

# California Small Business Resources and Contact Information

## Federal Agencies

### Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Find the IRS before it finds you. In addition to collecting income taxes, the IRS is also in charge of issuing federal employer identification numbers (FEINs, sometimes called EINs) to new businesses. For general questions on taxes, forms, or FEINs, call 800-829-4933. You can also download IRS publications and forms at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA specializes in assisting small businesses with financing, often by guaranteeing loans. If your small business is having trouble securing a loan through a bank, the SBA may guarantee all or part of it, which will make the bank much more likely to approve the loan. There are many different SBA loan programs that you can learn about at a local SBA office. Visit the SBA online at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) to find current contact information for SBA offices in California.

### U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO)

The PTO offers federal trademark information and forms. Visit the trademark area of the PTO's website, at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). In addition to the extensive information on trademark law and procedure available online, you can search the PTO's trademark database free and fill out and submit your trademark application electronically at the PTO website. You can call the general information line at 800-PTO-9199.

## State Agencies

### California Board of Equalization (BOE)

For sales tax and seller's permit information and forms, contact the California Board of Equalization (BOE) at 800-400-7115. Or visit the BOE's website at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov). Many forms and informational pamphlets are available for downloading. You'll also find useful information about property taxes, which are assessed and collected by counties but regulated by the BOE. You can download the free publication, *California Property Tax: An Overview*, which contains lots of valuable information, including calendars of important tax deadlines and contact details for each county assessor.

### California Demographic Research Unit

The California Department of Finance sponsors a website by the California Demographic Research Unit, which offers a range of state demographic data. At this site you can obtain a number of different free reports and research papers on California's population, such as the annual percentage growth in each city and county. For small business owners, this information can be really useful—not to mention fascinating. The Web address is [www.dof.ca.gov/research](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research).

### California Employment Development Department (EDD)

For information on payroll taxes and other rules for employers, contact the EDD at 888-745-3886. Or visit the EDD's website, which offers contact details for the EDD offices in your area and substantive information on the laws that apply to employers. The Web address is [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

### California Franchise Tax Board (FTB)

The FTB is California's version of the IRS. This is the agency that collects state income taxes from individuals, corporations, and LLCs. For general

information, call 800-852-5711. Most California tax forms and instructions are also available online. The FTB's Web address is [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov).

### **California Secretary of State**

The California Secretary of State handles a number of different business-related issues, including corporate and LLC filings and trademark and service mark registrations. The phone number for general information is 916-653-6814. Or visit the Secretary of State online at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov), where you'll find a wide range of information and downloadable forms.

Contact information for local offices follows.

#### **Sacramento Headquarters**

1500 11th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-657-5448

#### **Los Angeles Branch**

300 S. Spring Street, Room 12513  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1233  
213-897-3062

### **CalGOLD**

CalGOLD is a website sponsored by the California Environmental Protection Agency, but the help it offers isn't limited to environmental matters. After prompting you to enter a bit of information about the business you're starting, this interactive site directs you to the government agencies whose registration requirements may apply to you. CalGOLD is located at [www.calgold.ca.gov](http://www.calgold.ca.gov).

## **Associations**

### **California Small Business Association (CSBA)**

As every new entrepreneur quickly learns, city and state laws and regulations—from zoning issues to sales tax laws—have a significant impact on small businesses each and every day. The CSBA is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to advocating the interests of small businesses to government officials. In addition to political activism, this group offers member benefits, such as discounted health insurance and Internet access. Contact CSBA at 800-350-CSBA. Or visit its website at [www.csba.com](http://www.csba.com).

### **California Chamber of Commerce**

The California Chamber of Commerce tracks business-related legislation in California and lobbies for business interests. The Chamber also publishes a number of business guides. To find your local chamber, contact the central office at 916-444-6670. Or visit its website at [www.calchamber.com](http://www.calchamber.com).

### **Graphic Artists Guild (GAG)**

The GAG is an excellent resource for anyone in the business of visual art. In advocating for the rights and interests of working artists, GAG has been a leader in the effort to reform California sales tax laws as well as laws regulating home businesses. The Guild is also a good source of information about copyright and contract issues for professional artists. The Northern California chapter of GAG has a website at <http://norcalgag.wordpress.com>.

### **InterNic**

For a list of approved domain name registrars, go to [www.internic.net](http://www.internic.net). This site allows you to look up who owns a particular domain name (known as a “whois” search) and offers general information about domain names and the registration process.

# County Clerk/Recorders' Offices

## **Alameda County Clerk**

[www.acgov.org/auditor/clerk](http://www.acgov.org/auditor/clerk)

## **Alpine County Clerk**

[www.alpinecountyca.gov](http://www.alpinecountyca.gov)

## **Amador County Recorder**

[www.co.amador.ca.us](http://www.co.amador.ca.us)

## **Butte County Clerk-Recorder**

<http://clerk-recorder.buttecounty.net>

## **Calaveras County Clerk**

[www.co.calaveras.ca.us/cc](http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us/cc)

## **Colusa County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.countyofcolusa.org](http://www.countyofcolusa.org)

## **Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us)

## **Del Norte County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.dnco.org](http://www.dnco.org)

## **El Dorado County Recorder-Clerk**

[www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/countyclerk](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/countyclerk)

## **Fresno County Clerk**

[www.co.fresno.ca.us](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us)

## **Glenn County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.countyofglenn.net](http://www.countyofglenn.net)

## **Humboldt County Clerk-Recorder**

<http://co.humboldt.ca.us/portal/business>

## **Imperial County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.co.imperial.ca.us/recorder](http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/recorder)

## **Inyo County Clerk**

[www.inyocounty.us](http://www.inyocounty.us)

## **Kern County Clerk**

[www.co.kern.ca.us](http://www.co.kern.ca.us)

## **Kings County Clerk**

[www.countyofkings.com](http://www.countyofkings.com)

## **Lake County Clerk-Auditor**

[www.co.lake.ca.us](http://www.co.lake.ca.us)

## **Lassen County Clerk**

[www.lassencounty.org](http://www.lassencounty.org)

## **Los Angeles Register-Recorder/County Clerk**

[www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)

## **Madera County Clerk**

[www.madera-county.com/countyclerk/clerk](http://www.madera-county.com/countyclerk/clerk)

## **Marin County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CC/main](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CC/main)

## **Mariposa County Clerk**

[www.mariposacounty.org](http://www.mariposacounty.org)

## **Mendocino County Clerk**

[www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/clerk.htm](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/clerk.htm)

## **Merced County Clerk**

[www.co.merced.ca.us](http://www.co.merced.ca.us)

## **Modoc County Clerk**

[www.modoccounty.us](http://www.modoccounty.us)

## **Mono County Clerk**

[www.monocounty.ca.gov](http://www.monocounty.ca.gov)

## **Monterey County Clerk**

[www.co.monterey.ca.us/Recorder](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/Recorder)

## **Napa County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.countyofnapa.org/Recorder-Clerk](http://www.countyofnapa.org/Recorder-Clerk)

## **Nevada County Recorder**

[www.mynevadacounty.com/recorder](http://www.mynevadacounty.com/recorder)

## **Orange County Clerk-Recorder**

<http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov>

## **Placer County Recorder**

[www.placer.ca.gov/departments/recorder.aspx](http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/recorder.aspx)

## **Plumas County Clerk**

[www.countyofplumas.com](http://www.countyofplumas.com)

## **Riverside County Clerk and Recorder**

<http://riverside.asrclkrec.com>

## **Sacramento County Business License Section**

[www.ccr.saccounty.net](http://www.ccr.saccounty.net)

## **San Benito County Clerk**

[www.cosb.us](http://www.cosb.us)

## **San Bernardino Fictitious Businesses**

[www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/ACR](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/ACR)

**San Diego Recorder-County Clerk**

<http://arcc.co.san-diego.ca.us>

**San Francisco County Clerk**

[www.sfgov2.org](http://www.sfgov2.org)

**San Joaquin County Recorder**

[www.sjgov.org/recorder](http://www.sjgov.org/recorder)

**San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.slocounty.ca.gov/clerk.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/clerk.htm)

**San Mateo Special Services**

[www.smcare.org](http://www.smcare.org)

**Santa Barbara County Clerk-Office South**

[www.sbcassessor.com](http://www.sbcassessor.com)

**Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.clerkrecorder.org/portal/site/rec](http://www.clerkrecorder.org/portal/site/rec)

**Santa Cruz County Clerk**

[www.sccoclerk.com](http://www.sccoclerk.com)

**Shasta County Clerk**

[www.co.shasta.ca.us](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us)

**Sierra County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.sierracounty.ws](http://www.sierracounty.ws)

**Siskiyou County Clerk**

[www.co.siskiyou.ca.us](http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us)

**Solano Tax Collector-County Clerk**

[www.co.solano.ca.us](http://www.co.solano.ca.us)

**Sonoma County Clerk**

[www.sonoma-county.org/clerk/index.htm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/clerk/index.htm)

**Stanislaus County Clerk**

[www.co.stanislaus.ca.us](http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us)

**Sutter County Recorder**

[www.co.sutter.ca.us](http://www.co.sutter.ca.us)

**Tehama County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.co.tehama.ca.us](http://www.co.tehama.ca.us)

**Trinity Recorder**

[www.trinitycounty.org](http://www.trinitycounty.org)

**Tulare County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us)

**Tuolumne County Clerk**

[www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

**Ventura County Clerk**

<http://recorder.countyofventura.org/venclrk.htm>

**Yolo County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.yolorecorder.org](http://www.yolorecorder.org)

**Yuba County Clerk-Recorder**

[www.co.yuba.ca.us](http://www.co.yuba.ca.us)