



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Judy Chu, Ph.D.**  
**Chair**

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

Ramon J. Hirsig  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 16, 2008**

**Contact:** NR 72-08-C  
**Anita Gore**  
**916-327-8988**

## **Judy Chu Announces Emergency Relief Available for Taxpayers Affected by Hurricanes**

Judy Chu, Ph.D., Chair of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that emergency tax relief is available to California tax and fee payers directly or indirectly affected by recent hurricanes/tropical storms in the Gulf Coast region. Emergency tax relief for individuals and/or businesses impacted by the hurricanes may include extensions for filing returns or payments, relief of interest and penalties, and copies of BOE tax records.

### **Extension for Filing Returns or Payments**

Special relief in the form of a **one-month extension of time to file or pay taxes or fees** is available for:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Sales and use taxes                                       | Fuel taxes (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, alternative fuels) |
| Alcoholic beverage taxes                                  | Cigarette and tobacco products taxes                       |
| Timber yield tax  | Interstate user tax  |
| Energy resources surcharge                                | Natural gas surcharge                                      |
| Emergency telephone users surcharge                       | Covered electronic waste recycling fee                     |
| Integrated waste management fee                           | Water rights fee   |
| Tire recycling fee  | Hazardous waste fees                                       |
| Underground storage tank maintenance fee                  | Oil spill prevention and response fees                     |
| Childhood lead and occupational poisoning prevention fees | Ballast water management fee                               |

This relief is available to any California taxpayer or fee payer doing business in the affected areas who, as a result of the recent hurricanes, cannot meet tax filing and payment deadlines. The BOE may also extend the deadline for filings that were delayed by disruption of the normal activities of the United States Postal Service or private mail and freight companies.

### **Relief of Interest and Penalties**

Relief from interest and penalties may be provided for those persons who are unable to file their returns or pay taxes and fees due in a timely manner. This relief may be provided in the following programs:

Sales and use taxes, alcoholic beverage taxes, cigarette and tobacco products taxes, timber yield tax, energy resources and emergency telephone users surcharges, hazardous waste fees, the integrated waste management fee, occupational lead poisoning, underground storage tank maintenance fees, fuel taxes (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, alternative fuels), interstate user tax, childhood lead poisoning prevention fee, insurance tax, natural gas surcharge, ballast water management fee, California tire recycling fee, water rights fee, covered electronic waste recycling fee, and oil spill prevention and response fees.

If requesting an **Extension for Filing Returns** or **Relief of Interest and Penalties**, taxpayers and fee payers must include with their returns, a statement signed under penalty of perjury, stating the cause for the late filing. The BOE has several forms that may be of assistance. BOE 468, *Request for Extension*, and BOE 27, *Penalty and Interest Relief for Disaster Victims*, are both on the BOE website at [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) or can be requested by phone toll-free at the BOE Information Center: **800-400-7115**.

**Please note that the relief program for interstate user tax under International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) applies to California tax only. To waive interest and penalties for another jurisdiction, the Board of Equalization must receive written approval from the other jurisdiction.** For information regarding IFTA, please call the Fuel Taxes Division at **916-322-9669** or **800-400-7115** and follow the prompts to Fuel Taxes.

#### **Copies of BOE Tax Records Available**

Business owners and fee payers needing to obtain copies of BOE tax records will be able to receive replacements free of charge. To obtain copies of critically needed tax records on file with the BOE, including prior tax returns filed with the BOE, copies of audits, and permit application forms, please call the BOE Information Center toll free 800 number at **800-400-7115**.

Chair Judy Chu represents the Fourth Board of Equalization District, which includes Los Angeles County. She won election to the BOE in November 2006 and was elected Chair of the Board of Equalization in January 2008. Chair Judy Chu is also a voting member of the Franchise Tax Board.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$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 serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

###