## TOP FIVE DO's AND DON'Ts Regarding Your Annual Secured Property Tax Bill

### DO

1. **Pay online at venturapropertytax.org**  
   A convenience fee of 2.75% will be charged on all credit card payments, 1.75% for all debit card payments, and $1.10 on all electronic checks. Online payments cannot be altered or adjusted.

2. **Call your lender- not the Tax Collector- with questions on impound or escrow accounts.**  
   Lenders may debit accounts up to several months prior to submitting the payment to the Tax Collectors. The Tax Collector does not have information regarding your mortgage.

3. **Understand that the Tax Collector has limited authority under the law to cancel penalties.**  
   Taxpayers have the right to request a penalty cancellation on property taxes by submitting a completed and signed Cancellation of Penalty request form.

4. **Utilize self-service options at venturapropertytax.org**  
   - Locate the amount due  
   - Review your payment history  
   - View a copy of your bill  
   - Utilize the FAQ section

5. **Remember that payments are timely by USPS postmark.**  
   If paying close to the delinquency date hand deliver your payment inside the post office. Payments postmarked AFTER the statement due date, will be considered late. Metered Mail, aka Pitney Bowes is not accepted as a valid USPS postmark.

### DON'T

1. **Wait until the last few days prior to December 10 or April 10 to pay your bill.**  
   If you pay close to the delinquency date and something goes wrong, you may not have an opportunity to correct it before penalties are applied.

2. **Ignore Supplemental Secured Property Tax Bills.**  
   Most lenders DO NOT pay them and they are in addition to the annual Secured Tax Statement. If you have questions regarding your impound account or are unsure if you have an impound account, please contact your lender.

3. **Think the Tax Collector can cancel a penalty due to a good payment history. The Tax Collector cannot.**  
   The Revenue and Taxation Code does not grant the Tax Collector the authority to consider a taxpayer's payment history, whether positive or negative, in determining whether or not to cancel a penalty.

4. **Cancel your check because it has not cleared your account.**  
   Due to the volume of payments received during peak periods, it may take up to 10 business days to process payments received. If more than 10 business days have passed, please contact our office at (805) 654-3744.

5. **Contact the Tax Collector with questions regarding your assessed value or special assessment charges.**  
   For information regarding your assessed value contact the County Assessor's Office (805) 654-2181. For questions about special assessment charges, please call the number located next to the charge on the tax bill.