



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Michelle Steel, Member**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rolling Hills Estates**

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**For Immediate Release  
April 13, 2007**

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## **MICHELLE STEEL ANNOUNCES DROP IN GASOLINE USE**

*Nine month trend found statewide in 2006*

*(Rolling Hills Estates)* – Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the Board of Equalization, today announced that for the first time in 14 years statistics show a downward trend in gasoline sales statewide.

For three consecutive quarters, from April through December of 2006, gasoline consumption came in below the same periods of 2005. Californians used 112 million fewer gallons in 2006 than they did the year prior.

Likely causes for the drop in fuel use include consumers limiting the distances they drive and choosing more fuel efficient vehicles (including hybrid automobiles).

During this nine-month period, the average price of a gallon of gasoline in California was \$2.958. The last drop in annual gasoline use was seen in 1992.

The figures can be viewed at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/imvf10ynet.pdf>.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as the country's highest ranking Korean-American elected official. She represents the over 8.5 million taxpayers of the Third Board of Equalization District, including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, Imperial and San Bernardino.

*The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.*

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