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Headline Summary

- Plastic Bag Ban Upheld
- Identity Theft Bill Signed
- Local Tax Bill Postponed
- E-mail Scam
- California Sales & Use Tax Rates

Local Tax Bill Postponed

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) recently postponed his pursuit of a local tax measure he used earlier this year as a budget bargaining chip. The measure, originally SB 653 (Steinberg) before it was placed in a budget trailer bill, would grant local governments, the authority, with voter approval, to levy, increase, or extend local personal income, transaction, use and excise taxes; vehicle license fees; taxes on alcohol, tobacco products, or sweetened beverages; and even an oil severance tax.

Steinberg plans to resume his push for the measure next year with Governor Brown and various business groups in the form of a statewide ballot initiative.

A recent *L.A. Times* and USC survey found that 58 percent of polled voters approve of a narrower version of Steinberg's measure.

WatchDog

Guarding the Business of Print

August 2011

Plastic Bag Ban Upheld

The California Supreme Court unanimously ruled that cities have the right to ban the use of single-use plastic bags without conducting an environmental impact report (EIR) first.

A lawsuit against Manhattan Beach asserted the city should have conducted an EIR prior to implementing its ban on plastic bags in 2008. According to the Court's decision, while there is some foreseeable increase in the use and negative environmental effects associated with the production and disposal of paper bags, "no evidence suggests that paper bag use by Manhattan Beach consumers in the wake of a plastic bag ban would contribute to those impacts in any significant way."

Despite the ruling, opponents of the plastic bag ban have stated they will continue to challenge such bans and seek a requirement for EIRs to be conducted prior to implementation. Ban opponents also point out language in the Court's decision that suggests larger cities may be required to conduct extensive EIRs before instituting a ban.

Identity Theft Bill Signed

Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 208 (Alquist; D-Santa Clara) into law which requires a person convicted of identity theft to pay the cost of repairing the victim's credit.

Identity theft continues to top the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) list of consumer complaints. According to the FTC, 8.1 million U.S. residents were victims of identity theft in 2007 with the total cost of about \$45 billion.

SB 208 reinforces the importance of punishing identity thieves and the seriousness of this crime.

E-mail Scam

The Federation of Tax Administrators recently reported that employers are receiving e-mails claiming that a payment has been rejected by the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS).

The e-mail then directs the taxpayer to another website for additional information. The e-mail is not from a tax agency, neither the federal IRS nor the State BOE.

Clicking on the link included in the e-mail will download malicious software that takes personal and financial information from the employer's computer. The IRS has information available at: <http://www.irs.gov/privacy/article/0,,id=226755,00.html>.

The IRS never initiates e-mail communications, on EFTPS or tax account matters.

California Sales and Use Tax

Rates by County and City - Effective July 1, 2011 (includes state, county, local, and district taxes)

ALAMEDA CO	8.750%	MARIN CO.	8.000%	SAN LUIS OBISPO CO.	7.250%
San Leandro	9.000%	Ignacio (Novato)	8.500%	Arroyo Grande	7.750%
Union City	9.250%	Novato	8.500%	Del Mar Heights	7.750%
ALPINE CO	7.250%	San Rafael	8.500%	Grover Beach	7.750%
AMADOR CO	7.750%	MARIPOSA CO.	7.750%	Morro Bay	7.750%
BUTTE CO	7.250%	MENDOCINO CO.	7.250%	Pismo Beach	7.750%
CALAVERAS CO.	7.250%	Fort Bragg	7.750%	San Luis Obispo	7.750%
COLUSA CO.	7.250%	Point Arena	7.750%	Shell Beach	7.750%
Williams	7.750%	Ukiah	7.750%	SAN MATEO CO.	8.250%
CONTRA COSTA CO.	8.250%	Willits	7.750%	Hillsdale	8.500%
Concord	8.750%	MERCED CO.	7.250%	San Mateo	8.500%
El Cerrito	9.250%	Gustine	7.750%	SANTA BARBARA CO.	7.750%
Pinole	8.750%	Los Banos	7.750%	SANTA CLARA CO.	8.250%
Richmond	8.750%	Merced	7.750%	Campbell	8.500%
DEL NORTE CO.	7.250%	MODOC CO.	7.250%	SANTA CRUZ CO.	8.000%
EL DORADO CO.	7.250%	MONO CO.	7.250%	Capitola	8.250%
Placerville	7.750%	Mammoth Lakes	7.750%	Santa Cruz	8.500%
So. Lake Tahoe	7.750%	MONTEREY CO.	7.250%	Seabright	8.500%
FRESNO CO.	7.975%	Del Rey Oaks	8.250%	Watsonville	8.250%
Reedley	8.475%	Marina	8.250%	SHASTA CO.	7.250%
Sanger	8.725%	Pacific Grove	8.250%	SIERRA CO.	7.250%
Selma	8.475%	Salinas	7.750%	SISKIYOU CO.	7.250%
GLENN CO.	7.250%	Sand City	7.750%	SOLANO CO.	7.375%
HUMBOLDT CO.	7.250%	Seaside	8.250%	SONOMA CO.	8.000%
Arcata	8.000%	NAPA CO.	7.750%	Cotati	8.500%
Eureka	8.000%	NEVADA CO.	7.375%	Rohnert Park	8.500%
Trinidad	8.000%	Nevada City	7.875%	Santa Rosa	8.500%
IMPERIAL CO.	7.750%	Truckee	7.875%	Sebastopol	8.250%
Calexico	8.250%	ORANGE CO.	7.750%	STANISLAUS CO.	7.375%
INYO CO.	7.750%	La Habra	8.250%	Ceres	7.875%
KERN CO.	7.250%	PLACER CO.	7.250%	SUTTER CO.	7.250%
Arvin	8.250%	PLUMAS CO.	7.250%	TEHAMA CO.	7.250%
Delano	8.250%	RIVERSIDE CO.	7.750%	TRINITY CO.	7.250%
KINGS CO.	7.250%	Cathedral City	8.750%	TULARE CO.	7.750%
LAKE CO.	7.250%	SACRAMENTO CO.	7.750%	Dinuba	8.500%
Clearlake Highlands	7.750%	Galt	8.250%	Farmersville	8.250%
Clearlake Park	7.750%	SAN BENITO CO.	7.250%	Porterville	8.250%
Clearlake	7.750%	Hollister	8.250%	Tulare	8.250%
Lakeport	7.750%	San Juan Bautista	8.000%	Visalia	8.000%
LASSEN CO.	7.250%	SAN BERNARDINO CO.	7.750%	TUOLUMNE CO.	7.250%
LOS ANGELES CO.	8.750%	Montclair	8.000%	Sonora	7.750%
Avalon	9.250%	San Bernardino	8.000%	VENTURA CO.	7.250%
El Monte	9.250%	SAN DIEGO CO.	7.750%	Oxnard	7.750%
Inglewood	9.250%	El Cajon	8.750%	Port Hueneme	7.750%
Pico Rivera	9.750%	La Mesa	8.500%	YOLO CO.	7.250%
Santa Monica	9.250%	National City	8.750%	Broderick	7.750%
So. El Monte	9.250%	Vista	8.250%	Bryte	7.750%
South Gate	9.750%	SAN FRANCISCO CO.	8.500%	Davis	7.750%
MADERA CO.	7.750%	SAN JOAQUIN CO.	7.750%	West Sacramento	7.750%
		Manteca	8.250%	Woodland	8.000%
		Stockton	8.000%	YUBA CO.	7.250%
		Tracy	8.250%		

