



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairman Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

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Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Board of Equalization Receives Fire Prevention Fee Lawsuit

Sacramento – The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) has been served with a lawsuit challenging the legality of the state’s fire prevention fee ([AB 1x 29, Chapter 8, Statutes of 2011](#)) enacted in 2011.

“Californians should note that the BOE is only billing and collecting the fees for deposit into the fund which CAL FIRE administers, as mandated by this legislation,” said BOE Chairman Jerome E. Horton. “The BOE does not have any stake in the outcome of this lawsuit.”

The fire prevention fee funds are administered by CAL FIRE, which is the state government entity that is responsible for defending this lawsuit in court. Further questions about the suit should be directed to CAL FIRE’s public affairs office at 1-916-651-FIRE.

Although the lawsuit has been filed and served, the law is still in effect as the court has not decided the fee’s legality. Californians who still owe their fire prevention fees should pay their bill or continue with their payment plans, and appeal to CAL FIRE if they believe they have been billed in error.

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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.

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