

NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY REPORT
RELEASED FOR BUTTE COUNTY**

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) today released an assessment practices survey report on Butte County. As the agency responsible for promoting statewide uniformity and consistency in property tax assessment, the BOE reviews each county's property assessment practices and procedures once every five years.

The report provides an overview of how well the assessor's duties are performed and identifies where improvements should be made. Every assessor is required to identify and assess all properties located within the county – unless specifically exempt – and maintain a database or “roll” of the properties and their assessed values. If the assessor's roll meets state requirements, the county is allowed to recapture some administrative costs.

The BOE's report focused on the quality of the 2003-2004 Butte County assessment roll, which contained 100,919 assessments totaling \$12 billion in value. The report found that most properties in Butte County are assessed properly, and the overall quality of the assessment roll meets state standards.

The report includes several recommendations for the assessor, including improving the audit program by auditing the books and records of professions, trades, or businesses pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 469, and obtaining signed waivers of the statute of limitations whenever a mandatory audit cannot be completed timely.

It also recommends revising the mineral property assessment program by modifying the cash flow analysis template for gas well properties to comply with Property Tax rule 8, adjusting the factored base year value of gas well properties for changes in the reserves according to Property Tax rule 468, and assessing mining properties as an appraisal unit according to Property Tax rule 469.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board, and is comprised of Betty T. Yee of San Francisco, Acting Member, First District; Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chair John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District; and State Controller Steve Westly.

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.

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Note: A copy of the Butte County Assessment Practices Survey Report is available upon request or can be found on the BOE's website at www.boe.ca.gov.