

October 25, 2008

Dear Clients and Friends,

One constructive way to channel our anger and fear regarding the economic crisis is to take control of the things we have power to change. You can save on our 2008 tax bill by taking time now to get organized. This is the right time of year, not December or April, to make adjustments that will reduce your taxes and to tackle general financial record keeping. Have an inquisitive mind when it comes to your taxes. Are you sure you're deducting all eligible expenses?

I have recorded two Financial Empowerment podcasts for the California Society of CPA's on these topics. The September podcast covers tax planning and the October podcast covers general financial planning.

The podcasts are each about 10 minutes in length and can be found at <http://www.calcpa.org/Content/community/financialempowerment.aspx>.

I recommend that you pull out your 2007 tax return as you listen and highlight items you'd like to further discuss with your tax preparer.

This won't fix our beaten down portfolio balances, but every dollar saved by proactive tax planning can be put to work earning for the future (or spent during the holidays to keep our economy going ☺).

Regards,
Brooke

p.s. Take control of something you can change, block out the time on your calendar now for yearend tax planning.

