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BOE Notifies California Retailers of Upcoming Visits Letters Mailed to Businesses Located in Select Zip Code Areas

Sacramento – Retailers throughout the state are receiving letters from the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) notifying them about upcoming visits from Statewide Compliance and Outreach Program (SCOP) teams. The visits are intended to educate retailers about properly reporting sales and use tax, increase compliance with tax laws, and maintain outreach efforts to assure taxpayers that the state’s tax system is fair and equal for all Californians.

The BOE is mailing letters to 16,495 business owners in the following zip codes: Angels Camp (95222), Arnold (95223), Columbia (95310), Douglas Flat (95229), Fontana (92335), Gonzales (93926), Groveland (95321), Lafayette (94549), Livermore (94551), Los Angeles (90046, 90027), Moreno Valley (92553), Murphys (95247), Pasadena (91103), Pleasant Hill (94523), Redlands (92373), San Andreas (95249), San Diego (92154), San Francisco (94111), Soledad (93960), Sonora (95370, 95373), Tuolumne (95379), Twain Harte (95383), and Valley Springs (95226, 95252).

"Our mission is to help California businesses," said BOE Chairman Jerome E. Horton. "This outreach effort positions us to educate and empower local businesses on how to avoid common errors in reporting taxable sales, and get back on track if necessary."

Nine different SCOP teams located statewide (Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose, Van Nuys, Norwalk, Irvine, Riverside, Santa Clarita, and San Diego) conduct door-to-door, in-person visits in the zip code areas they cover. It is important for retailers to understand that the BOE asks only business-related questions, and does not inquire about personal financial information. Businesses found to be operating without a seller’s permit are provided instructions on how to register with the BOE, as well as information about other necessary licenses. Home-based businesses are not visited.

Since 2008, SCOP has visited 462,540 businesses statewide to verify retailers are registered, and to ensure noncompliant businesses do not have an unfair advantage over registered businesses that are reporting their sales and use taxes and/or fees to BOE.

The BOE has found that more than 98 percent of the California businesses are operating with the correct permits. However, noncompliance contributes to more than \$2 billion in uncollected sales and use taxes that make up part of the state’s “tax gap” – the difference between the amount of taxes owed and the amount paid, negatively impacting all state taxpayers.

If business owners have any questions about these upcoming visits, they may contact their local BOE SCOP Team or visit the BOE’s SCOP Web page at http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/SCOP_Overview.htm.

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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 (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 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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