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BOARD OF EQUALIZATION WARNS TAXPAYERS WITH LARGE DEBTS

Names, addresses may be added to a public list of tax debtors

Nearly 300 taxpayers who collectively owe \$269 million in back taxes are being notified their names may be posted online if they do not pay up, the Board of Equalization announced today.

The letter warns taxpayers if their sales and use tax debts are not paid within 30 days, their name, address, and amounts owed will be posted on the internet. Taxpayers can avoid having their names posted by entering into an installment payment agreement.

The notified taxpayers individually owe between \$285,000 and \$17 million each. Many are corporations, and some are no longer in business.

A new law, AB1418, requires the BOE to post the 250 largest delinquencies over \$100,000.

The BOE expects the first list to be posted on its website in late April. Taxpayers who pay in full or make payment arrangements will be removed as quickly as possible. The list will be updated quarterly.

The law requires the BOE to remove names of taxpayers whose debts are being appealed, litigated, or involved in bankruptcy proceedings. It also requires the Franchise Tax Board to build a similar list for income tax debts.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$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 plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

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