



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairwoman Betty T. Yee

1st District – San Francisco

Ramon J. Hirsig
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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**Contact: NR 45-Y
Anita Gore
916-327-8988**

BETTY T. YEE SAYS GAS USE DOWN IN APRIL

Trend of slipping figures continues

Betty T. Yee, Chairwoman of the Board of Equalization, today announced that gasoline use declined in April 2007. Consumption totals dipped by 10.5 million gallons, approximately 0.8 percent from the same period of last year.

“The decline is similar to what we’ve seen in the past year,” said Chairwoman Betty T. Yee. “While it’s less than one percent, it represents a very new and persistent trend in consumer behavior.” (*Editor’s note – see chart on 2nd page*)

April 2007’s average pump price of \$3.339 was 41 cents above prices during the April 2006. Those higher prices generated approximately \$316 million in sales tax during that month, an estimated \$37 million more than were generated in April 2006.

Over the past five years, Californians have used an average of 15.7 billion gallons of gasoline annually. During the 2006 calendar year Californians consumed 15.83 billion gallons, down from 15.94 billion a year earlier. While the state has historically consumed less gasoline in April than it does in March, the year-over-year drops have only occurred in recent years.

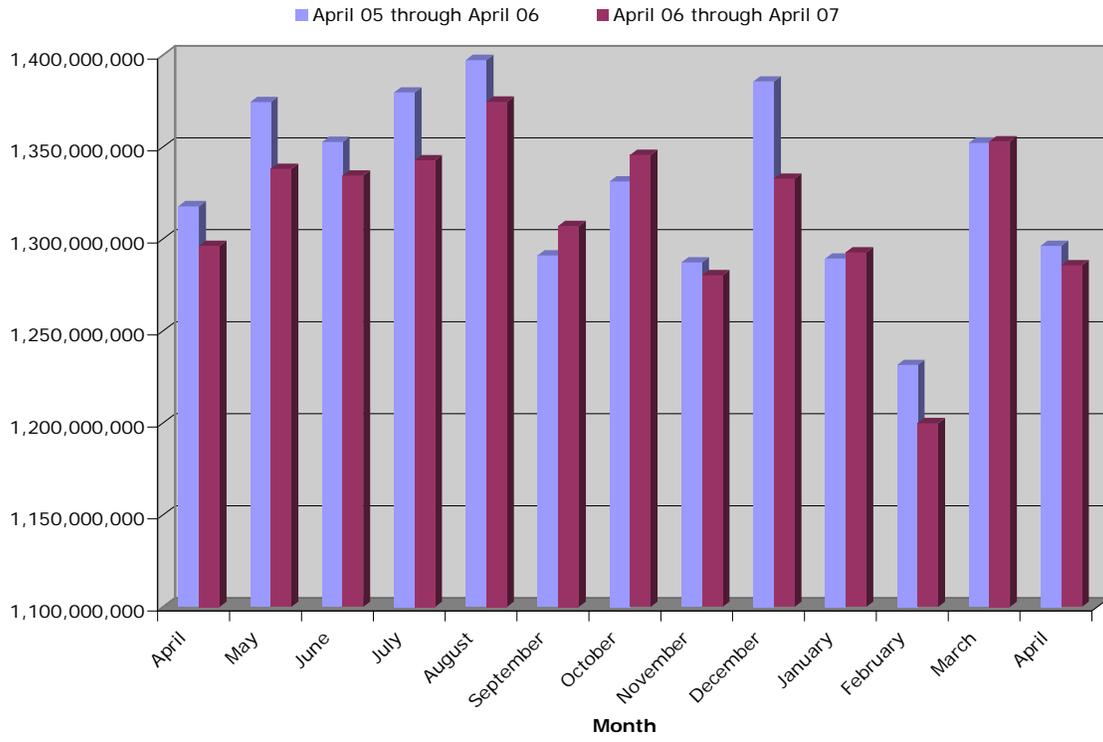
The Board estimates that nearly twice as much sales tax is generated annually by higher gasoline prices than five years ago. In 2006, sales tax revenues from gasoline sales were estimated to be \$3.2 billion, while 2002’s gasoline sales generated \$1.7 billion. The State’s excise tax, 18 cents collected on every gallon, has remained relatively stable.

The publicly-elected Board is able to monitor gallons through tax returns filed by fuel companies. Figures for May 2007 will be available near the end of August. All monthly, quarterly and annual figures can be viewed at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/imvf10ynet.pdf>.

Chairwoman 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.

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.

Month over Month Gasoline Use



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