



City of Palo Alto Rental Registry Program

Rental Property Owner/Property Manager User Guide

Version 1.4 September 2025



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Introduction

This step-by-step user guide helps rental property owners, property managers, and authorized representatives with completing the City of Palo Alto's Rental Registry Program registration and event-based reporting processes.

This user guide is provided by the City's software consultant, 3Di. If you have any registration and event-based reporting technical assistance questions, access the 3Di HelpDesk. You can receive chat support on weekdays from 8am-12pm at the following website: https://paloalto.3diengage.com/support/. You can receive phone support on weekdays from 8am-12pm by calling 650-459-0138. Otherwise, you can email questions to pa-rentalregistry-techsupport@engagehelpdesk.com.

Please visit <u>www.cityofpaloalto.org/rentalregistry</u> to learn more about the Rental Registry Program and to access the online registration portal.

Getting Started

You should have received a registration letter from the City of Palo Alto's Rental Registry Program if you own at least one property that is subject to the City's registration requirement. Please save this letter and the unique PIN highlighted in the top right corner of the letter.

If you have received a letter from the City of Palo Alto's Rental Registry Program requesting you to register your rental property and you are no longer the owner or manager of this property or believe this program does not apply to your property, please contact the City of Palo Alto Rental Registry Program at rentalregistry@paloalto.gov. You may be asked for additional details/information so records can be updated.

For your initial registration or for your annual registration renewal, you will be required to ensure that the information related to your property is accurate. Please add or review property contact information for property owner(s) and property managers and add or update any property and unit information. The information that you submit will be saved in the Rental Registry Program online portal for your later use in future annual registration cycles.

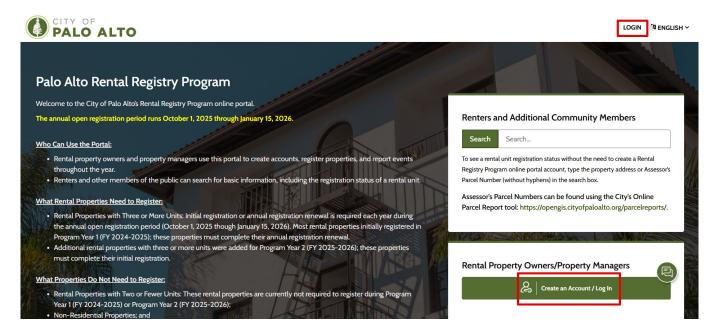
Once an initial or annual registration renewal is completed, please continue to use the portal throughout the year to report events within ten (10) calendar days of occurrence, such as if there is a change in property ownership or if a unit has a Rent Increase, Notice to Quit, Unlawful Detainer, or Eviction.



Create a Login to the Rental Registry Program Portal

To use the Rental Registry Program online portal, you will first need to create an account and login:

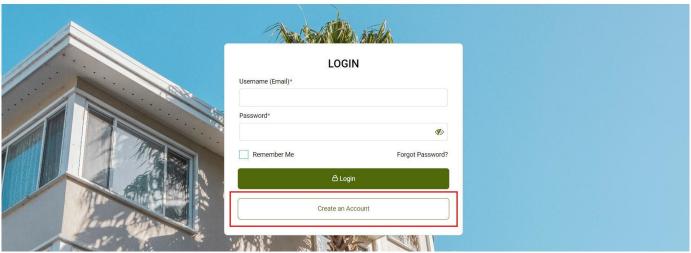
- Open your web browser and go to <u>www.paloalto.gov/rentalregistry</u> and click on the "Access Online Registration Portal" button. This will take you to the Palo Alto Rental Registry Program online portal landing page. Alternatively, you can use the direct weblink to the online portal: https://paloalto.3diengage.com/.
- 2. When you are on the portal landing page, either click on the "Create an Account / Log In" button OR the "Login" button at the top right corner of the portal.





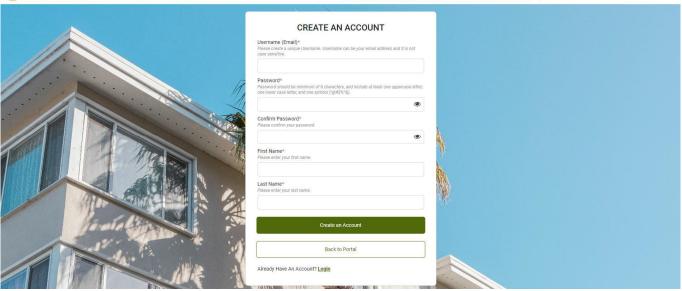
3. Select "Create an Account" to create a new account.





- 4. Enter the following information to create your account:
 - **Username (Email Address)** Ensure you have access to your email address inbox, as you will need to verify your email address to complete account creation.
 - Password Your password should be minimum of 6 characters, and include at least one
 uppercase letter, one lower case letter, and one symbol (!@#\$%^&)
 - First Name
 - Last Name

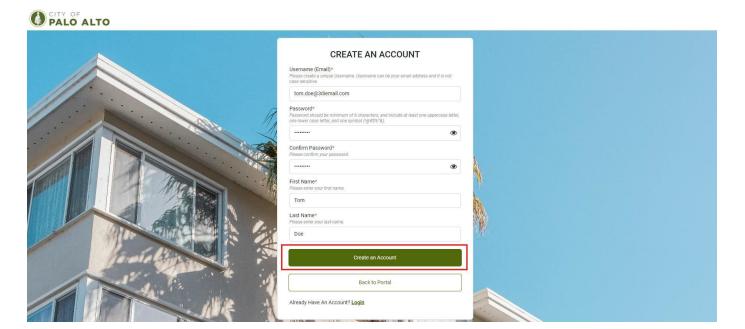








5. Click on the "Create an Account" button.



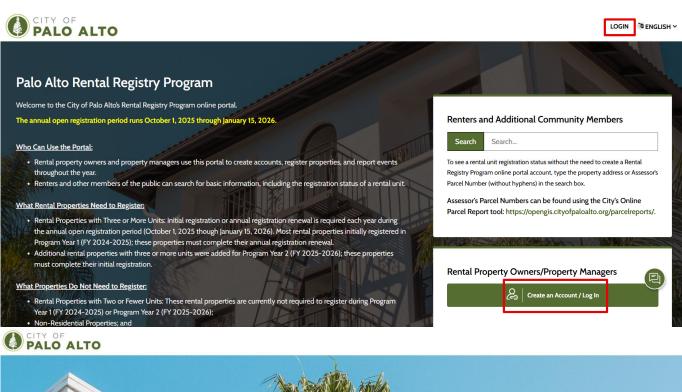
- 6. The portal will send an account verification email with an Activation Link to the Username/Email Address that you provided. The email should arrive within a few minutes, and the activation link expires in 15 minutes. If you do not see this email in your inbox, please check your spam folder. Click on the Activation Link in the email to confirm your account and complete the account creation process.
- 7. If you have additional people that will help you with registration and event based reporting, please feel free to have them set up their own account using these same steps.

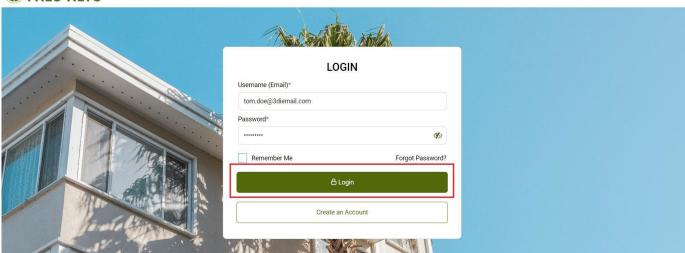


Accessing Your Account & Adding a Property to Your Account

Now that you have created and activated your account, log in to the Rental Registry Program online portal. When you log in, you will see your dashboard. Your dashboard will be empty until you add and claim your property to your account. Follow the steps below for each property that you own or manage that is required to register.

1. Click on one of the **Login** buttons on the portal landing page.





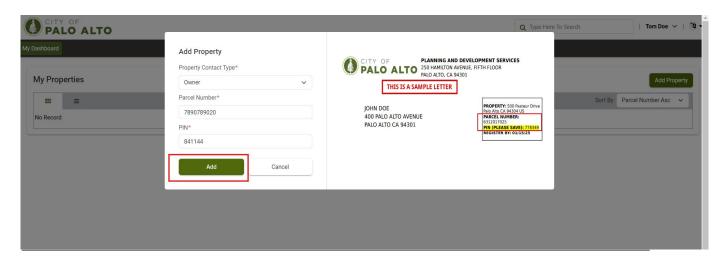


2. Retrieve the Registration Letter sent to you by the City of Palo Alto Rental Registry Program. Click the **Add Property** button on the top right corner of your dashboard.





- 3. In the **Add Property** form, enter the following information:
 - Property Contact Type indicate if you are the Owner, the Property Manager or the Authorized Representative
 - Parcel Number you can find this in the Registration Letter
 - PIN you can find this in the Registration Letter
- 4. Click the **Add** button.







5. Your property will appear on your dashboard as shown below. Repeat these steps for each property that you are required to register.



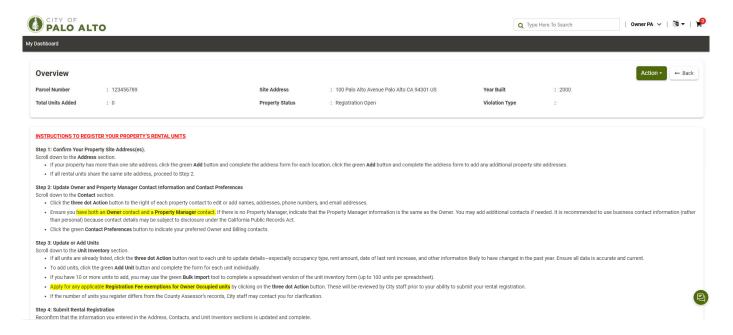
INITIAL REGISTRATION PROCESS

Now that you have added your property or properties to your account, you will need to complete either the initial registration or the annual registration renewal process. To complete initial registration, click on the **View** button.





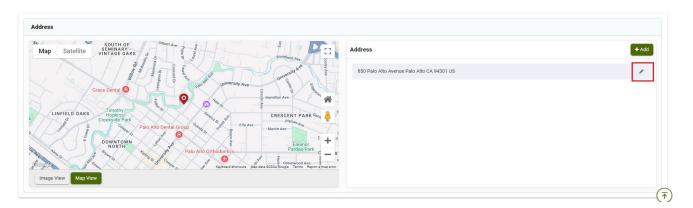
The **Property Overview** page will open. This page has different sections that are necessary to complete as part of the registration process.



Step 1: Confirm Your Property Site Address(es)

Your property will have a primary site address listed. Some properties are large and may contain more than one site address or units might be individually addressed. Please review the Address(es) associated with your property and follow the steps listed below if changes are required.

1. Scroll to the **Address** section. You will be able to manage the site addresses from this section. The Address that is listed is identified as the primary site address. Check to see if the site address is correct. If not, click on the **Edit** button next to the address to modify it.







2. The **Edit Site Address** form will appear. Modify the information and save your changes.



3. If your property has more than one site address, click the green **Add** button.

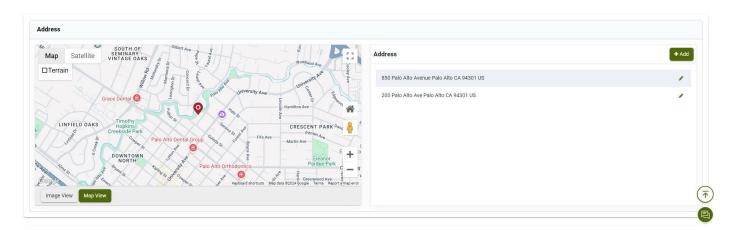




4. The **Add Site Address** form will appear. Enter the required information and save your changes.



5. The Addresses section will be updated with any modified or new site address(es). Repeat as needed until all the site addresses associated with your property are added.

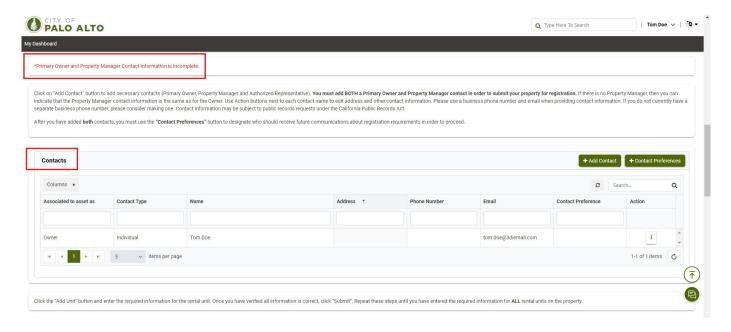




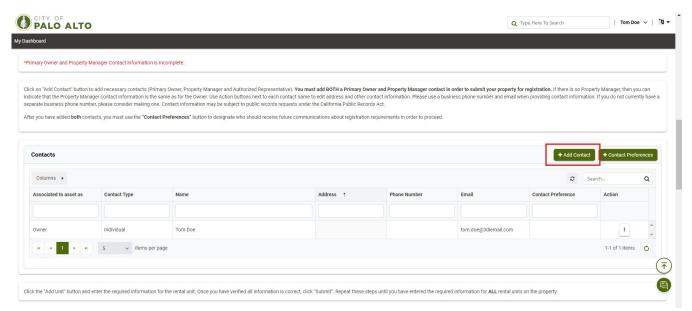
Step 2: Update Owner and Property Manager Contact Information and Contact Preferences

It is required that each property contains at least one Owner contact and at least one Property Manager contact, as well as Contact Preferences indicated.

1. Scroll the **Contacts** section. If you see the red text "Primary Owner and Property Manager, Contact Information is Incomplete" you will need to add the missing contact type.

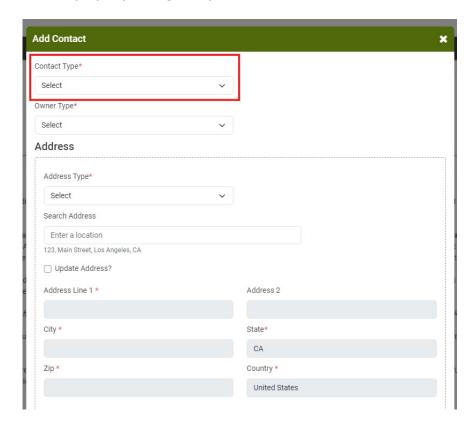


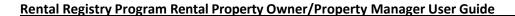
2. Click on the Add Contact button.





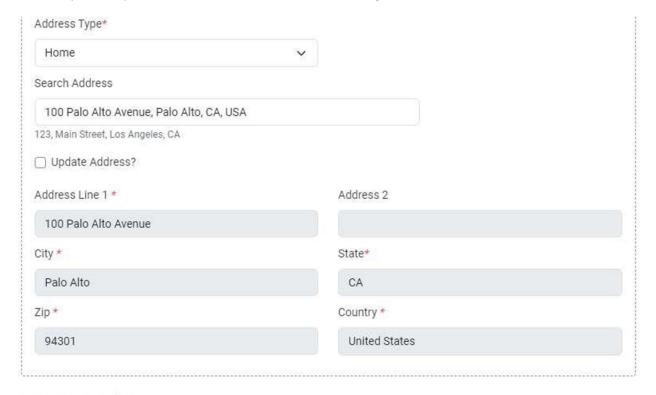
3. The Add Contact form will appear. Select the Contact Type from the dropdown list. If your property already has an "Owner" contact added, then you will need to add a "Property Manager". If there is no property manager, duplicate all of the "Owner" contact information.



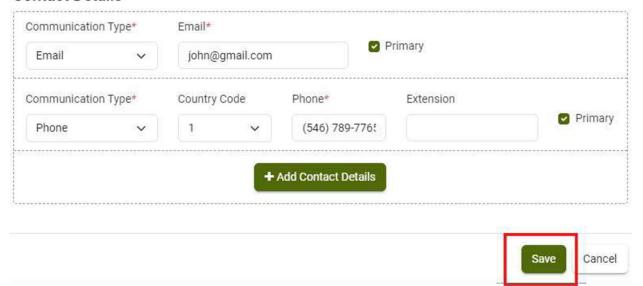




4. Add the required information in the **Add Contact** form and then click the **Save** button. You are required to provide the First Name, Last Name, Mailing Address, Email Address, and Phone Number.

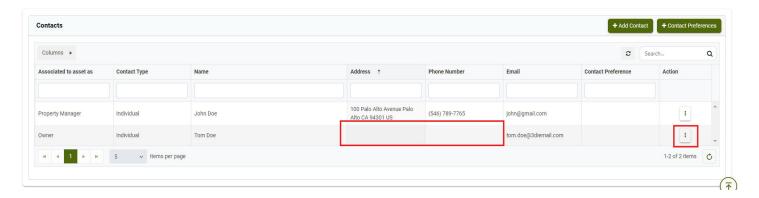


Contact Details

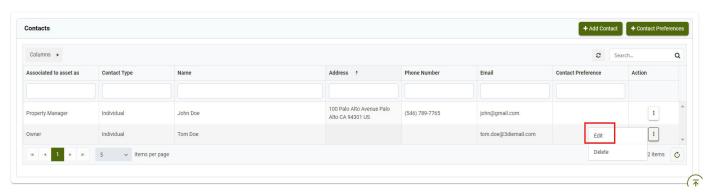




5. If the **Owner** contact is missing any information (Mailing Address, Email, or Phone), click on the **three-dot Action** button as shown below to add/edit the contact details.

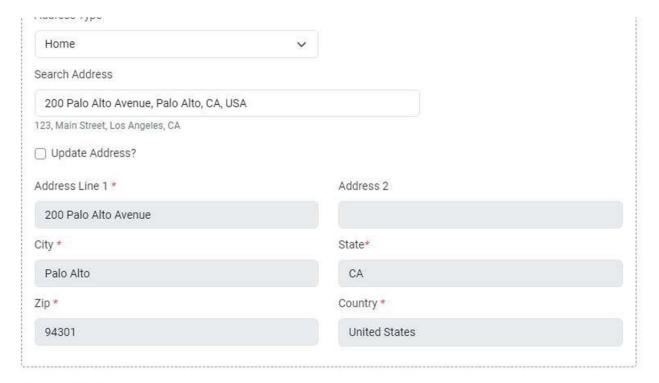


6. Select **Edit** from the dropdown menu.

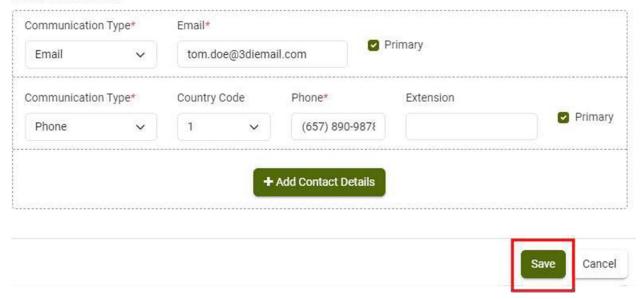




7. The **Edit Contact** form will appear. Enter the required information and click the **Save** button.

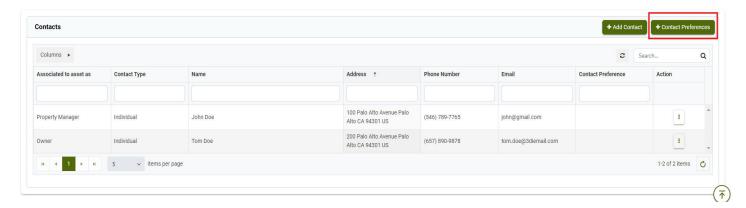


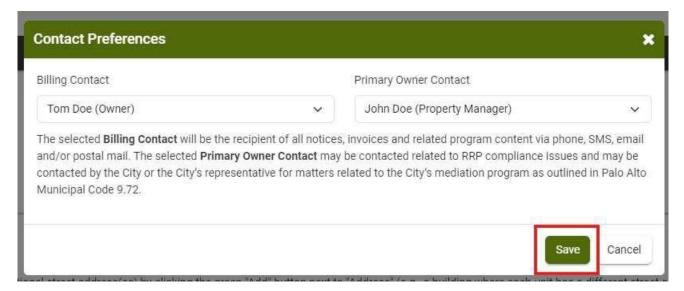
Contact Details



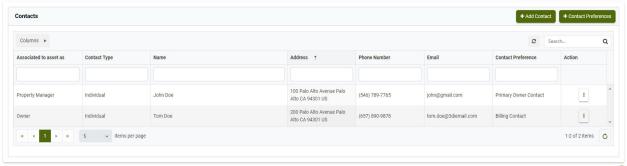


8. The **Contacts** section will be updated. Next, click the **Contact Preferences** button. Select the **Billing Contact**. This contact will be the recipient of all notices, invoices and related program content via phone, SMS, email and/or postal mail. Select the **Primary Owner Contact**. This can also be the same as the Billing Contact. Click the **Save** button. You can edit/modify these at any time.





9. If there are additional Property Manager(s) or Property Owner(s) associated with the property, you can add them using the **Add Contact** button.



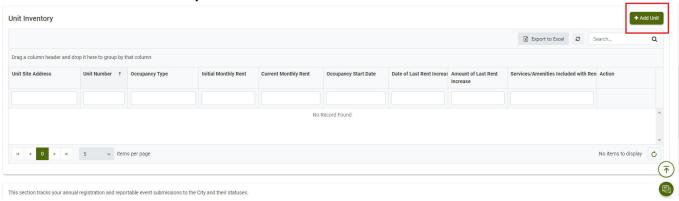


Step 3: Add Unit(s)

You now need to add units to your property and provide details about these units, such as occupancy or vacancy status, rent amount, and services/amenities provided. Adding units is an activity that you will only need to do during initial registration, unless a new unit is built, a unit is demolished, or units are combined. Once the inventory of units is established on your property, you will only need to provide updates to the occupancies and rents of those units moving forward. Follow the steps listed below to add unit(s) to your property.

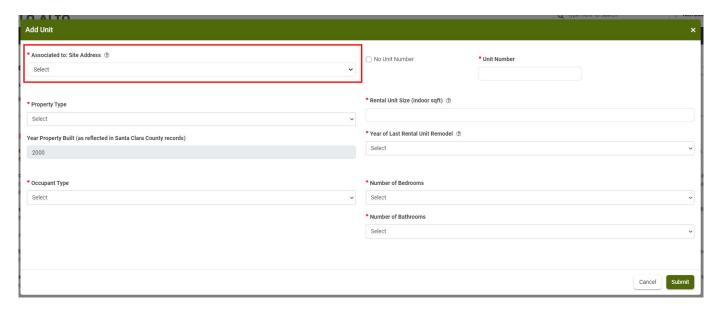
*Note: Not every unit field will be explained in this guide. If you have specific questions, contact the City of Palo Alto Rental Registry Program or the 3Di Registration Technical Assistance Helpdesk.

1. Scroll to the **Unit Inventory** section. Click on the **Add Unit** button.

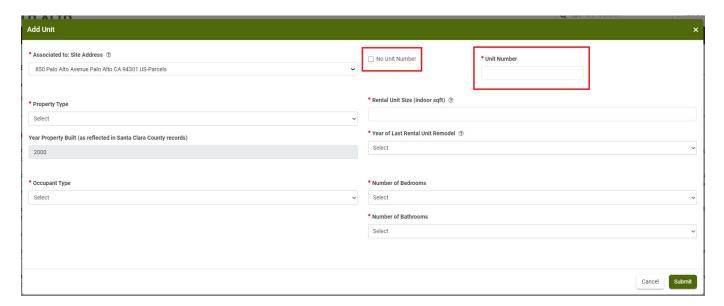




2. Select the Unit's Site Address from the dropdown menu. This dropdown menu will contain all of the added property site addresses. If you realize an address is missing, you can close this window and add the missing address. The selected address should be part of the unit's mailing address.

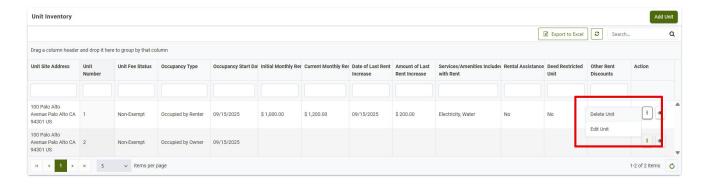


3. Next, we need to know the name of the unit. This, too, should be part of the unit's mailing address. If the unit does not have a specified name, click the **No Unit Number** checkbox. This would indicate that the unit mailing address is the same as the site address.

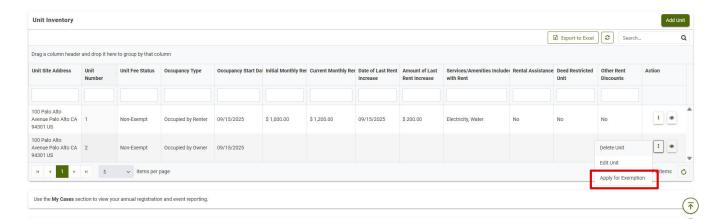




- 4. Enter the required fields listed in the **Add Unit** form. The required fields are marked with a red asterisk (*). The form cannot be saved until all the required fields are entered. Once all the required information is entered, click the **Submit** button.
- 5. The Unit Inventory table will be updated. Each unit added to the inventory will have its own Action menu displayed. If you made any error, use the **three-dot Action** button, select the Edit Unit dropdown menu option, and correct the details. Repeat these steps to add all the units on your property.

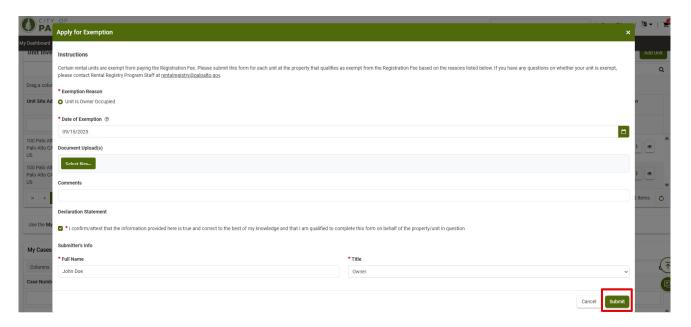


6. Apply for any applicable **Registration Fee exemptions for owner occupied units** by clicking on the **three dot Action** button. These will be reviewed by City Staff. Even though you can submit your rental registration, it will be reviewed by City Staff.

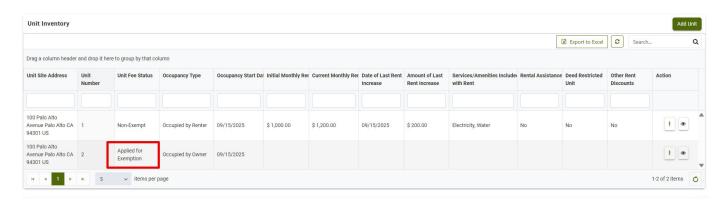




7. Enter the necessary information and hit Submit. This will be reviewed by the City Staff. You will receive an email after submission with more details.



8. The Unit Fee Status will indicate that an exemption has been applied. It will be updated to "Exempt" once the exemption has been approved by City Staff.

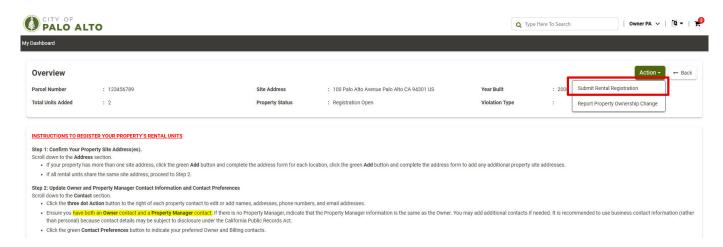




Step 4: Submit Rental Registration

Before submitting the registration information for your property and units, please check the following:

- Property Contacts are accurate (Contacts section)
 - There are an Owner Contact AND a Property Manager Contact
- All Units are added (Unit Inventory Section)
 - Unit Mailing Addresses are accurate
 - Unit Details provided are accurate
- Registration Fee exemption has been applied for all owner-occupied units.
- 1. Scroll to the top of the **Property Overview** page. Click on the **Action** button. Select the Submit Rental Registration Dropdown menu option.



2. Complete the **Submit Rental Registration** affidavit form. You will be asked to confirm that the information provided here is true and correct to the best of your knowledge and that you are qualified to complete this form on behalf of the property in question.



3. Click **Submit** to submit the registration information for your property and units. You will receive an email confirmation and this email will provide you with additional information.



Step 5: Confirm Your Property Status

Your property status will be updated once you submit. Review the property statuses and their meanings below:

Property Status	Meaning
Registration Open	The registration of this property is still in open status. Provide updated information about your property and submit for registration.
Registration Denied	The registration information for the property was submitted, but staff is unable to process it at this time due to some errors. Review registration information, make necessary edits, and resubmit.
Unit Discrepancy	The registration information for the property was submitted, but the number of units you have added to the property does not match with the Santa Clara County Assessor's records. Information is under review by staff. If you have any questions, please email staff at rentalregistry@paloalto.gov.
Payment Pending	The registration information for the property was submitted and payment of registration fees is required to complete registration.
Registration Completed	The registration information for the property was submitted, any required registration fees were paid. No further action is required at this time.
Pending Staff Review	The registration information for the property was submitted, and there is an Owner-Occupied Unit Exemption request present which is pending review. No further action is required at this time.
Property Exempt	The property was reviewed by staff and identified as exempt from the requirement to register for a property specific reason. If you have any questions, please email staff at rentalregistry@paloalto.gov.



Step 6: Pay Annual Registration Fees

Once the registration information for the property and units has been submitted, you may have to pay registration fees and/or late fees. If your property status is displayed as Registration Completed, then your property was marked by staff as a 100% affordable housing property and exempt from registration fees; please proceed to **Step 7**. If your property status is displayed as **Payment Pending**, payment of fees is necessary to complete registration.



 Scroll to the **Documents** section to find the invoice if you would like to print or download it for future reference.

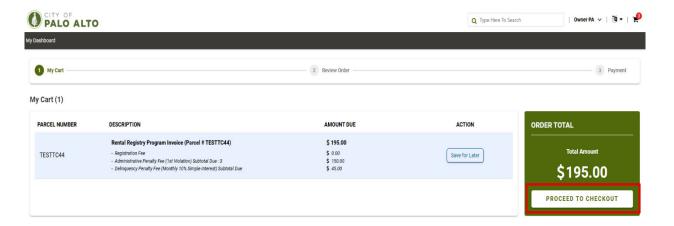


2. Click on the **Cart** button displayed at the top right corner of the **Property Overview** page. You will be directed to the **My Cart** screen.

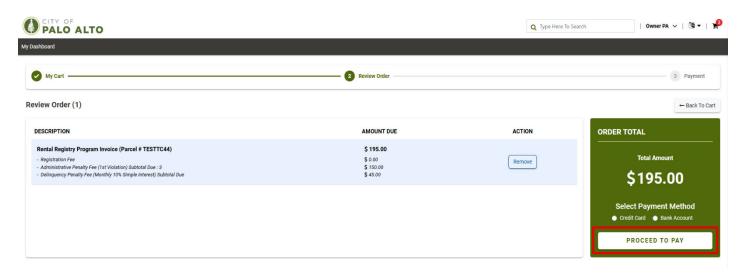




3. Click on the **Proceed to Checkout** button.



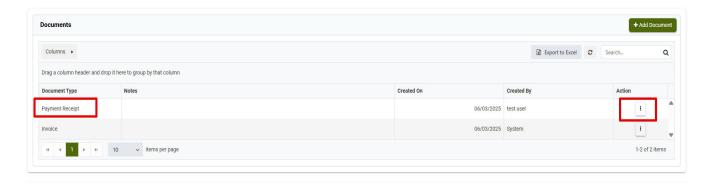
4. Review the Order, select either Credit Card or Bank Account, and click on the **Proceed to Pay** button.



5. Once payment has been completed, a transaction reference number will be generated, and you will be redirected back to your **My Properties** dashboard. You will also receive an email to confirm the successful transaction and registration completion. Registration Fees are paid once per year, providing year-round 24/7 access to the Rental Registry Program portal for reporting events at your property.



6. Scroll to the Documents section to find the receipt if you would like to print or download it for future reference.



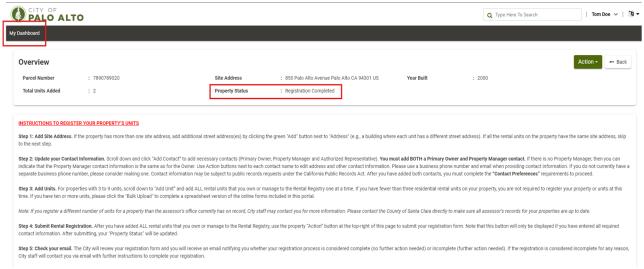
7. If the property and unit information submitted contains the correct unit count, the **Property Status** will be updated to **Registration Completed**.

Step 7: Download Registration Completion Certificate (Optional)

1. If you would like a copy of your registration completion certificate, lick on the "Action" button displayed on the top right corner and select "Download Registration Completion Certificate."



2. You can click on "My Dashboard" at the top left of the **Property Overview** page to return to your dashboard to view/register your other properties. Repeat these steps for any other properties.



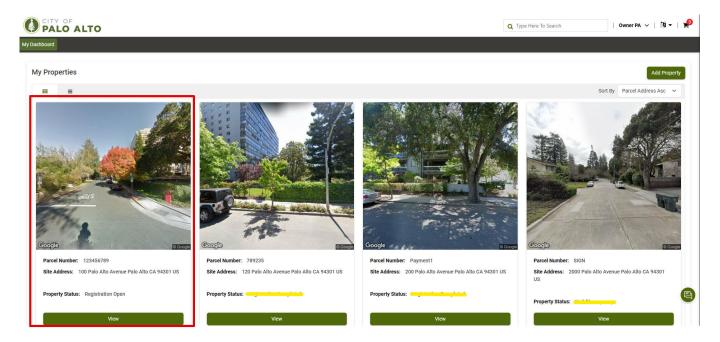


ANNUAL REGISTRATION RENEWAL PROCESS

If you previously registered a property and units in a prior Program Year, then this property undergoes annual registration renewal. During the annual open registration period (Fall through early Winter), follow the steps below to complete your annual registration renewal process on time to avoid late fees and penalties.

Portal Login

Log into your account in the Rental Registry Program online portal. Your "My Dashboard" screen should be visible, and your property or properties will be displayed in Registration Open status.

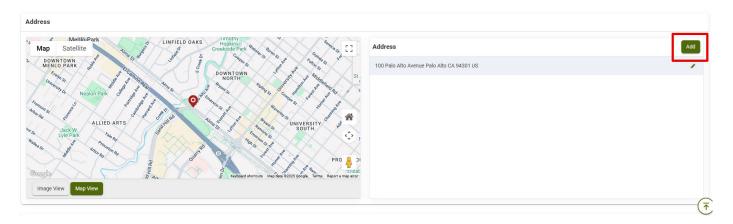




Step 1: Confirm Your Property Site Address(es)

Scroll to the Address section.

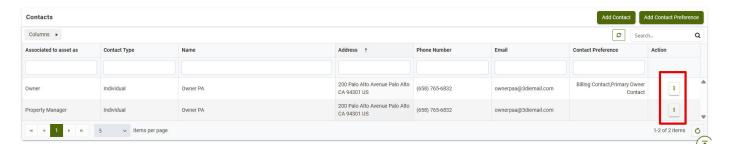
- 1. If your property has more than one site address, click the green **Add** button and complete the address form for each location.
- 2. If all rental units share the same site address, proceed to Step 2.



Step 2: Update Owner and Property Manager Contact Information and Contact Preferences

Scroll to the Contact section.

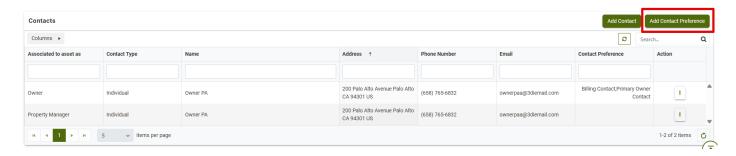
1. Click the **three-dot Action** button to the right of each property contact to edit or add names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.



2. Ensure you have both an **Owner** contact and a **Property Manager** contact. If there is no Property Manager, indicate that the Property Manager information is the same as the Owner. You may add additional contacts if needed. It is recommended to use business contact information (rather than personal) because contact details may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.



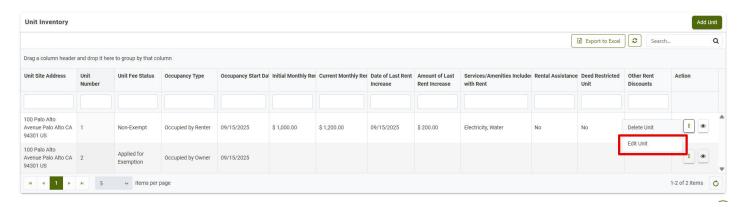
3. Click the green Contact Preferences button to indicate your preferred Owner and Billing contacts.



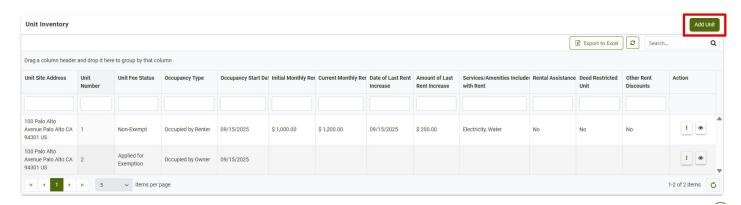
Step 3: Update or Add Units

Scroll to the Unit Inventory section.

1. If all units are already listed, click the **three-dot Action** button next to each unit to update details—especially occupancy type, rent amount, date of last rent increase, and other information likely to have changed in the past year. Ensure all data is accurate and current.

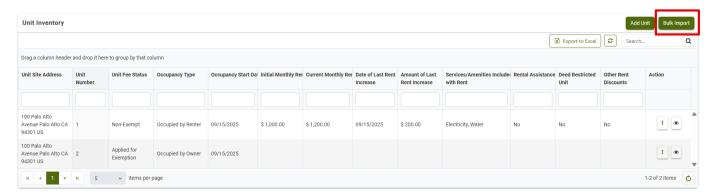


2. To add units, click the green **Add Unit** button and complete the form for each unit individually.

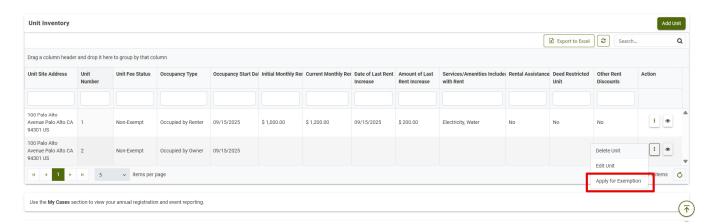




3. If you have 10 or more units to add, you may use the green **Bulk Import** tool to complete a spreadsheet version of the unit inventory form (up to 100 units per spreadsheet).

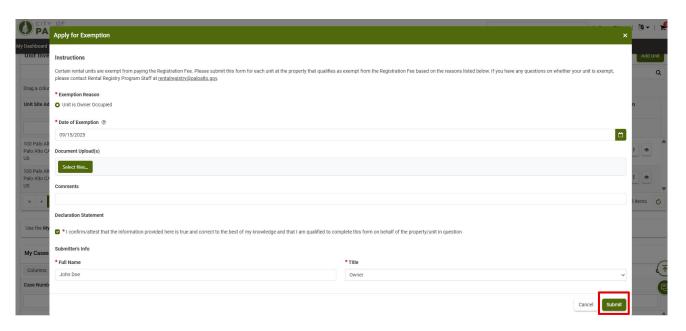


4. Apply for any applicable **Registration Fee exemptions for owner occupied units** by clicking on the **three dot Action** button. These will be reviewed by City Staff. Even though you can submit your rental registration, it will be reviewed by City Staff.

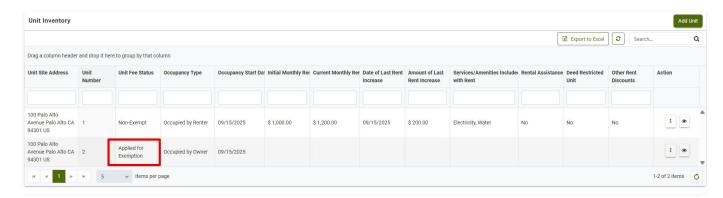




5. Enter the necessary information and hit Submit. This will be reviewed by the City Staff. You will receive an email after submission with more details.



6. The Unit Fee Status will indicate that an exemption has been applied. It will be updated to "Exempt" once the exemption has been approved by City Staff.



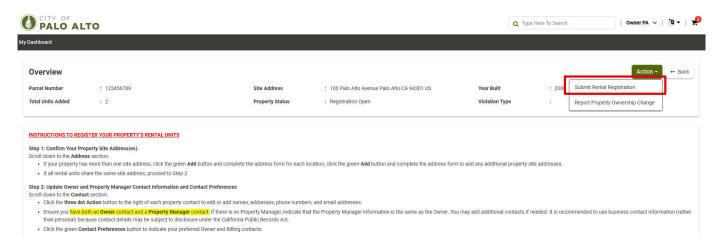
7. If the number of units you register differs from the County Assessor's records, City staff may contact you for clarification.



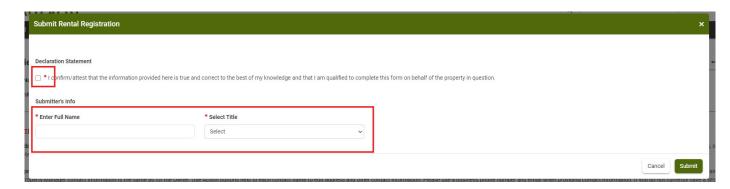
Step 4: Submit Rental Registration

Before submitting the registration information for your property and units, please check the following:

- o Property Contacts are accurate (Contacts section)
 - There are an Owner Contact AND a Property Manager Contact
- All Units are added (Unit Inventory Section)
 - Unit Mailing Addresses are accurate
 - Unit Details provided are accurate
- o Registration Fee exemption has been applied for all owner-occupied units.
- 1. Scroll to the top of the **Property Overview** page. Click on the **Action** button. Select the Submit Rental Registration Dropdown menu option.



2. Complete the **Submit Rental Registration** affidavit form. You will be asked to confirm that the information provided here is true and correct to the best of your knowledge and that you are qualified to complete this form on behalf of the property in question.



3. Click **Submit** to submit the registration information for your property and units. You will receive an email confirmation and this email will provide you with additional information.



Step 5: Confirm Your Property Status

Your property status will be updated once you submit. Review the property statuses and their meanings below:

Property Status	Meaning
Registration Open	The registration of this property is still in open status. Provide updated information about your property and submit for registration.
Registration Denied	The registration information for the property was submitted, but staff is unable to process it at this time due to some errors. Review registration information, make necessary edits, and resubmit.
Unit Discrepancy	The registration information for the property was submitted, but the number of units you have added to the property does not match with the Santa Clara County Assessor's records. Information is under review by staff. If you have any questions, please email staff at rentalregistry@paloalto.gov.
Payment Pending	The registration information for the property was submitted and payment of registration fees is required to complete registration.
Registration Completed	The registration information for the property was submitted, any required registration fees were paid. No further action is required at this time.
Pending Staff Review	The registration information for the property was submitted, and there is an Owner-Occupied Unit Exemption request present which is pending review. No further action is required at this time.
Property Exempt	The property was reviewed by staff and identified as exempt from the requirement to register for a property specific reason. If you have any questions, please email staff at rentalregistry@paloalto.gov.



Step 6: Pay Annual Registration Fees

Once the registration information for the property and units has been submitted, you may have to pay registration fees and/or late fees. If your property status is displayed as Registration Completed, then your property was marked by staff as a 100% affordable housing property and exempt from registration fees; please proceed to **Step 7**. If your property status is displayed as **Payment Pending**, payment of fees is necessary to complete registration.



 Scroll to the **Documents** section to find the invoice if you would like to print or download it for future reference.

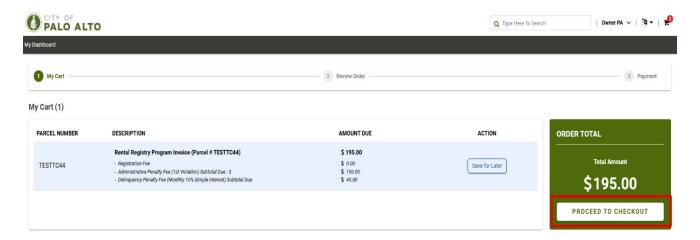


2. Click on the **Cart** button displayed at the top right corner of the **Property Overview** page. You will be directed to the **My Cart** screen.

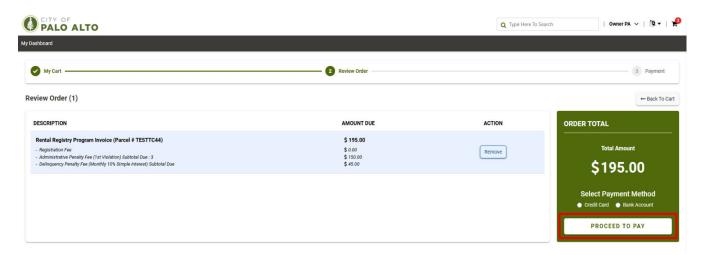




3. Click on the **Proceed to Checkout** button.



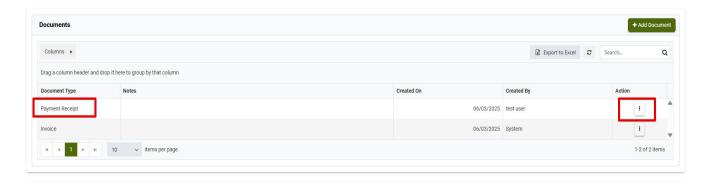
4. Review the Order, select either Credit Card or Bank Account, and click on the **Proceed to Pay** button.



5. Once payment has been completed, a transaction reference number will be generated, and you will be redirected back to your **My Properties** dashboard. You will also receive an email to confirm the successful transaction and registration completion. Registration Fees are paid once per year, providing year-round 24/7 access to the Rental Registry Program portal for reporting events at your property.



6. Scroll to the Documents section to find the receipt if you would like to print or download it for future reference.



7. If the property and unit information submitted contains the correct unit count, the **Property Status** will be updated to **Registration Completed**.

Step 7: Download Registration Completion Certificate (Optional)

If you would like a copy of your registration completion certificate, lick on the "Action" button displayed on the top right corner and select "Download Registration Completion Certificate."





REQUIRED REPORTING OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP CHANGES

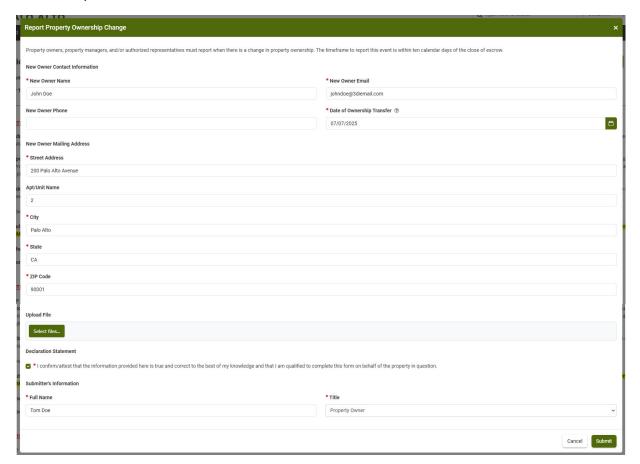
Sale of a property resulting in an Ownership Change must be reported within ten (10) calendar days of the sale through the Rental Registry Program online portal. Follow the steps below to Report a Property Ownership Change.

Report Property Ownership Change

1. Click on the green **Action** button at the top of the Property Overview page and select Report Property Ownership Change from the dropdown menu.

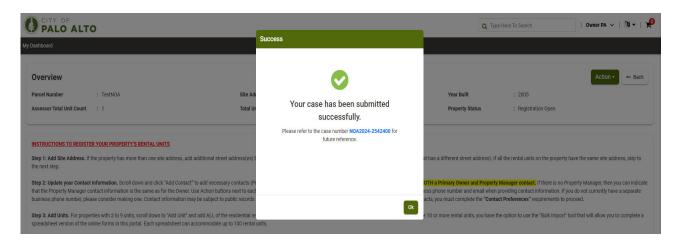


2. Complete the **Report Property Ownership Change** form (required fields are marked with a red asterisk) and click **Submit**.





3. A Success message will be displayed on the screen. You will also receive a confirmation email with further details. City staff will review the reporting and may contact you if further information is required. Once approved, the property will be disassociated with your account, but the information on the property and units will be retained in the portal for future use by the new property owner.

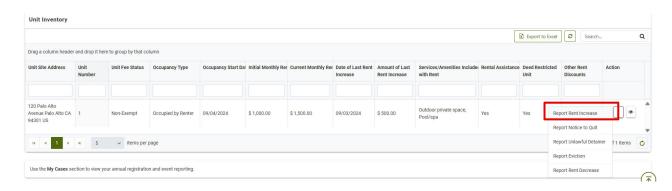




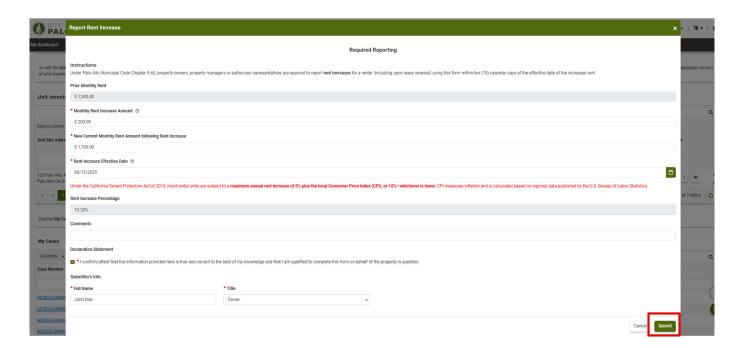
REQUIRED REPORTING OF EVENTS

Report Rent Increase

From your portal dashboard, open the Property Overview page for the unit where the rent increase
applies. In the Unit Inventory section, locate the unit and click the three dot Action button on the
right. A list of available actions will appear. Select the Report Rent Increase dropdown menu option.



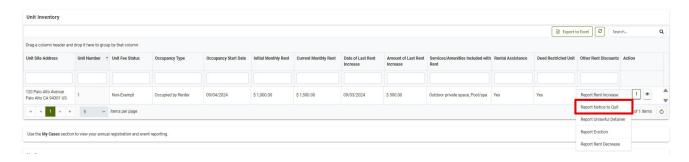
2. The **Report Rent Increase** form will open. Carefully read the instructions, complete all the form fields (required fields are marked with a red asterisk), and click **Submit**. No document uploads are needed for rent increase reporting.



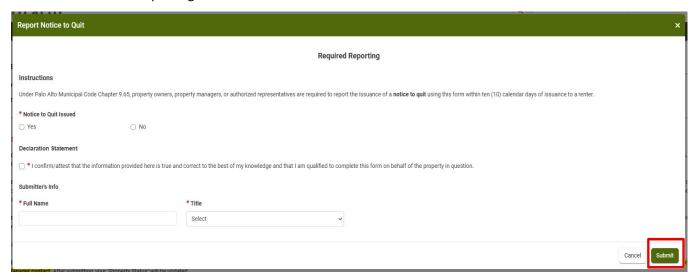


Report Notice to Quit

 From your portal dashboard, open the Property Overview page for the unit where the notice to quit applies. In the Unit Inventory section, locate the unit and click the three dot Action button on the right. A list of available actions will appear. Select the Report Notice to Quit dropdown menu option.



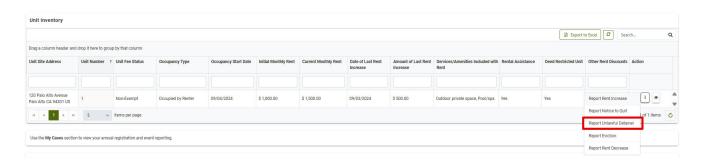
2. The **Report Notice to Quit** form will open. Carefully read the instructions, complete all the form fields (required fields are marked with a red asterisk), and click **Submit**. No document uploads are needed for Notice to Quit reporting.



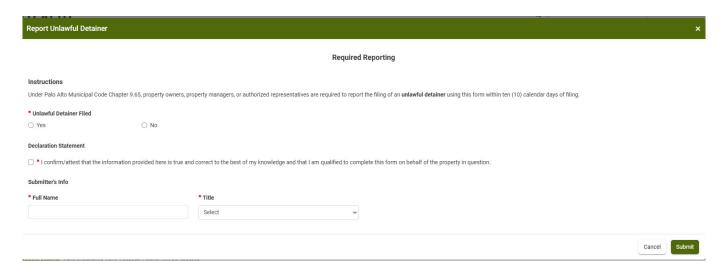


Report Unlawful Detainer

From your portal dashboard, open the Property Overview page for the unit where the unlawful
detainer applies. In the Unit Inventory section, locate the unit and click the three dot Action button
on the right. A list of available actions will appear. Select the Report Unlawful Detainer dropdown
menu option.



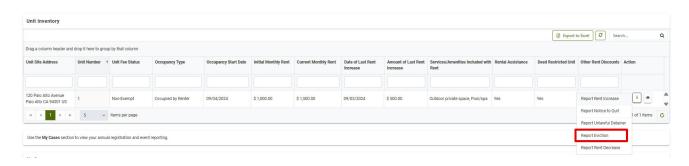
2. The **Report Unlawful Detainer** form will open. Carefully read the instructions, complete all the form fields (required fields are marked with a red asterisk), and click **Submit**. No document uploads are needed for Unlawful Detainer reporting.



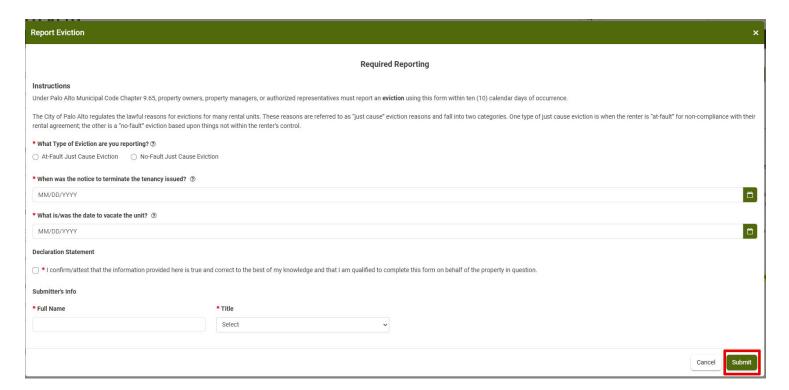


Report Eviction

 From your portal dashboard, open the Property Overview page for the unit where the eviction occurred. In the Unit Inventory section, locate the unit and click the three dot Action button on the right. A list of available actions will appear. Select the Report Eviction dropdown menu option.



The Report Eviction form will open. Carefully read the instructions, then select the eviction type: At
 Fault Just Cause or No Fault Just Cause. Complete all the form fields (required fields are marked with
 a red asterisk) and click Submit. No document uploads are needed for Eviction reporting.



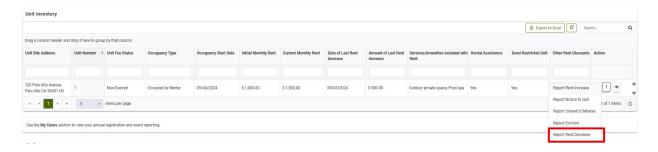


OPTIONAL REPORTING OF EVENTS

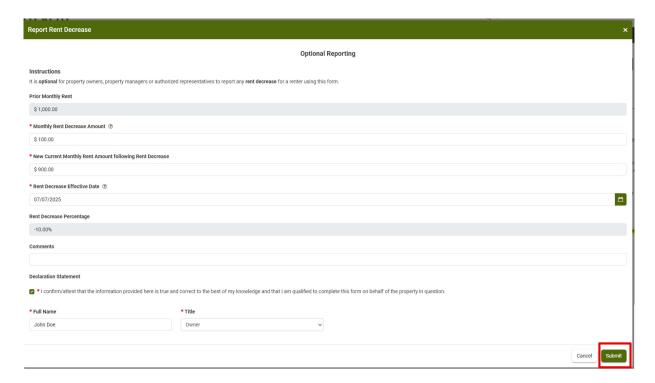
In response to requests by rental property owners and property managers, the Rental Registry Program online portal can also be used to optionally report additional events, such as a Rent Decrease.

Report Rent Decrease

 From your portal dashboard, open the Property Overview page for the unit where the rent decrease occurred. In the Unit Inventory section, locate the unit and click the three dot Action button on the right. A list of available actions will appear. Select the Report Rent Decrease dropdown menu option.



 The Report Rent Decrease form will open. Carefully read the instructions, complete all the form fields (required fields are marked with a red asterisk), and click Submit. No document uploads are needed for Rent Decrease reporting.





THANK YOU!