



FIONA MA, CPA

Chairwoman, California State Board of Equalization
District 2

Message from Chairwoman Ma:

June is here, and that means we're just a few weeks away from the official start of summer! It also means the end of the state's fiscal year. Leaders in the Legislature are ramping up budget hearings ahead of the Constitutional deadline to pass a budget by June 15th. There's going to be a lot of back and forth over these last few weeks, and I hope legislators and Governor Brown don't overlook our roads and highways.

We have to figure out a new way of funding our infrastructure needs, because the current system (the so-called "Fuel Tax Swap") is not getting the job done. It's too confusing for consumers, and it shortchanges local governments. Be sure to read the article about fuel consumption in California for a fascinating look at fuel consumption in California.

In addition to the Budget, Legislators are starting to make hard decisions on major legislation. Don't miss this month's Under The Dome to find out the latest news on the legislation being debated in Sacramento.

Finally, Happy Pride! June is LGBT Pride Month, and I look forward to celebrating another year of tremendous progress for LGBT Americans. I hope to see you at the world famous San Francisco Pride Parade, where the Ma Squad will be marching yet again. California—and San Francisco in particular—has been at the epicenter of LGBT rights for decades, and I am so grateful that LGBT Americans are now being treated equally in the eyes of the law. That is definitely a reason for all of us to have some Pride.

As always, if I can be of service, please feel free to call me and members of my team at (415) 557-3000 or email me at fiona.ma@boe.ca.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

In Peace and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Ma'.

Fiona Ma, CPA

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Fuel Consumption Facts

Did you know that the country that had the highest gas prices in 2015 was China, specifically in Hong Kong. They paid \$7.04/gallon on average!!! The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in California this week is \$2.786. For more information, visit <http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/gasoline/>.

FAFSA Changes for 2017-18

The 2016–17 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be the final FAFSA to launch on January 1. Students who need to complete the 2016–17 FAFSA will be able to access and submit the form anytime between Jan. 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017. Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, the start date will move from January 1 to October 1 of the previous year. This means that students who complete the 2017–18 FAFSA will be able to submit the form anytime between Oct. 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018.

In addition to changing the FAFSA launch date, the state is also changing the requirements for reporting income information. Currently, FAFSA applicants provide income information from the “prior tax year.” For example, 2016–17 applicants must report 2015 income information. Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, applicants will provide income information from one tax year earlier—the “prior-prior” year. This means that the 2017–18 FAFSA will collect 2015 income information. As a result of this change, more students and families will be able to complete their FAFSA using income information imported electronically from the IRS, using IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), rather than submitting applications with income estimates that may need correcting, or worse, waiting until the previous year’s tax return has been filed.

Visit www.studentaid.gov/fafsa for more information .

TAX TIP: Part-Time Businesses

If you make more than two sales a year in California, you are required to register for a seller’s permit with the Board of Equalization. As a holder of a seller’s permit, you are required to:

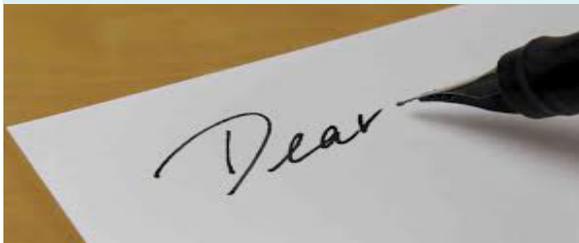
- File a return even to report zero gross sales,
- File a return even if you do not owe any tax, and
- File a return even if you cannot pay the tax you owe.

Failure to file a return for any period may result in imposition of a penalty, an estimated billing, or close out of your permit. If you operate without a seller’s permit you may be subject to fines.

If you attend trade shows or events (<http://www.boe.ca.gov/formspubs/pub111/>), event coordinators may review the status of your seller’s permit on the BOE’s website (<https://efile.boe.ca.gov/boewebservices/verification.jsp?action=SALES>), to verify that it is valid. If your permit is not valid, you may be denied access to the show or event.

If you are no longer in business, you should contact your local BOE office to close out your permit (<http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub74.pdf>).

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016	2015–16	JANUARY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016	2014
JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017	2016–17	JANUARY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017	2015
JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018	2017–18	OCTOBER 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2018	2015
JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019	2018–19	OCTOBER 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2019	2016

DEAR KATHRYN.....

DEAR KATHRYN: I am an artist residing in New Mexico. I will be participating in an art festival in California over Labor Day weekend. Do I need to obtain a California seller's permit to sell at this event?

- DANIEL

DEAR DANIEL: If you make three or more sales subject to California sales tax in a 12-month period, you are required to obtain a seller's permit and pay tax on your taxable sales.

Since you will only be selling in California for a limited time, you may obtain a temporary seller's permit. Obtaining a temporary seller's permit is easy and free. You may register for a seller's permit on the BOE's website at <https://efile.boe.ca.gov/ereg/index.boe>. For more information regarding temporary sellers, please visit the BOE's website at http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/temporary_sellers.htm.

- KATHRYN

Do you have general sales and use tax questions? If you have a question, please send it to Fiona.Ma@boe.ca.gov with the subject title "Dear Kathryn."

**Tax Tip: Beware of Oversharing**

Be careful how much personal information you provide on social networking sites. The more information you post, the easier it may be for someone to steal your identity, access your data, or file a fraudulent tax return.

Most people post their place of employment online. If a scammer knows your employer, they can probably determine a method to access your paystub or benefits online. Once they get into your employment information, they have your social security number and can file a return.

Social media is all about communication, whether with your friends or anybody who wants to follow your posts. It's important to maintain the proper balance between sharing and over-sharing.

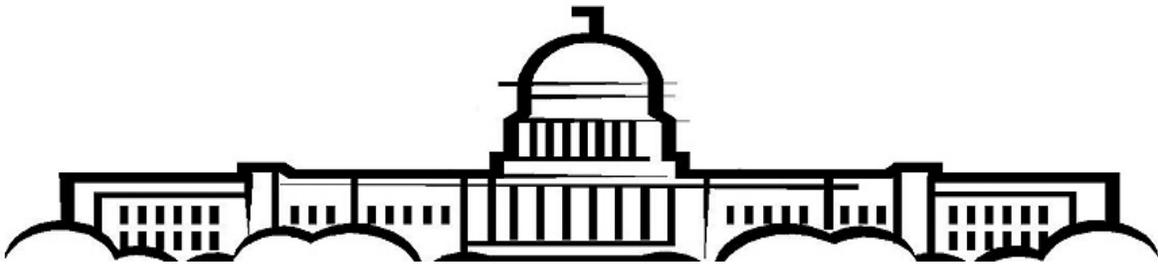
**SBA Names California's Equator Coffees & Teas
2016 National Small Business of the Year**

Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, recognized and awarded this year's National Small Business Week national award winners including the Small Business Person(s) of the Year at a ceremony and reception in Washington, D.C and did a press event in San Francisco at Equator's Mid-Market location.

"It is my extreme pleasure and honor to announce that business partners Brooke McDonnell and Helen Russell from Equator Coffees & Teas headquartered in San Rafael, California are this year's national Small Business Person(s) of the Year. It all started in 1995 when they started to roast coffee in Brooke's garage. Equator now has 90 employees and 350 wholesale customers including the renowned French Laundry restaurant, cafes at LinkedIn, micro-kitchens at Google and three retail stores in Northern California with two more on the way," Contreras-Sweet said. "Helen and Brooke purchased their own roasting plant using an SBA 504 loan. They have worked diligently with their farmers for 17 years and were one of the first roasters to support the Fair Trade movement to gain better wages for growers."

Congratulations to Equator Coffees & Teas for being this National Small Business of the Year!

-> With Senator Mark Leno, Helen Russell & Brooke McDonnell, owners of Equator Coffees & Tea, and Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator of the U.S. SBA



Legislative Updates: Under the Capitol Dome

Its deadline time in the State Capitol! May 27th is the deadline for fiscal bills to be heard in Appropriations Committees in both houses of the State Legislature. Since most bills have some type of fiscal impact, this deadline is very busy. Thousands of bills will be heard in both Appropriations Committees. If a bill is successful in either Appropriations Committee then it will go to a Floor Vote by the entire body of the House where the bill is located. Most of the bills I am supporting are currently awaiting a hearing in Appropriations committee in the Assembly and Senate. As the Legislative Chair, I have been working hard to ensure success in the legislative process. More legislative information can be found at www.boe.ca.gov/ma/legislation.

State of the Economy

By June 15, 2016 the state Legislature is required to submit a budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year to the Governor. The Governor and Legislature will be faced with tough decisions on funding for schools, transportation, first responders, and entitlement programs. The recent May revise released May 13th show revenues dipped to some degree for 2016 and the Governor urged caution in state spending. However, the State of California is in a much better position fiscally to handle these tough decisions than in previous years according to the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO, <http://www.lao.ca.gov/>).

The LAO described the outlook for the 2016-17 state budget as “decidedly positive.” Why does the LAO have this positive outlook? The LAO predicts that collections from the largest taxes in the State of California: personal income taxes, corporate taxes, and sales and use taxes will increase by 5.9 percent in the fiscal year 2016-17, while General Fund spending by the State of California will only increase by 5.1 percent. This scenario will allow more money to be deposited in the State of California’s reserves. The LAO estimates that 11.5 billion dollars will be in reserves for the State of California by the end of 2016. In addition, the state unemployment rate is 5.4 percent, which has essentially been cut in half since the great recession.

Even though the economic outlook for the State of California is positive for the time being, many people in the State of California are still having trouble finding jobs and many small businesses are still struggling to keep the doors open. I urge the Legislature and the Governor to consider those who are struggling in their negotiations, and adopt policies which will allow these people to participate in the improved economy in this state.

One policy that needs to be addressed is extending the State of California’s Earned Income Tax Credit to more Californians (<https://www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/faq/net/900.shtml>). In April, I participated in CalEITC Bus Tour events in Bakersfield (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_J78qQFdjU) and Modesto to sign taxpayers up for EITC. I saw firsthand how many taxpayers who attended these events were unable to sign up because they either made too much money or own their own businesses. It’s imperative that EITC is extended to more working Californians.

Tax Help for Veterans

The State Board of Equalization thanks you for your bravery and sacrifice in choosing to serve and protect your country. The access to the benefits you valiantly earned is just a small token of appreciation for all that you have done in your courageous service of our nation. Understanding tax issues related to veterans can be time-consuming and complicated.

This website, www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/veterans.htm, is designed to help you understand the tax topics that are important to veterans and veterans' organizations. California is home to nearly two million veterans who served with honor and distinction. The State Board of Equalization offers information about state and federal tax exemptions and credits, as well as resources to aid those who served.

Should you have any questions regarding any of the services available to you, call 1-800-400-7115, use <http://www.boe.ca.gov/ma/pdf/pub558-2.pdf>, or visit www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/veterans.htm.

More helpful websites:

Tax Information for Members of the Military

www.irs.gov/individuals/military

Tax Help for Military Members and Veterans

www.taxhelp.org/resources/military

California Department of Veterans Affairs

www.calvet.ca.gov

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov

Veterans of Foreign Wars, California

www.vfwca.org

BOE Bike To Work Month

Did you know that May is National Bike Month? Since 1956, cities across the U.S. participate in Bike Month by hosting events that promote bicycling. These efforts encourage cyclists to change up their commute for the month of May by biking to work. Many participants log their miles on <http://mayisbikemonth.com/> individually or with a team of their peers.

The State Board of Equalization had more than 70 employees register this year! As of May 12, SBOE's Bike Month team has ridden more than 4,000 miles! I applaud the cyclists at the SBOE and wish them safe biking. Pedal on!



*Sacramento Office celebrating Bike To Work Month
- great way to team build!*

Farm Fresh Delivered To Your City

There are over 520 weekly and bi-weekly farmers markets that are held in just about every part of California. These 2 to 4 hour marketplaces are not only a great place to get fresh from the field fruits and vegetables, but also a fun place to educate children about agriculture. Most of the farmers markets also have a wide variety of fresh flowers and specialty fruits and vegetables. San Francisco alone has 17 different farmers markets so be sure and check for the one in your area. This can be a fun weekly outing for the family and many have everything you need from honey to fresh beef that is ready to throw on the BBQ.

Please check out <http://www.farmersmarketonline.com/fm/California.htm> for a complete list of dates, times and places of California farmers markets.



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING!

If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave -- whether it is commercial sex, housework, farm work, construction, factory, retail, or restaurant work, or any other activity - call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center** at

Si a usted, o a alguien que conoce, lo están forzando a hacer algo y no lo dejan ir -- ya sea sexo por dinero, trabajo de casa, campo agrícola, construcción, fábrica, en una tienda minorista o restaurante, o cualquier otra actividad -- llame al **Centro Nacional de Recursos para la Trata de Personas** al

如果您本人或您认识的人被迫 从事任何活动且无法脱身 — 无论是商业性交易、家务劳动、农场工作、建筑、工厂、零售、餐馆工作还是任何其他活动 — 请拨打**电话给全美反人口贩运资源中心**，电话号码

1-888-373-7888

or the California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) at **1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM)** or **1-888-539-2373** to access help and services. Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and California law.

The hotlines are:

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Toll-free.
- Operated by nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations.
- Anonymous and confidential.
- Accessible in more than 160 languages.
- Able to provide help, referral to services, training, and general information.

For more information:

BAHC2Freedom.org

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o a la Coalición de California para Abolir la Esclavitud y la Trata de Personas (California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, CAST) al **1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM)** o **1-888-539-2373** para obtener ayuda y servicios. Las víctimas de esclavitud y trata de personas están protegidas bajo las leyes de California y los Estados Unidos.

Las líneas de ayuda:

- Están disponibles las 24 del día, 7 días por semana.
- Son gratis.
- Están operadas por organizaciones no de gobierno y sin fines de lucro.
- Son anónimas y confidenciales.
- Prestan servicio en más de 160 idiomas.
- Pueden brindarle ayuda, remisión a servicios, capacitación e información general.

或打电话给加州废除奴役和人口贩运联盟 (California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, CAST)，电话号码

1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM) 或 **1-888-539-2373**，获得帮助和服务。

奴役和人口贩运受害者受美国 and 加州法律的保护。

热线电话：

- 每周七天、每天二十四小时开通；
- 免费；
- 由非营利、非政府组织运营；
- 匿名和保密；
- 可用160多种语言拨打；
- 能够提供帮助、转介服务、培训和一般信息。

Report Human Trafficking. Text BeFree (233-733).

Non-profit Spotlight: Soulciety.org

Soulciety was founded by two childhood best friends Aaron Horner and Ron Carino in Hayward, California to serve at risk youth through their experiences growing up in urban East Bay. They believe that all youth are inherently good, but may not always have the right direction.

Soulciety's mission is to help underserved youth and young adults in Alameda County learn how to make a living developing their skills to overcome barriers, become self-sufficient, reach their fullest potential, and to realize their life's purpose.

Some of Soulciety's programs include job training and placement, leadership development, creative mentorship, performing arts, and community service. The majority of the youth and young adults who walk into Soulciety's doors arrive from extremely difficult life situations: they are impoverished; some are without homes or are raised by a single parent; and some are system-involved. Soulciety also brings a variety of performing arts and workforce development programming as well as aid to thousands of children throughout rural provinces of the Philippines.

For more information about Soulciety, visit www.soulciety.org

Scholarship and Financial Aid Scams

With tuition bills skyrocketing, and room and board going through the roof, students and their families are looking for creative ways to finance a college education. Unfortunately, in their efforts to pay the bills, many of them are falling prey to scholarship and financial aid scams.

Some unscrupulous companies guarantee that they can get scholarships on behalf of students or award them "scholarships" in exchange for an advance fee. Most offer a "money back guarantee" – but attach conditions that make it impossible to get the refund. Others provide nothing for the student's advance fee – not even a list of potential sources; still others tell students they've been selected as "finalists" for awards that require an up-front fee. Sometimes, these companies ask for a student's checking account to "confirm eligibility," then debit the account without the student's consent. Other companies quote only a relatively small "monthly" or "weekly" fee and then ask for authorization to debit your checking account – for an undetermined length of time.

Other companies claim they have programs that could make you eligible to receive financial aid, including grants, loans, work-study and other types of aid. For a processing fee, they'll handle all the paperwork. But experts caution: The only application that will determine eligibility for all programs is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – a form you can complete and submit for free.

Report Scams: If you believe you've responded to a scam, file a complaint with the FTC <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/> and your State Attorney General <http://www.naag.org>

Happy Birthday D2 Employees

Jun 13

Grace

Zhou

Jun 25

Heather

Ryan



BOE Volunteers at the California Small Business Expo

A big shout out to our amazing staff members who participated at the inaugural California Business Seminar and Resource Expo on May 2nd. For the first time ever Fiona Ma's District offered on-the-spot consultations to anybody attending this seminar/Expo.

All 30 consultation time slots filled up so quickly that our Ma Squad Intern, Edgar Woo had to create an overflow list in order to track them for a future contact. Compliance Specialist, John Caldwell manned a table and represented our SCOP program while Business Taxes Specialist, Jason Tindell was on hand answering Compliance related questions. In addition to staff volunteers we had the good fortune of having several members of our management team in attendance: District Principal Auditors, Mark Noack and Karen Chavez, joining them was Audit Supervisor Jenny Yee.

The real heroes of the day were our "Fearsome Five" Tax Auditors....Ward Wise, Felipe Duenas, Howard Lam, Daljit Kaur and Josh Canham who volunteered and endeavored to work as consultants during the event. Between the morning and afternoon sessions they were able to provide a whopping 27 consultations!

All in all a very successful event; so much so that Member Ma announced that she is considering including consultants at her future outreach seminars. Great Job Everyone!



With Chairwoman Ma at the Expo: Ward Wise (Associate Tax Auditor, San Francisco District), Jason Tindell (Business Taxes Specialist I, San Francisco District), Felipe Duenas (Associate Tax Auditor, Oakland District), Daljit Kaur (Associate Tax Auditor, Oakland District), Josh Canham (Associate Tax Auditor, Oakland District), Howard Lam (Associate Tax Auditor, San Francisco District).

BOE Employee Shoutout!

Our BOE employees work hard to serve California taxpayers. The Fairfield District Office recently received a letter commending one of our valued employees, Tina Mitchell, Business Taxes Specialist.

The letter states, "Ms. Mitchell was extremely helpful and professional while working with me...Ms. Mitchell handled the issues with a positive and professional attitude. Her detailed focus, and clear communication style about the documents and actions she needed from our office, helped us to come to a resolution that worked for both parties...Her hardworking personality and commitment to her customers blew me away. Your organization should be very proud to have such an outstanding employee..."

Thank you to Tina and all of our other hard working BOE employees for their dedication and commitment to assisting taxpayers.

Jason Tindell (Business Taxes Specialist I, San Francisco District), assisting a small business owner at the California Small Business Expo



Board Member Ma & Staff on the Road



Riding On with the BOE for Bike to Work Month in Sacramento with Leg. Director Tim Morland



Meeting with Santa Cruz Rotary Club



Cover girl posing with Executive Director Marily Mondejar and SF District Attorney George Gascón's at V-day Vagina Monologues



Visiting with scientists at Eureka Therapeutics. Hoping for a cure for liver cancer...coming soon!



Live from the Brava Theater for KQED and KPCC with Scott Schafer and Larry Mantle



Roaring loudly with the newly installed Silicon Valley Lions Club President Reuben Chan, the leadership group and Millbrae Councilmember Wayne Lee



SBOE Davis Small Business Seminar with Assemblymember Bill Dodd and Davis Mayor Dan Wolk

Upcoming Events:

Santa Clara Small Business & Resource Seminar

Wednesday, June 17, 9:00am - 2:30pm

Santa Clara City Council

1500 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, CA

Register at: www.boe.ca.gov/ma/events or

call 1-888-847-9652

Marin Small Business & Resource Seminar

Wednesday, August 10, 9:00am - 2:30pm

Location and RSVP TBA

Tehema Small Business & Resource Seminar

Wednesday, September 14, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Red Bluff Community Center

1500 South Jackson Street

Red Bluff, CA 95616

***** Walk-ins are welcome. Registration is not mandatory to attend unless specifically noted. Events may be televised by a non-government agency**

Newsletter Subscription

If you are interested in receiving a digital copy of my monthly newsletter straight to your inbox, please subscribe at this link:

<http://www.boe.ca.gov/ma/newsletters/>

Disclaimer: This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and may not reflect the most current legal developments. These informational materials are not intended, and should not be taken, as legal advice and are subject to change without notice.

Thank You for Your Support

If you have a tax or fee problem, or have difficulty understanding the complexity of tax laws in California, my office can help provide you with assistance and resources. Email me directly at fiona.ma@boe.ca.gov or call my offices in Sacramento at (916) 445- 4081 or in San Francisco at (415) 557- 3000.

In addition, if you want to view some of the Board decisions or watch us live at the monthly Board hearings, please access www.boe.ca.gov and choose the webcast option under Board Hearings.

Representing the interests of taxpayers in a district of more than nine million Californians in 23 counties, I will ensure that the agency treats all taxpayers with respect and dignity. As your SBOE representative, I will continue to ensure that taxpayers are being heard in Sacramento. It is truly an honor to serve you.

Connect with Chairwoman Ma



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www.linkedin.com/in/fionamacpa



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MaSquad Internship Recruitment



Established in 2006, the MaSquad internship program has mentored over 1,000 young volunteers throughout the Bay Area ranging in age from 13-32. Ms. Fiona Ma believes strongly in the need to nurture our next generation and expose them to public service and happily accepted many interns in her Capitol and District Offices.

If you are interested in applying, please visit <http://bit.ly/MaSquadInternship> and submit the online application!