



2009 Annual FTA Tobacco Tax Conference Long Beach, California August 23 - 26, 2009

The 2009 Annual Federation of Tax Administrators Tobacco Tax Conference is being hosted by California (Board of Equalization). The conference will be held August 23-26 2009, in Long Beach. The Officers of the FTA invite you to join them at the conference for informational presentations and discussions on various topics of interest to tobacco tax administrators.

FTA Registration

To register for the conference, click on the FTA registration link on the FTA [Tobacco Tax Conference](#) web page. You should complete the form and submit it with your registration fees by July 22, 2009 to avoid a late registration fee of \$50. Payment will be accepted by check only. Checks should be made payable to **Federation of Tax Administrators** and indicate payment is for **2009 Annual FTA Tobacco Tax Conference**.

You will need to fax the completed registration form to confirm your attendance. The form and check should be mailed to:

California State Board of Equalization
Investigations Division, MIC:42
PO Box 942879
Sacramento, CA 94279-0042
ATTN: Ms. Sharon Jones

Agenda

The conference will commence on Sunday afternoon with regional meetings, followed by the Executive Committee meeting and an orientation session for new FTA Members. Monday, August 24, through Wednesday, August 26, will be devoted to general session presentations and discussions.

Accommodations

The Renaissance Hotel and Resort, 111 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA, is located in the heart of Long Beach's shopping and restaurant district and is providing the accommodations for the conference. The special FTA guestroom rates offered by the hotel are:

- \$128.00 for single or double occupancy,
- \$143.00 for triple occupancy, and
- \$158.00 for quadruple occupancy.

Tax and occupancy fees will be added to the rates shown above. Hotel reservations must be made by **July 22, 2009**, to receive the group rates. To register online, click on the Renaissance Hotel link shown on the FTA Tobacco Tax Conference web page. For those who would like to extend their stay, the hotel is offering the FTA group rate 2 days prior and 2 days after the conference. These rooms are limited, so register early to ensure extended room availability.

Ground Transportation

Ground transportation from the airport to the Renaissance Hotel is available as shown on the Long Beach website. Below are approximate charges for some of these services.

Long Beach Airport (10 miles from hotel):

- Shuttle: \$18 (with stops)
- Taxi: about \$21
- Town Car Service: \$45
- Rental Cars: available on site

Los Angeles International (21 miles from hotel)

- Super Shuttle: \$18 (with stops)
- Taxi: about \$50 - \$65 (depending on traffic)
- Town Car Service: \$100
- Rental Cars: available offsite; continuous shuttle to rental facilities

John Wayne Airport (29 miles from hotel)

Nearby Attractions

Aquarium of the Pacific (see website for discount tickets), Queen Mary, Catalina Island, Shoreline Village, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Hollywood, and Downtown Los Angeles (via Metro Blue Line). For a listing of all activities in Long Beach visit www.visitlongbeach.com.

Evening Activity – optional



A group tour of the Queen Mary has been arranged for Monday evening, August 24, at 6:00 p.m. The group will board the Passport C bus at the hotel at 5:30 p.m. for drop off at the Queen Mary. The tour will be approximately 1 hour; good walking shoes are recommended. The group rate for the tour is \$15/person. If interested in the tour, mark your conference registration form accordingly and submit the activity fee with your registration form.

<http://www.queenmary.com>

Guest Activities – options

Guests accompanying FTA conference attendees will have time during the day to discover Long Beach and its surrounding areas. The Long Beach website <http://www.visitlongbeach.com> provides many options for you to consider. We have, however, arranged for two group activities at a reduced rate as an option for guests—a coastal bus tour on a double-deck bus and a blue whale watching excursion. For more information about these activities, click on the links below or contact Sharon Jones at 916-324-0082 or sharon.jones@boe.ca.gov. Please be sure to mark your conference registration form accordingly if interested in either of these activities as group rates require a minimum number of people.

- The Big Red Bus Tour – Coastal tour down the Pacific Coast Highway
<http://www.bigredbus.com>
Monday, August 24
11:00 am to 3:00 pm (approximate times)
Group Rate: \$35

- Harbor Breeze Boat – Blue Whale Watching
<http://www.2seewhales.com/details/details.asp>
Tuesday, August 25
12:00 pm to 3:30 pm (approximate times)
Group Rate: \$25

Group activity times and rates may be subject to change, but notification of any changes will be provided to participants that have signed up, should they occur.

Questions

For questions about the FTA registration, accommodations, or other conference items, you may contact Ms. Sharon Jones at 916-324-0082 or Sharon.Jones@boe.ca.gov.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Long Beach in August 2009!