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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Treasurer-Tax Collector Jim Stevens Steps Aside After 25 Years Of Service To Sutter County Taxpayers

After six terms in office and 25 years with Sutter County, Treasurer-Tax Collector Jim Stevens says it is time to step away from his job.

In a letter to the Board of Supervisors late Wednesday, Mr. Stevens announced his decision to resign effective June 30, 2009 due to health reasons.

“It has been an honor to serve as the Treasurer-Tax Collector for Sutter County,” Mr. Stevens wrote in his letter. “It has been my pleasure to have served with so many dedicated Supervisors, Department Heads, staff, and the Administrator’s Office.

“I would like to extend my sincere wishes towards your continued success in maintaining the fiscal soundness of the county of Sutter and to thank you for the dedication you have displayed in providing your constituents with equitable decisions.”

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jim Whiteaker made the following statement regarding Mr. Stevens’ announcement: “Sutter County is dependent on the strong work ethic and integrity of those who work for it, and especially the elected officials. Jim Stevens is that and more.”

Mr. Stevens, a native of Klamath Falls, Ore., began his professional career in 1966 with Laurentide Finance, and the company transferred him to Marysville in 1970. In 1976, he went to work with Lloyd’s Bank in Maryville.

In November of 1984, he was hired as the Assistant Sutter County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

When Treasurer-Tax Collector Daphne Schliesman retired, the Board of Supervisors on Aug. 26, 1986 appointed Mr. Stevens to finish her term in office. Stevens was elected to the position six times, the last time in 2006. His term expires at the end of 2010.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office is accountable for three important County functions. As the County’s banking depository, the department provides pooled treasury
services to County departments, schools, and special districts. These services includes receiving cash receipts and depositing them with the County’s banking institution, paying County warrants issued by the Auditor or schools, and managing and investing funds.

The department also administers the property tax collection function for the County, cities, schools, and special districts. Tax activities include preparing and mailing bills, recording payments and reconciling accounts with the Auditor-Controller for the secured, unsecured, and supplemental property tax rolls.

Under his leadership, the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office worked with the County Information Technology Department to improve the efficiency of tax collection functions and management of the County Treasury, and instituted a Revenue Collections function to track down unpaid court fines and other debts owed the County.

Mr. Stevens lauded his staff.

“They take their responsibility of providing service to the general public and to other County departments very seriously,” he said. “Without their dedication and hard work the department would be incapable of achieving established goals and meeting the expectations of the community they serve.”

Mr. Stevens has been an excellent ambassador for Sutter County in the local community, serving on the Board of Directors of both the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce and Casa de Esperanza, a shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence.

Mr. Stevens is one of only 18 men in the United States to receive the prestigious Athena Award, a program created by Oldsmobile and administered locally by the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce, to “honor both women and men who have achieved excellence in their profession or life’s work, devoted time and effort in their communities to improve the quality of life for others, and actively helped women realize their full leadership potential.”

Mr. Stevens received the award in 1998, four years after his wife, Coni, received the same honor. They are apparently the only couple in the United States to have achieved this distinction.

Mr. Stevens said he plans to stay busy with various hobbies and spending time with the Stevens’ four children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
His wife owns a travel agency and traveling is also in the couple’s plans, although Mr. Stevens says he doesn’t go on as many trips as his wife. “My chances of visiting an exotic locale with my wife is dependent on the number of bags my wife wants to take. The more pieces of luggage involved the greater chance of my getting an invitation to go along.”

They both enjoy travel and are especially fond of cruise ships and tropical islands. They became engaged on the ‘Song of America’ in 1985 and were married on the island of Maui in 1986. They have made several return trips to the island and each time they bring home a container of sand from the beach where they were married. According to Mr. Stevens, “it doesn’t get any better than that.”