



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PARRISH ANNOUNCES TAX RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE RITA

Claude Parrish, Vice Chairman of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced that emergency tax relief is available to those taxpayers and fee payers directly affected by Hurricane Rita in the states of Texas and Louisiana.

The BOE already made emergency tax relief available to Hurricane Katrina victims in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana. A penalty waiver was also issued by the BOE earlier this month for on-road use of red-dyed diesel fuel. That waiver - intended to help prevent fuel shortages - ends today.

Extension For Return Filings

Special relief in the form of a **one-month extension of time to file returns and pay taxes or fees** is available in all of the following BOE administered programs:

Sales and use taxes, gasoline tax, use fuel tax, alcoholic beverage taxes, cigarette and tobacco products taxes, jet fuel tax, diesel fuel tax, interstate user tax, timber yield tax, as well as the integrated waste management fee, California tire fee, occupational lead poisoning prevention fee, underground storage tank maintenance fee, oil spill response, prevention and administration fees, energy resources surcharge, emergency telephone users surcharge, natural gas surcharge, marine invasive species fee (ballast water fee), covered electronic waste recycling fee, water rights fees and hazardous waste fees.

This relief is afforded to any taxpayer or fee payer who was afflicted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Rita in the states of Texas and Louisiana, and who as a result cannot meet tax filing and payment deadlines. The BOE may also extend the deadline for filings that were delayed by disruption of the normal activities of the United States Postal Service or private mail and freight companies. Taxpayers and fee payers must include with their returns, a statement signed under penalty of perjury, stating the cause for the late filing if requesting an extension for filing returns.

Relief of Interest and Penalties

Relief of interest and penalties may be provided for those persons who are unable to file their returns and pay taxes and fees due in a timely manner. This relief may be provided to the programs listed above as well as the insurance tax and the childhood lead poisoning prevention fee.

Taxpayers and fee payers must include with their returns, a statement signed under penalty of perjury, stating the cause for the late filing if requesting relief of interest and penalties.

Please note the relief program for interstate user tax under International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) applies to California tax only. To waive interest and penalties for another jurisdiction, the Board of Equalization must receive written approval from the other jurisdiction. For information regarding IFTA, please call the Fuel Taxes Division at **916-322-9669** or **800-400-7115** and follow the prompts to Fuel Taxes.

Copies of BOE Tax Records Available

Business owners and fee payers needing to obtain copies of BOE tax records, and who were affected by the storms, will be able to receive replacements free of charge. To obtain copies of critically needed tax records on file with the BOE, including prior tax returns filed with the BOE, copies of audits, and permit application forms, please call our Taxpayer Records Unit at 916-445-4326.

For More Information and Forms

The BOE has several forms that may be of assistance. BOE 468, *Request for Extension*, and BOE 27, *Penalty and Interest Relief for Disaster Victims*, are both on the internet as fill-in forms. Copies of these forms may be downloaded by visiting our website at www.boe.ca.gov, or obtained by calling **800-400-7115**.

Claude Parrish, of Long Beach, was elected to his first term as Third District Board Member of the State Board of Equalization in 1998, and re-elected in 2002. In December 2004, Mr. Parrish was re-elected to serve as Vice Chairman, a position he has held for the past two years. He presided as Chair of the Board in 2001.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects more than \$44 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 Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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