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Sorrell Ranch homeowners receive a 30-day extension on property tax payment

Littleton, Colo. – Arapahoe County Treasurer Doug Milliken and Assessor Corbin Sakdol met yesterday with a representative from the Sorrell Ranch Metropolitan District to find a solution for homeowners in Sorrell Ranch facing an unexpected tax correction within the district. The County Treasurer decided to extend the time property owners have to pay the district taxes until Nov. 30, 2009.

Due to a clerical error in the Assessor's Office, a portion of the Sorrell Ranch Metropolitan District was inadvertently excluded from property tax notices dating back to 2004. At that time, a tax code was not applied to certain properties within the district. This resulted in some properties in the Sorrell Ranch Metropolitan District being excluded from paying property taxes to the district. The Metropolitan District has outstanding financial obligations and the taxes collected by the Arapahoe County Treasurer's Office provide for the payments of those obligations.

Once Sorrell Ranch Metropolitan District notified the Assessor's Office, the correction was immediately made. The Treasurer's Office was then required by law to send amended tax statements to 100 Sorrell Ranch property owners. The amended tax notices were mailed Sept. 15.

The notices indicated the amount of taxes due for 2007 and 2008, and that payments were due by Oct. 31. However, Treasurer Milliken has agreed to extend that date to Nov. 30. Payments can be made after that date; however, the amount due will accrue interest.

"We deeply regret this error and understand the financial impact it will have on Sorrell Ranch property owners," Sakdol said. "We are doing everything we can within the limits of the law to help ease this situation on the Sorrell Ranch property owners."

At yesterday's meeting, the Arapahoe County Assessor and Treasurer, along with a district representative, expressed interest in helping out the property owners. All parties recognize the importance of remaining fair to the other property owners in the Sorrell Ranch development who have been paying taxes to the district. The District Board must hold a meeting to consider implementing any solutions. The district is working to schedule a meeting for the week of Sept. 28.

“We need to give the District Board time to meet and address these matters and, hopefully, authorize the implementation of one of the payment options proposed yesterday,” Milliken said. “We hope this potential outcome will help ease the stress caused by the delinquent tax notices.”

Property owners with questions are encouraged to call the Treasurer’s Office at 303-795-4550.

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