

**Department of  
Conservation and  
Development**

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**Contra  
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**Homeowner Notification  
Proposed Homeowner Address Change  
from “Walnut Creek” to “Lafayette” on Assessor  
Property Tax Rolls**

October 9, 2021

Dear Homeowner,

Based on the feedback received at the community meeting held on October 5, 2021, the Board of Supervisors will consider at its meeting on November 9th whether to direct that the County Assessor change the city name on the property tax rolls for your unincorporated property from “Walnut Creek” to “Lafayette.”

You can watch the meeting on Comcast Cable 27, ATT/U-Verse Channel 99, and WAVE Channel 32, and live online at [www.contracosta.ca.gov](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov). Meetings of the Board start at 9 a.m. and are closed-captioned in real time.

If you would like to address the Board during public comment on this item, there are two ways to do so:

1. you may call in during the meeting to 888-251-2949 followed by the access code 1672589#. To indicate you wish to speak on an agenda item, push "#2" on your phone;
2. you access the meeting via Zoom at the following link: <https://ems8.intellor.com/join/UsEWJjgzoX>. To indicate you wish to speak on an agenda item in Zoom, please use the “raise your hand” icon.

Public comment generally will be limited to two minutes. A Spanish language interpreter is available to assist Spanish-speaking callers.

You may also provide written comments to the Board of Supervisors ahead of the hearing by emailing comments to [clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us](mailto:clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us) or mailing them to: Board of Supervisors, 1025 Escobar Street, 1st Floor, Martinez, CA 94553.

A change on the property tax roll associating your property with Lafayette, rather than Walnut Creek, will be in name only. It will not move your property into the City of Lafayette and the Zip Code of your property will remain the same. Mail will continue to be sorted at the Walnut Creek

Post Office and continue to be recognized by the United States Postal Service (USPS) when addressed as either “Walnut Creek” or “Lafayette.”

## **Background**

The unincorporated area of Contra Costa County contains 465 contiguous properties that are located within the Lafayette School District and the Sphere of Influence for the City of Lafayette. Many property owners in this area have expressed an affiliation with Lafayette and a desire that USPS change the city “place name” for their properties from “Walnut Creek” to “Lafayette.”

Following a community meeting held on September 24, 2019, where there was strong support for requesting this city place name change, an inquiry was made with USPS to change the Zip Code for this area to that of Lafayette. After USPS denied the request, a community group appealed with help from Congressman DeSaulnier’s office. While USPS denied the appeal, it made an accommodation for a “Preferred Last Line.” Beginning in January of this year, property owners in the affected area may choose their “Preferred Last Line” for USPS mailing purposes, meaning they may use either “Lafayette” or “Walnut Creek.”

Once the Post Office made this change, some property owners asked that the property tax rolls also reflect the place name of “Lafayette” for their properties. One of the purposes of the community meeting on October 5, 2021, was to gauge interest in requesting that the County Assessor’s Office change the property tax rolls.

Again, such a name change on the property tax rolls would not place your property in the City of Lafayette. Your property would remain in the unincorporated area of Contra Costa County and subject to the same zoning codes and other regulations that currently apply. This change to the property tax rolls also would not result in a reassessment of your property’s assessed value. Prop 13 protections remain in place.

For more information, please visit [www.contracosta.ca.gov/SaranapAddressChange](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/SaranapAddressChange).

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