



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOE EMPLOYEE DONATIONS TOP CA STATE FOOD DRIVE

Board of Equalization Executive Director Ramon Hirsig announced that his agency's employees produced the largest donation for the 2005 California State Employees' Food Drive in December of last year.

Official results of the interagency competition were announced at the end of February, with the BOE's donation totaling 137,891 lbs. An award was presented to BOE staff at that time.

Although the 2005 food drive followed major natural disasters with huge draws for charitable contributions, BOE staff used creative new options to engage donors. "Candy-Grams," poinsettia and raffle ticket sales all generated revenue that went to purchasing more food for the drive.

"Helping others in our community is both an individual and an organizational responsibility," said Hirsig. "That's why the Board of Equalization Members and staff fully support charitable causes. This was a truly remarkable achievement, and I am confident our employees will give generously again in 2006."

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board, and is comprised of Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chair John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District; and State Controller Steve Westly.

The Board collects almost \$50 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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