

Court orders state to hear Incline assessment case

Staff Report

The Nevada Supreme Court has ordered the State Board of Equalization to hear an appeal about rolling back property values for 8,700 parcels in Incline Village for tax year 2006-07, after the board attempted to sidetrack the issue.

The Washoe County assessor's office had appealed the county equalization's board decision in March 2006 to roll back the property values for the parcels after reducing the values of 300 properties in line with the Bakst decision in tax appeal cases.

In April 2007, the state board remanded the equalization case back to the county board at the assessor's request to get a clearer record of the local board's decision in equalizing the 8,700 properties. If eventually upheld, the property tax

refunds could cost the county up to \$13.5 million.

In its decision late last week, the supreme court ruled the county appeal board's minutes "were sufficient to enable the state's board review" and said the state board had made an arbitrary decision in sending it back.

In the Bakst case in December 2006, the Supreme Court ruled the assessor's office had erred in not getting its rules approved by the state in valuing beach properties, lake views and other peculiarities of the Lake Tahoe market.

In that decision, the court ruled 17 properties should be valued as they were in 2002-03 before the last mass appraisal.

The Village League to Save Incline Assets still has a number of court cases pending that all center on winning tax rebates after the Bakst case.

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