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## Transferring Archival Records: Why are Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavits (REETAs) Archival?

**Purpose:** Provide guidance to County Treasurers on the archival value of Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavits (REETAs).

REETAs are designated as “Archival” under *Real Estate Excise Tax Affidavits (DAN CT01-05-07)* in the *County Treasurers Records Retention Schedule*.

REETAs have archival value because they:

1. **Document “Enduring Rights and Entitlements”** in relation to property, as expressed in Washington State Archives’ *Policy Statement on Archival Appraisal*;
2. **Are a consolidated record** – While much of the information can be found in other records, REETAs consolidate the property transaction information in a single record, which helps with doing property research;
3. **Document information that is hard to find in other records:**
  - **Sale price** – REETAs document the actual sale price of the property, which is often needed at a later date to calculate capital gains;
  - **Mobile home title** – REETAs document the title number for any mobile homes on the property. This information is needed when mobile homes need to be moved.

**Additional advice regarding the management of public records is available from  
Washington State Archives:**

**[www.sos.wa.gov/archives](http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives)  
[recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov](mailto:recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov)**