

**Continuing Education Credits for California CPAs
FTB e-file Seminars and Outreach Presentations
October, 2005**

What

Beginning this fall, Franchise Tax Board will retroactively offer continuation credits for California CPAs who attended the 2005 joint IRS/FTB e-file seminars. FTB will also offer state credits for CPAs who on a going-forward basis attend FTB presentations and seminars related to the California e-file program, and which meet the continuing education guidelines spelled out in the California Board of Accountancy regulations. As allowed for by the regulations, these guidelines generally are:

1. Live presentation – minimum 50 minute class hour
2. Require attendance
3. Six-year attendance record retention
4. Issuance of certificate with amount of credit
5. Maintenance/retention of written educational goals, objectives, syllabus

California's e-file seminars and presentations generally address how to get involved in the e-file program, how to make it work most effectively for new and existing participants, and how to leverage the benefits of available electronic services. This fall's e-file seminars provided 2 hours of state CPE and 2 hours of federal CPE.

Why

In addressing questions from CPAs attending the fall seminars, staff followed up with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, California Board of Accountancy, and California Tax Education Counsel to clarify continuing education guidelines. Consequently, FTB will be following the California Board of Accountancy's continuing education credit guidelines.

How

1. Retroactive

We will allow retroactive CPE credits for the following seminars:

Los Angeles (September 20), Burbank (September 21), San Bernardino (September 22), Hayward (October 4), San Jose (October 6), Sacramento (October 11), Fresno (October 12)

In November, FTB will send emails to participants at the above seminars, soliciting interest in CPE credits for attending CPAs. We'll confirm requests with our attendance list, and send an electronic copy of the certificate, which will cover both state and federal CPE credits.

2. Going-forward

We offered CPE credits to CPAs at our recently held San Diego and Garden Grove seminars, and will work with interested practitioner groups to give qualifying e-file presentations in the coming months. We anticipate CPE credits becoming a regular part of the federal and state e-file outreach programs.