

Please join me and other interested parties at two meetings regarding the development of legislation and a report to the COTCE regarding a pollution tax.

The two meetings will be held: September 18, 2009

(Note: Date was corrected to August 18, 2009)

Board of Equalization Headquarters, 1st Floor Conference Room
450 N Street
Sacramento, California

10:00 a.m. - Noon

September 25, 2009

(Note: Date was corrected to August 25, 2009)

Board of Equalization Headquarters, 1st Floor Conference Room
450 N Street
Sacramento, California

9:30 a.m. - Noon

As you know, the COTCE is in the final few weeks of work. The goal of the COTCE is to provide a consensus product to the Governor and the Legislature for their consideration during an Extraordinary Session of the Legislature. The Governor has, through issuance of an Executive Order, set forth the task of the COTCE. Among other goals, the COTCE is to attempt to reduce volatility in the General Fund, increase California's competitiveness, reform the tax system to be more fair and equitable, modify the tax system to reflect the 21st Century economy of the state, and to ease the administration of tax collection and reporting.

Following several hearing throughout the state, the COTCE has narrowed the options for inclusion in the plan to a hand-full of ideas. One of those is a pollution tax. In the attachment entitled "COTCE Plan-final draft2.doc, you can find the pollution tax notion at Items 8 and 9. The purpose of the working group meetings to which you are invited is found at the attachment entitled "COTCE-Pollution Tax WG Purpose.doc. I am proposing that we attempt to work through an ambitious agenda (COTCE-August 18th Meeting Agenda attachment), with the primary goal being to provide Legislative Counsel with clear and sufficient direction such that they can draft legislation, and have it available for our August 25th meeting.

Special thanks to Gerry Parsky, Chair of COTCE, for his help in providing the opportunity for commissioners to drill down in specific subject matter that they are interested in, and to provide a mechanism for bringing well-vetted work to the full commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this invitation.

Fred Keeley
Commissioner
Governor's Commission on the 21st Century Economy