

# County's property-tax base up over 8 percent

SANTA CRUZ — The property tax base in Santa Cruz County increased nearly \$700 million — 8.39 percent — in 1987-88, Assessor Bob Petersen said.

According to figures released by the assessor, Scotts Valley and Watsonville experienced the fastest tax-roll growth during the past fiscal year, which ended June 30. The city of Santa Cruz' tax base, meanwhile, grew more slowly than any of the county's other three cities and more slowly than the county's.

Petersen said the worth of the countywide "secured assessment roll," which includes more than 88,800 improved and unimproved parcels, increased from \$8.3 billion to just over \$9 billion.

Meanwhile, the "unsecured roll," which is composed of business personal property and equipment, increased nearly \$53.5 million, according to the assessor, bringing the combined countywide secured and unsecured property tax base to just over \$9.5 billion as

of the end of June.

Scotts Valley saw its combined secured and unsecured tax rolls jump nearly 17.6 percent, from \$549.7 million to \$646.4 million. While Scotts Valley's secured roll increased 12.3 percent, the city's unsecured roll jumped 45.7 percent. The increase in Scotts Valley's unsecured roll — \$39.9 million in 1987-88 — was nearly three times as much as the total increase in the unsecured rolls of the county's three other cities, and the coun-

ty, combined.

Watsonville's combined tax roll increased 10.7 percent — \$86.6 million — in 1987-88. Capitola's combined roll grew 9.55 percent, from \$427.6 million to \$468.4 million. Meanwhile, the city of Santa Cruz' combined tax roll increased 7.66 percent, from \$1.7 billion to \$1.9 billion.

The combined tax roll for the county's unincorporated area grew 7.67 percent, from \$5.1 billion to \$5.5 billion in 1987-88.