

**For Immediate Release**  
**January 7, 2014**

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## **News Conference Offers Rare Look at How the BOE Zaps and Trashes Tax Evasion**

- What:** The Board of Equalization (BOE) highlights a new law to crack down on retailers who illegally use “zapper” software that enables sales tax evasion. Also, investigators destroy more than half a million dollars in contraband cigarettes and tobacco products confiscated throughout Southern California.
- Visuals:** This is a **rare opportunity** to obtain a BOE-provided DVD explaining “zapper” software and show how it is being used by unscrupulous businesses to avoid paying sales tax which funds state and local services like education, public safety, and transportation. You will also have the opportunity to obtain your own footage and/or stills of the destruction of tobacco products in 143 seizures in Southern California.
- When:** **Wednesday, January 8, 2014**  
**1 p.m.**  
**\*Check-in starts at 12:30 p.m. at the landfill entrance**
- Where:** Badlands Sanitary Landfill  
31125 Ironwood Avenue  
Moreno Valley, CA 92555
- Who:** Board of Equalization Chairman Jerome E. Horton  
Riverside County District Attorney Paul E. Zellerbach  
Board of Equalization Chief of Investigations Randy Silva  
*\*A Spanish-speaking BOE investigator will be available for interviews following the news conference*
- Why:** The BOE is demonstrating its proactive, collaborative enforcement efforts against criminal tax evasion. The BOE estimates “zappers” rob the state and local governments of more than \$210 million, and cigarette and tobacco tax evasion deprives the state of nearly \$300 million dollars per year.

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The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 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 serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).