



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Bill Leonard, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Sacramento**

Ramon J. Hirsig  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

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**Contact: NR 38-08-L  
Anita Gore  
916-327-8988**

## **Bill Leonard Announces Tax Relief Available in Butte County Due to Wildfire**

Bill Leonard, Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today reminded taxpayers that a State of Emergency was declared in Butte County, making taxpayers eligible for emergency tax relief. Tax relief may include extending filing return dates, relieving penalties and interest, or replacing copies of records lost to fire damage.

### **Extension for Filing Returns or Payments**

Special relief in the form of a **one-month extension of time to file or pay taxes or fees** is available for:

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| Sales and use taxes                                       | Fuel use taxes (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel tax) |
| Alcoholic beverage taxes                                  | Cigarette and tobacco products taxes            |
| Timber yield tax  | Interstate user tax                             |
| Energy resources surcharge                                | Natural gas surcharge                           |
| Emergency telephone user surcharge                        | Covered electronic waste recycling fee          |
| Integrated waste management fee                           | Water Rights Fee                                |
| Tire recycling fee  | Hazardous waste fees                            |
| Underground storage tank maintenance fee                  | Oil spill prevention and response fees          |
| Childhood lead and occupational poisoning prevention fees | Ballast water management fee                    |

This relief is available to any taxpayer or fee payer who, as a result of the recent wildfires, cannot meet tax filing and payment deadlines. The BOE may also extend the deadline for filings that were delayed by disruption of the normal activities of the United States Postal Service or private mail and freight companies.

### **Relief of Interest and Penalties**

Relief from interest and penalties may be provided for those persons who are unable to file their returns or pay taxes and fees due in a timely manner. This relief may be provided in the following programs:

Sales and use taxes, use fuel tax, alcoholic beverage taxes, cigarette and tobacco products taxes, timber yield tax, gasoline tax, energy resources and emergency telephone users surcharges, hazardous waste fees, the integrated waste management fee, occupational lead poisoning, underground storage tank maintenance fees, fuel taxes (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel), interstate user tax, childhood lead poisoning prevention fee, insurance tax, natural gas surcharge, ballast water management fee, California tire recycling fee, water rights fee, covered electronic waste recycling fee, and oil spill prevention and response fees.

If requesting an **Extension for Filing Returns** or **Relief of Interest and Penalties**, taxpayers and fee payers must include with their returns, a statement signed under penalty of perjury, stating the cause for the late filing. The BOE has several forms that may be of assistance. BOE 468, *Request for Extension*, and BOE 27, *Penalty and Interest Relief for Disaster Victims*, are both on our website at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) or can be requested by phone toll-free at **800-400-7115**.

**Please note that the relief program for interstate user tax under International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) applies to California tax only. To waive interest and penalties for another jurisdiction, the Board of Equalization must receive written approval from the other jurisdiction.** For information regarding IFTA, please call the Fuel Taxes Division at **916-322-9669** or **800-400-7115** and follow the prompts to Fuel Taxes.

#### **Copies of BOE Tax Records Available**

Business owners and fee payers needing to obtain copies of BOE tax records will be able to receive replacements free of charge. To obtain copies of critically needed tax records on file with the BOE, including prior tax returns filed with the BOE, copies of audits, and permit application forms, please call us toll free at **800-400-7115**.

#### **Property Tax Relief**

If your taxable property in Butte County is damaged or destroyed by the June 2008 fire, you may be eligible for property tax relief. Any claim for relief, including applications for reduced assessment are available from and must be filed with the county assessor. For more information, please contact the Butte County Assessor's Office at 530-538-7721.

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was elected as the Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in 2002 and reelected in November 2006. Prior to his election, Bill Leonard served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$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 serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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