



Media Advisory Packet

Marin Emergency Radio Authority
*A Joint Powers Authority of
25 Marin Agencies Providing Public
Safety Communications*

MERA Executive Board

05/01/2019

Low Income Senior Homeowner Parcel Tax Exemption Packet

Contents:

1. Media Release, date released: 03/11/19
2. Media Release, date released: 04/24/19
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Note: Application and FAQ's are available at: www.meraonline.org



Media Advisory
Marin Emergency Radio Authority
*A Joint Powers Authority of
25 Marin Agencies Providing Public
Safety Communications*

For Immediate Release:

March 11, 2019

Contact:

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**MERA Announces 2019 Low-Income
Senior Homeowner Exemption Applications**

A Process for Income Qualified Seniors to Claim an Exemption from MERA's Parcel Tax

Qualified low-income seniors in Marin County are eligible to file for a tax exemption from a parcel tax that supports the County's next-generation emergency radio system. This exemption must be applied for annually, so anyone who qualified for this exemption this past year, must apply again.

In November 2014, Marin County voters approved Measure A, a parcel tax measure to fund the Marin Emergency Radio Authority's Next Generation Public Safety Radio System.

One item included in the measure was the ability of income-qualified senior homeowners to file for an exemption from the parcel tax.

Eligibility:

To qualify for a low-income senior exemption for the Measure A parcel tax for a single-family residence, you must (1) be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2019, (2) own and occupy your residence, and (3) not have earned a total annual household income of more than **\$82,200 in 2018**.

Deadline:

The deadline to file a low-income senior exemption application for the 2019-2020 tax year is **June 1, 2019**. The exemption must be renewed annually.

Applications:

Applications for exemption and additional details are available at: www.meraonline.org

Look for the Quick Links section on the Home page.

Applications have also been made available to all 25 member agencies for distribution as well.

If you have questions about the parcel tax exemption, please contact NBS at (800) 676-7516 or at customercare@nbsgov.com.



Media Advisory
Marin Emergency Radio Authority
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Safety Communications*

For Immediate Release:

April 22, 2019

Contact:

Dave Jeffries, (707) 483-1098

mera.djeffries@gmail.com

**A Reminder about MERA's 2019 Low-Income
Senior Homeowner Exemption Applications**

A Process for Income Qualified Seniors to Claim an Exemption from MERA's Parcel Tax

Qualified low-income seniors in Marin County are eligible to file for a tax exemption from a parcel tax that supports the County's next-generation emergency radio system. This exemption must be applied for annually, even if you have previously qualified for it.

In November, 2014, Marin County voters approved Measure A, a parcel tax measure to fund the Marin Emergency Radio Authority's Next Generation Public Safety Radio System.

One item included in the measure was the ability of income-qualified senior homeowners to file for an exemption from the parcel tax. In addition to the MERA website, applications are available at all 25 MERA member agencies.

Eligibility:

To qualify for a low-income senior exemption for the Measure A parcel tax for a single-family residence, you must (1) be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2019, (2) own and occupy your residence, and (3) not have earned a total annual household income of more than **\$82,200 in 2018**.

Deadline:

The deadline to file a low-income senior exemption application for the 2019-2020 tax year is **June 1, 2019**. The exemption must be renewed annually.

Applications:

Applications for exemption and additional details are available at: www.meraonline.org

Look for the Quick Links section on the Home page.

Applications have also been made available to all 25 member agencies for distribution as well.

If you have questions about the parcel tax exemption, please contact NBS at (800) 676-7516 or at customer@nbsgov.com.



Media Advisory
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For Immediate Release:

May 13, 2019

Contact:

Dave Jeffries, (707) 483-1098

mera.djeffries@gmail.com

A Final Reminder.....
MERA's 2019 Low-Income Senior
Homeowner Exemption Applications Are Due By June 1
Are you eligible for this Parcel Tax Exemption?

Qualified low-income seniors in Marin County are eligible to file for a tax exemption from a parcel tax that supports the County's next-generation emergency radio system, but it must be applied for each year.

In November, 2014, Marin County voters approved Measure A, a parcel tax measure to fund the Marin Emergency Radio Authority's Next Generation Public Safety Radio System.

One item included in the measure was the ability of income-qualified senior homeowners to file for an exemption from the parcel tax.

Eligibility:

To qualify for a low-income senior exemption for the Measure A parcel tax for a single-family residence, you must (1) be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2019, (2) own and occupy your residence, and (3) not have earned a total annual household income of more than **\$82,200 in 2018**.

Deadline:

The deadline to file a low-income senior exemption application for the 2019-2020 tax year is **June 1, 2019**. The exemption must be renewed annually.

Applications:

Applications for exemption and additional details are available at: www.meraonline.org

Look for the Quick Links section on the Home page.

Applications have also been made available to all 25 member agencies for distribution as well.

If you have questions about the parcel tax exemption, please contact NBS at (800) 676-7516 or at customer care@nbsgov.com.

Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA)

Measure A Parcel Tax Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 2019-2020 Tax Year

[Access the Application](#)

(APPLICATION FILING DEADLINE - on or before - JUNE 1, 2019)

Who is eligible to receive a low-income senior exemption for the Measure A Parcel Tax for the 2019-2020 tax year?

To qualify for a low-income senior exemption for the Measure A parcel tax for a single family residence, you must (1) be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2019, (2) own and occupy your residence, and (3) not have earned a total annual household income of more than **\$82,200 in 2018**.

What is the deadline to file a low-income senior exemption application for the 2019-2020 tax year?

The deadline to file a low-income senior exemption application for the 2019-2020 tax year is **June 1, 2019**.

Note: Mailing address (as noted on application):

Marin Emergency Radio Authority
c/o NBS
32605 Temecula Parkway, Suite 100
Temecula, CA 92592

Fax: (1) (951) 296-1998

Email: customercare@nbsgov.com

***APPLICATIONS MAILED, FAXED, EMAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO MERA
AT THE NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED***

Do I need to submit a low-income senior exemption application every year?

Yes. Because the exemption is based upon income, and income may change from year-to-year, you will need to file a low-income senior exemption application every year.

Where does the money go?

The parcel taxes will be used to replace Marin County's aging emergency communications system; reduce 911 response times, improve communications reliability during earthquakes, floods, fires and other disasters; and ensure reliable communications among police, fire, and paramedic first responders throughout Marin County.

Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA)
Measure A Parcel Tax FAQs - FY2019-2020 Tax Year
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For how many years has the parcel tax been authorized?

The Measure A parcel tax has a term of 20 years, commencing in the 2015-2016 tax year. The final levy for the Measure A parcel tax will be for the 2034-2035 tax year.

Who voted for this parcel tax?

The Measure A parcel tax was put before the registered voters of Marin County as a General Election ballot measure on November 4, 2014. The measure passed with 67.14% approval.

I occupy multiple residences which are located on different parcels. Can I receive an exemption for all of them?

No. You may only claim **ONE** parcel as your primary residence.

I sent in the low-income senior exemption application before June 1. Why is the charge for the Measure A parcel tax still on my property tax bill?

If you are able to provide proof that you submitted a low-income senior exemption prior to June 1 (e.g. certified mail receipt, fax confirmation, receipt from our office of hand-delivery, etc.) please provide a copy of such evidence to us. We will review on a case-by-case situation to verify your submission of a low-income senior exemption application.

If you have further questions, please contact NBS: (1) (800) 676-7516

What is NBS?

NBS is the consulting firm MERA has contracted with to provide post-election tax administration services, including property owner support, handling exemption requests and placing correct parcels and tax amounts on the County tax roll. They also provide comprehensive annual parcel tax administration services to other public agencies in Marin County and throughout California.

NBS assures confidential and secure handling of all taxpayer information.

Low-Income Senior Exemption Application

Measure A: Marin Emergency Radio Authority - \$29 Parcel Tax

This application serves as a request for a Measure A low-income senior exemption.

(Measure A) - To qualify for a low-income senior exemption for the \$29 Measure A parcel tax for a single family residence, you must be 65 years of age or older by December 31 of the tax year, own and occupy your residence located within Marin County, and earn a total annual household income* of not more than **\$82,200** (HUD Low-Income limit for Marin County residents).

This application must be filed on or before June 1, 2019, for the 2019/20 tax year. Failure to file on time will result in rejection of your application unless good cause can be shown for failure to timely file. If approved, the low-income senior exemption will only apply for one year. You must file a new low-income senior exemption form for each year in which the Measure A parcel tax is in effect.

All applicants must complete the following information (Please print clearly or type):

Owner-Occupied Residential Parcel #: _____

(This 8 digit Parcel # can be found on the upper left hand corner of your Property Tax Bill)

Property Owner's Name(s): _____

Property Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

1. PROOF OF AGE (Required)

Please attach a copy of one of the following documents that shows that you will be at least 65 years of age by December 31, 2019.

Driver's License California ID Card Passport Birth Certificate Other Proof of Age

2. PROOF OF INCOME (Required)

Total Household Income* \$ _____ (Max Household Income is \$82,200 ¹)

1 - HUD Low-Income Limits for Marin County for FY 2018

**Household Income is the combined gross income, taxable or non-taxable, for all persons who occupy a single family residence and does not include Federal and State income tax adjustments, deductions, exemptions or credits.*

Please enclose in a sealed envelope a copy of your 2018 filed tax return (Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ). This form will be stamped and kept "Confidential" and will only be used for determining your income qualification. Please include only the page(s) showing income. For security, Social Security Numbers may be redacted.

3. SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED BELOW TO PROCESS APPLICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that this claim is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and complete.

Executed this day of _____, 2019.

Property Owner's Signature: _____

Warning: This application is subject to verification and any misrepresentations could result in denial of the exemption.

4. MAILING ADDRESS (Before mailing, please make a photocopy for your records)

Please mail, fax, or email the completed application with attachments to:

**Marin Emergency Radio Authority
c/o NBS**

**32605 Temecula Parkway, Suite 100
Temecula, CA 92592**

Fax: (951) 296-1998

Email: customercare@nbsgov.com

APPLICATIONS MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO THE NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

If you have any questions about the Measure A Parcel Tax or the low-income senior exemption, please call NBS at 1-800-676-7516