

Chairman Jerome E. Horton
4th District – Los Angeles

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Board of Equalization Sets Utility Property Values for Fiscal Year 2013-14

Sacramento – The Board established unitary values of privately owned public utilities and railroads in California at \$91.4 billion. Local governments will collect an estimated \$1.035 million in revenue (including penalties) over the next fiscal year based on these values. The values were set at yesterday’s Board Meeting in Sacramento.

Total values were up \$3.9 billion more than the \$87.5 billion adopted by the Board last year, and will generate approximately \$56 million in taxes for local governments than in the current fiscal year. Capital investments in property and infrastructure fueled this year’s increase in values. Values were set for 420 companies with property in California. They include telephone (long distance, local, and wireless), gas and electric companies, railroads, and inter-county pipelines.

While most properties are assessed by county officials, privately held public utilities are assessed by the BOE statewide. These properties are not subject to Proposition 13 and are reappraised annually at their market value.

A “unitary value” includes improvements, personal property, and land. A unitary valuation applies to properties owned or used by public utilities and railroads and considered necessary to their operation.

The BOE determines the fair market value as of January 1st of each year by considering market conditions, use of the property, income generated by the property, replacement costs, investments in the property, regulatory climate, depreciation, and other factors.

The values set by the BOE are used by county governments to levy local property taxes, which help support county governments, cities, special districts, and schools. Penalties are assessed for late or incomplete filings or failure to file with the BOE.

For more information on the BOE’s State-Assessed Properties Program, visit: www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/sappcont.htm.

California’s underground economy deprives the state of \$8 billion in state taxes annually through a spectrum of illegal activities, including the sales of counterfeit goods like “knock off” designer items, offering and paying for services under the table, the exploitation of victims of human trafficking, and smuggling goods into California without paying the required taxes.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization’s Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 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. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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