COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

June 7, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

TRANSFER OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TAX REFUNDS TO THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND

ALL DISTRICTS (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Auditor-Controller to transfer approximately $29,000 to the County General Fund for unclaimed property tax refunds.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDATION

This letter requests Board approval to transfer unclaimed monies to the County General Fund.

JUSTIFICATION

Section 5102 of the Revenue and Taxation Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors to transfer to the County General Fund any property tax payments for which refunds are permissible and for which a claim for refund has not been filed within four years of payment.

Payments are received from taxpayers with erroneous parcel numbers and other unclaimed refunds occur when reductions in assessed value result in a refund and no valid address is on file. The Treasurer and Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller and Assessor initiate research to identify correct parcel numbers and valid addresses.

There is approximately $29,000 for refunds not issued due to invalid addresses during the period July 2001 through June 2002. We have exhausted every method to find the rightful recipient including utilizing a web-based person locator as well as the Treasurer and Tax Collector's new imaging system to locate taxpayers and their most current address.

All unclaimed monies are maintained for a minimum of four years during which time claims for refunds are received and processed. No claims have been received for the amount to be transferred. This transfer is made annually at the end of each fiscal year.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility and the Auditor-Controller's Strategic Plan Goal to increase financial integrity and accountability in County government by ensuring regulatory compliance with California Law.

FISCAL IMPACT

This request provides for transfer of approximately $29,000 to the County General Fund. The 2005-2006 budget included an anticipated $320,000 in unclaimed property tax payments.

FINANCING

Not applicable.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

JTM:MMO:SJL:mg

C: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors