

Property tax rollbacks closer

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The Village League to Save Incline Assets is at it again. Declaring "more big news" the group this week, is lauding a Tuesday decision by the Washoe County Board of Equalization to roll back property taxes for some 300 land owners in Incline Village.

The appellants who are slated to receive refunds thus far, however, will have to wait until a state supreme court decision comes down. If the state court holds congruous with two district judge decisions made in January, it will "only be a matter of time" before refund checks find their way to Incline PO Boxes league president Maryanne Ingemanson said.

The "bigger news" is that at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 8 in Reno, the county board of equalization will meet once more to determine whether all Incline property owners are eligible for property tax rollbacks.

"We're just getting bigger bites of the apple," Ingemanson said. "We're thrilled to death."

In the interim, officials from the assessor's office are, "in limbo, but still doing business as usual."

"Well, I don't want to rain on their parade," said assessor's office spokesman John Faulkner, "but, we've been told not to roll back values until the supreme court rules on it. We will follow the courts, and until they make a decision, we've been told not to change values."

The ball got rolling when Carson City District Court Judge William Maddox ordered property tax refunds for 17 Incline Village property owners in early February.

The county district attorney's office filed an emergency stay with the Nevada Supreme Court in the wake of Maddox's order.

The stay was denied and eventually led to the equalization's decision to OK 300-plus rollbacks so far.

If Maddox's decision stands, Terry Shea of the district attorney's office previously noted it could call into question the equalization of all property values in Washoe County.

"The assessor's office respectfully disagrees with some of the court's rulings," said Shea.

Both Shea and league president Ingemanson said the supreme court hearing will take place this spring.

"At this point the supreme court has been given the order to continue with these hearings and make a determination using Maddox's order as to whether or not assessments should be rolled back," Ingemanson said. "Property owners won't get their checks until the hearing - but, this week is the nail in the coffin as to whether or not the assessors used the correct methodology therefore assessments were null and void."

The Washoe county assessor's office assessed '05-'06 property tax valuations status quo assessor John Faulkner said.

He noted he hoped the supreme court decision would come down by July 1, the 2006 valuation.

"I hope the supreme court sees the urgency," Faulkner said, "to get it resolved one way or another."

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Maryanne Ingemanson
League to Save Incline Assets