



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

## Michelle Steel, Member

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

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[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

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## **Michelle Steel Announces 2010 Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings**

*Annual Public Hearings Set for April and June in Northern and Southern California*

Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that the Board will hold Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings in Sacramento on April 13 and in Culver City on June 15.

The five-member Board will hear public comments on issues related to the business and property taxes laws administered or overseen by the BOE, including sales and use taxes, environmental fees, fuel taxes, excise taxes, and property tax. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings will each begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. at the following two locations:

<b>Tuesday April 13, 2010</b>	<b>Board of Equalization Headquarters Building 1st Floor Board Room, Room 121 450 N Street Sacramento , CA 95814</b>
<b>Tuesday June 15, 2010</b>	<b>Board of Equalization District Office 5901 Green Valley Circle, Suite 207 Culver City, CA 90230</b>

Each of the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights public hearings will also be webcast live at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov).

In January 1989, the BOE was mandated by law under the Harris-Katz California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights to ensure that the rights, privacy, and property of California taxpayers were adequately protected in the assessment and collection of sales and use taxes. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was expanded in 1993 to include special tax programs. The Morgan Property Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was added in 1994. Both the Harris-Katz and the Morgan Taxpayers' Bill of Rights require the Board of Equalization to conduct annual hearings to give the public an opportunity to present their ideas, concerns, and recommendations to the Board Members.

Anyone planning to make a presentation at one of the hearings is invited to contact the Board's Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office by calling toll free 888-324-2798 or emailing [www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm).

Additional information about the hearings, the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office, and taxpayers' rights is available at:

Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings: [www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/heartra.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/heartra.htm).

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office: [www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm)

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's Annual Report: [www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra0809.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra0809.pdf)

Publication 70, Understanding Your Rights as a California Taxpayer: [www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub70.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub70.pdf)

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate. In 2008, Steel uncovered a \$42 million mistake in the agency's sales tax refund procedures. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses.

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. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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