



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Chairman Jerome E. Horton**

**4<sup>th</sup> District – Los Angeles**

Cynthia Bridges  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release  
December 17, 2014**

NR 167-14-H  
**Contact: Yating Campbell  
1-916-327-8988**

## **Tax Exemption Clarification for Hydroponic Farmers Considered by BOE**

**Sacramento** – Hydroponic farmers may qualify for the sales and use tax exemption for fertilizer if the Members of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) approve amendments to Sales and Use Tax Regulation 1588. The Board will take up this item in a public hearing at its meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2014, at 450 N Street, Sacramento. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

The amendments to the regulation will add carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to the definition of fertilizer and clarify that the exemption for fertilizer may apply to those who buy carbon dioxide for use in hydroponic farming. The regulation amendments, if approved, are expected to take effect on April 1, 2015. The clarified tax exemption will apply retroactively.

BOE staff will brief Board Members on feedback from taxpayer groups, researchers, and government organizations regarding desired improvements to Open BOE, BOE’s open data portal, which launched May 1, 2014. Open BOE provides citizens and interested groups with centralized access to BOE’s publicly available data in a format that is accessible and user-friendly. BOE is doing its part in providing 21st century service to its taxpayers, and the citizens of this state.

\* \* \* \* \*

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 (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$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](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

###

State Board of Equalization • 450 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • 1-800-400-7115

**Connect with Us:**

**[Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#) • [Twitter](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [Mobile Services](#) • [RSS](#)**