



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Bill Leonard, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Sacramento**

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

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**Contact: NR 24-L**  
**Anita Gore**  
**916-327-8988**

## **BILL LEONARD SAYS GASOLINE USE UP SLIGHTLY IN JANUARY**

A recently announced decline in gasoline consumption in California during the last three quarters of 2006 may have ended according to new figures released today by Board of Equalization Member Bill Leonard.

Month-to-month fluctuations were noted in the last three quarters of 2006, even though declines were reported in each quarter's totals. The January figures do not necessarily indicate a change in trend.

Price decreases throughout most of January may help to explain the numbers. Average pump prices started the year at \$2.656, and dropped to \$2.535 four weeks later.

On average, January 2007 prices were about 19 cents above those seen in January 2006.

From April thru December of 2006, Californians used 165 million gallons less gasoline than the same period of 2005. During that period of declining consumption, the average price was \$2.958 – up 33 cents from the same period of 2005.

The figures can be viewed at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/imvf10ynet.pdf>.

Bill Leonard, of Sacramento/Ontario, was re-elected as the Second District Member of the State Board of Equalization in November. Prior to his election, he served in the State Assembly (1978-1988, 1996-2002) and in the State Senate (1988-1996).

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.

Other Board Members include Chairwoman Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, First District; Michelle Steel of Rolling Hills Estates, Third District; Vice Chair Judy Chu, Fourth District; and State Controller John Chiang.

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