Frequently Asked Questions:

What is acceptable documentation for proof of age?
Acceptable documents for proof of age are:

- Copy of your driver’s license even if you have not renewed it
- Copy of your birth certificate even if you have a different last name now
- Copy of your passport
- Copy of a medical card that shows date of birth

If you have none of these documents conveniently available to you, give us a call and we will make accommodations depending on your situation.

What does Valley Water consider to be total household income?
Total household income is the total of all income for all persons over the age of 18 living in the home. It includes taxed and non-taxed income. The only exclusion from the total is a one-time sale of property (capital gains).

Taxable income would include income from renting out a room. The yearly income of a person who rents from you is not considered part of your household income.

Example 1: Mr. and Mrs. B. both get social security and money from a mature life insurance annuity. The total household income includes both of their social security payments and the income from the annuity.

Example 2: Mrs. A rents out a room in her house for income in addition to her social security. Her total household income is the rent minus expenses associated with the rental, plus her social security.

It doesn’t say anything about sending in proof of income. Do I have to send anything in to verify I meet the income requirement?
No, we do not require any proof of income. Your signature on the form is enough legal proof for us. By signing the form, under penalty of perjury, you are legally declaring that you meet the income requirement.

Do I have to re-apply every year?
You do not have to fill out an application every year. Once you have sent in your application and have been accepted in the exemption program, we will keep your information on our exemption list. Every April, we will send you a postcard to verify that you continue to meet the low-income threshold, which is adjusted annually. If your annual household income was less than the annual low-income threshold, no further action is required and we will continue your special tax exemption. If your annual household income is greater than the annual threshold, you are required to promptly notify Valley Water by checking a box and returning the postcard back to Valley Water. You do not have to include any proof of income or age.
Low-Income Senior Exemption for Safe, Clean Water Special Tax

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I get a refund check every year?

No. This program is meant to be an exemption, not a rebate. This means that once you have applied and been accepted into the program, you will not be billed for the SCVWD – Safe Clean Water special tax on your next property tax bill.

I thought I applied for an exemption. Why am I still paying a special assessment on my property tax for SCVWD flood control?

The assessment on your property tax bill for SCVWD — Flood is not included in our exemption program. When the Benefit Assessment Act creating the flood control special assessment was passed by the voters, it did not have a provision that allowed for a low-income senior exemption. When Measure B (Safe, Clean Water) was written, Valley Water included an exemption for low-income seniors. The measure was approved by more than two-thirds of the voters in the county. That is why the exemption is available only for the Safe, Clean Water special tax and not for the special assessment shown as “SCWVD FLOOD CONTR” on your property tax bill.

How can I tell if I am getting my exemption?

You are receiving your exemption if you do not see a charge on your property tax bill for the following assessment tax:

728 SCVWD Safe, Clean Water

Below is an example of the Special Assessment Taxes on your property tax bill. This example shows the charge for 728 SCVWD Safe, Clean Water. This charge will not be on your bill if you are getting the exemption. You will still see the charge for SCWVD FLOOD CONTR, which is the charge we cannot give an exemption for.

Example of tax bill showing Special Assessment Taxes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Assessment Taxes</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>728 SCVWD Safe, Clean Water</td>
<td>55.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 SJ SEWER SANI/STORM</td>
<td>500.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>802 S.J. LIBRARY ASMT.</td>
<td>29.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>847 SCCO VECTOR CONTRO</td>
<td>5.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>848 MOSQUITO ASMT #2</td>
<td>8.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>882 SCVWD FLOOD CONTR</td>
<td>24.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>990 SCCOSA ASMT DIST 1</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Assessments</td>
<td>$636.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

728 SCVWD Safe, Clean Water charge will be removed. (Charge varies each year.)

If you have any other questions or need assistance please contact us at:
Valley Water Tax Hotline: (408) 630-2810 or SeniorExemption@valleywater.org