

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2014

NR 139-14-G
Contact: Yating Campbell
1-916-327-8988

BOE Applauds Signing of Bill Bringing Headquarters Relocation One Step Closer

Sacramento – The quest for a new home for the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) headquarters continues as Gov. Jerry Brown signed Board-sponsored [Assembly Bill 1656](#) into law on September 19, 2014.

The bill, originally crafted to authorize the Department of General Services (DGS) to consolidate and relocate the BOE headquarters, has been amended to require DGS to complete a long-range study by July 1, 2015. The study would look at state-controlled and owned office buildings in the Sacramento region, including the BOE headquarters. Within one year after the review and legislative approval, DGS must issue requests for proposals to find new facilities for the top three buildings that require the most significant renovation.

The state has already spent nearly [\\$60 million](#) on building repairs and remediation. Total costs related to repairs and relocation during construction is estimated at approximately \$115 million, which does not include lost employee productivity.

About 1,900 employees are working in the N Street headquarters building. There are approximately 750 other capital-based employees who work in satellite offices throughout the Sacramento area.

“The governor's signing of AB 1656, exemplifies his acknowledgement of the economic and moral value of mitigating the negative impact of this problem-plagued building,” said BOE Chairman Jerome E. Horton. “I have no doubt the survey will reveal that the BOE headquarters building is among the top three in need of replacement, which will initiate a legislative solution to the wasting of taxpayer dollars on costly repairs.”

“With the BOE building literally falling apart, the state needs to relocate the BOE headquarters,” Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization, said. “AB 1656, at the very least, will move this long-stalled process forward.”

“I hope we have reached a legislative solution to move the relocation process forward,” said Board Member Betty T. Yee. “This is a positive step for our BOE employees who do the important work of administering our state’s revenue programs, and for all state taxpayers.”

“I have no doubt that the Board of Equalization’s problem-plagued headquarters building will meet the criteria in this bill. This will finally enable us to come up with a long-term solution that makes sense for both California taxpayers and state workers,” Board Member George Runner said.

* * * * *

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.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California’s elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars

in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

Board Member Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Yee previously served as Chief Deputy Director for Budget at the California Department of Finance, covering a wide array of state and local finance policy matters.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents the State Board of Equalization's Second District. He is a leading advocate for California taxpayers. Runner has worked to improve California's tax policies and practices and to create and retain more private sector jobs in our state. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature, authoring the well-known California Amber Alert and California's Blue Alert. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

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.

###

State Board of Equalization • 450 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • 1-800-400-7115

Connect with Us:

[Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#) • [Twitter](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [Mobile Services](#) • [RSS](#)