



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Chairwoman Betty T. Yee

1st District – San Francisco

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BETTY T. YEE SAYS GAS USE RISES IN MAY

Betty T. Yee, Chairwoman of the Board of Equalization, today announced that gasoline use rose in May 2007. Consumption totals grew by 10.5 million gallons, approximately 0.8 percent from the same period of last year. April figures, released earlier this year, showed dropping consumption. (*Editor's note – see chart on second page*).

“The price discrepancies may explain why consumers made different choices in May,” said Chairwoman Yee. “In April, consumers paid 41 cents more than they did last year. May’s price changes were relatively modest, rising by only 15 cents from a year ago.”

May’s gas sales generated approximately \$345.7 million in sales tax during that month, an estimated \$17.6 million more than were generated in May 2006.

Over the past five years, Californians have used an average of 15.77 billion gallons of gasoline annually. During the 2006 calendar year Californians consumed 15.83 billion gallons, down from 15.94 billion a year earlier.

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 June 2007 will be available near the end of September. 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.

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Month-over-Month Consumption

