



**For Immediate Release
July 24, 2014**

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BOE Chairman Says Permanent Scaffolding a Poke in the Eye to BOE Employees

Sacramento – Between July 25th and July 27th, the Department of General Services (DGS) will purchase scaffolding to replace the rented scaffolding surrounding the perimeter at the Board of Equalization’s (BOE) 450 N Street building in Sacramento. Due to the expiration of the contract with the current fencing vendor, DGS has made the decision to purchase new scaffolding instead of renewing the contract.

“The scaffolding purchase is penny-wise and pound foolish. By officially making the scaffolding permanent, DGS is disregarding the need of our employees to vacate the 450 N Street building for a better and more productive work environment,” said BOE Chairman Jerome E. Horton. “This purchase also says that DGS continues to be willing to throw good money after bad to repair an irreparably broken building.”

The BOE building has been plagued with issues. The state has already spent roughly \$60 million taxpayer dollars on building repairs and remediation. Total cost related to repairs and relocation during construction is estimated at approximately \$115 million, which does not include lost employee productivity.

Currently, the legislature is considering a measure (Assembly Bill 1656) that will authorize DGS, “in consultation with the State Board of Equalization, to enter into one or more agreements for the planning, design, construction, and acquisition of facilities, including any improvements, betterments, and related facilities, and to enter into a lease-purchase or a lease with an option to purchase, for the relocation and consolidation of the State Board of Equalization.”

“While erecting scaffolding around the *outside* of the HQ building will hopefully continue to protect the pedestrians below from falling glass, DGS misses the point entirely. The Legislature needs to recognize we have a serious issue here,” Chairman Horton said. “Maintaining scaffolding around the building does *not* protect the state from the ever increasing number of lawsuits filed by BOE employees forced to work *inside* the building. We have to relocate these affected BOE Employees and consolidate our operations.”

About 1,900 employees are working in the N Street headquarters building. There are approximately 750 other capital-based employees who work in satellite offices throughout the Sacramento area. AB 1656 would seek to consolidate all of these employees on one campus, increasing efficiency and productivity. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 4, 2014.

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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 \$56 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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