California Gasoline Consumption Down While Diesel Use Up
Gasoline Prices Rose 14.6 Percent in October 2012

Sacramento – California’s gasoline consumption declined 1.1 percent while diesel consumption increased 3.7 percent in October 2012, according to fuel tax data released by Chairman Jerome E. Horton of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE).

“High gas prices remain a challenge for California consumers and businesses,” said Horton. “However, in consideration of other economic indicators, I remain optimistic for California’s full recovery.”

BOE’s fuel tax report shows Californians consumed 1.22 billion gallons of gasoline in October 2012, a 1.1 percent decline from the 1.23 billion gallons consumed during October 2011. In California, the average price of gasoline in October 2012 was $4.46 per gallon, a 14.6 percent increase. Nationally, the average price of gasoline in October was $3.81, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), an 8.7 percent increase. BOE estimates statewide gasoline tax-related revenues for October 2012 are about $165 million in sales taxes and about $440 million in excise taxes in California.
California’s diesel consumption increased 3.7 percent in October 2012 to 235 million gallons, compared to 226 million gallons in October 2011. In California, the average price of diesel fuel in October 2012 was $4.38 per gallon, an increase of 7.8 percent. Nationally, the average price of diesel fuel in October was $4.09, also an increase of 7.8 percent, according to the EIA. BOE estimates statewide diesel fuel tax-related revenues for October 2012 are about $93 million in sales taxes and about $26 million in excise tax in California.

For a more in-depth discussion of gasoline consumption, see the BOE Economic Perspective (February 2013) on the BOE website: http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/epcont13.htm

For more information on California fuel statistics or reports based on fuel tax receipts paid by distributors in California, visit: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm


Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization’s Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than $53.7 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.