamp Explanation Form](#).
- The office will refuse to record your document if staff is unable to obtain the consideration or exception information from you.

We understand that the e-recording systems in use provide sufficient consideration information that e-recordings will not be rejected.

However, if you fail to include the required information in a mail in recording, there is a risk of an extended recording "gap" if the recorder's office finds it necessary to mail a rejected recording back to you office and await your reply.

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