



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Judy Chu, Vice Chair

4th District – Los Angeles

Ramon J. Hirsig
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Contact: NR 24-C
Anita Gore
916-327-8988

JUDY CHU SAYS GASOLINE USE UP SLIGHTLY IN JANUARY

A recently announced decline in gasoline consumption in California during the last three quarters of 2006 may have ended in January 2007 according to new figures released today by Board of Equalization Vice Chair Judy Chu.

“While this isn’t the decline we saw last year, it’s also too early to say there is a spike in gasoline use,” said Vice Chair Judy Chu.

Californians pumped about 3 more million gallons in January 2007. But the same month of 2006 saw a 24 million gallon jump in gasoline use. Month-to-month fluctuations were reported in the last three quarters of 2006, even though declines were reported in each quarter’s totals.

Price decreases throughout most of January also help to explain the numbers. Average pump prices started the year at \$2.656, and dropped to \$2.535 four weeks later.

On average, January 2007 prices were about 19 cents above those seen in January 2006.

From April thru December of 2006, Californians used 165 million gallons less gasoline than the same period of 2005. During that period of declining consumption, the average price was \$2.958 – up 33 cents from the same period of 2005.

The figures can be viewed at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/imvf10ynet.pdf>.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$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 plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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