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State of California
Franchise Tax Board

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Financial Institution Record Match Participant

The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) is leveraging technology in new ways to collect on delinquent debts from California taxpayers. Through the Financial Institution Record Match (FIRM) Program, authorized for California through legislation in 2011 (SB 86 Ch. 14, Stats 2011), FTB will partner with banks and other financial institutions to identify assets.

The main objective of FTB's FIRM Program is to improve the accuracy of the Orders to Withhold (OTW) we issue by obtaining current financial information on accounts held in your institution by delinquent debtors. As a participant in FIRM, you may be aware that our first quarter record matches have been completed and our next step is to issue OTWs against those delinquent debtors that have failed to resolve the outstanding liabilities due to the state. This next fiscal year, we expect to issue more than 475,000 OTWs, an increase of approximately 75 percent over last year. Financial institutions can expect the increase in OTWs throughout the year.

FTB acknowledges the critical role financial institutions play in enabling the State of California to get our job done, and we thank you for your past and continued cooperation. In anticipation of the increase in OTWs, FTB has informed members of the [California Legislature](#) and tax professional groups.

We want to keep the lines of communication open with financial institutions and continue the dialog as new technology emerges that may create challenges for your organization. We want to ensure that to the extent we can mitigate those challenges; we make every effort to do so. While not an immediately available solution, FTB is actively working on an Electronic Levy process that should help to minimize some of the impacts in the future to those financial institutions that elect to participate in this upcoming effort.

As FTB's Financial Institution Business Liaison, please contact me directly if you have any issues or concerns regarding OTWs, by telephone at (916) 845-4301, by FAX (916) 845-0137, or by email at Deborah.Barrett@FTB.CA.Gov.

Deborah Barrett
Financial Institution Business Liaison