



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
PROPERTY TAXES DEPARTMENT  
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November 16, 2001

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JAMES E. SPEED  
Executive Director

TO INTERESTED PARTIES:

IMPACT OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS ON CALIFORNIA BUSINESSES  
OPTIONS FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

While the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks was most severe in New York and Washington, the economic effects have been felt across the nation. The resulting reduction in value of business-related property may not soon be recovered.

In response to a number of inquiries from California business people, the State Board of Equalization has directed its staff to develop a paper detailing all available options for property tax relief for all affected businesses. In furtherance of that behest, Board staff is seeking information regarding the impact on property values from all business people who have been affected by the disaster.

On November 30, 2001, Board staff will conduct a meeting of all interested parties to discuss issues surrounding the availability of property tax relief for businesses affected by the attacks. Of particular interest is the possible application of Revenue and Taxation Code section 170, which generally authorizes relief for taxpayers whose property has suffered a loss in value caused by damage from a misfortune or calamity.

Board staff is reviewing the issue of whether the provisions of section 170 can be applied to property that has suffered an economic loss in value in the aftermath of September 11. In the meantime, the Board has announced an extension to December 24, 2001, of the statutory period in which county assessors may accept applications for relief.

The November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting will allow taxpayers, county assessors, and others to explore with staff the applicability of section 170 and all other property tax relief provisions in the law to the circumstances that have followed September 11. The meeting will be held at the Board headquarters building located at 450 N Street, Sacramento, and will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 122.

If you plan to attend the November 30 meeting, please contact Mr. Gordon Ferguson by telephone at (916) 322-3815, or by email at [Gordon.Ferguson@boe.ca.gov](mailto:Gordon.Ferguson@boe.ca.gov). In confirming your attendance, please inform Mr. Ferguson about any specific issues that you would like discussed. You are encouraged to provide comments, in writing, by November 28, for staff's review and to enable copies to be made for discussion by the meeting participants.

Sincerely,

David J. Gau  
Deputy Director  
Property Taxes Department

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