

Instructions for Form FTB 3539

Payment for Automatic Extension for Corporations and Exempt Organizations

General Information

Corporations can make payments electronically at the Franchise Tax Board's (FTB's) website using Web Pay. After a one-time online registration, corporations can make an immediate payment or schedule payments up to a year in advance. FTB does not charge for this service. For more information go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **web pay**. Corporations and exempt organizations can also view estimated tax payments online. Go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **myftb account**.

Use form FTB 3539, Payment for Automatic Extension for Corps and Exempt Orgs, **only** if both of the following apply:

- The corporation or exempt organization cannot file its 2011 California (CA) tax return by the original due date.
- The corporation or exempt organization owes tax for the 2011 taxable year.

Use the worksheet on the next page to determine if the corporation or exempt organization owes tax.

- If the corporation or exempt organization does not owe tax, **do not file** form FTB 3539. However, the corporation or exempt organization must file its return by the extended due date listed below.
- If the corporation or exempt organization owes tax, and will not pay the tax due electronically, complete form FTB 3539, make a check or money order, using black or blue ink, and mail them to the FTB by the original due date of the return to avoid late payment penalties and interest. For more information, see Penalties and Interest section on the next page. If

the corporation or exempt organization is required to pay electronically, see Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) section for more information.

Make all checks or money orders payable in U.S. dollars and drawn against a U.S. financial institution.

If a corporation (including real estate investment trusts (REITs), real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs), regulated investment companies (RICs), limited liability companies (LLCs) electing to be treated as corporations, or an exempt organization in good standing) cannot file its CA tax return by the original due date, a seven-month extension to file is granted without submitting a written request. To qualify for the automatic extension, the corporation or exempt organization must file its CA tax return by the extended due date and its powers, rights, and privileges must not be suspended or forfeited by the FTB or the California Secretary of State (SOS) as of the original due date.

Electronic Funds Transfer

Corporations or exempt organizations remitting an estimated tax payment or extension payment in excess of \$20,000 or having a total tax liability in excess of \$80,000 must remit all of their payments through EFT. Once a corporation or an exempt organization meets the threshold, all subsequent payments regardless of amount, tax type, or taxable year must be remitted electronically to avoid a 10% non-compliance penalty. Corporations required to remit payments electronically may use Web Pay and be considered in compliance with that requirement. The FTB notifies corporations or exempt

Payment of Tax Dates: To avoid late payment penalties and interest, 100% of the tax liability must be paid by the following dates (see item 4 below for exception):

Form Filed

- Form 100, 100W, or 100S
- Form 100 for farmers' cooperative
- Form 199 or 109, generally
- Form 109 for employee's trust (IRC 401(a)) or IRA

Calendar Year Filers

- March 15, 2012
- September 17, 2012
- May 15, 2012
- April 17, 2012

Fiscal Year Filers: 15th day of the

- 3rd month following the close of the taxable year
- 9th month following the close of the taxable year
- 5th month following the close of the taxable year
- 4th month following the close of the taxable year

Extended Filing Dates: The extended date for filing the return is as follows:

Form Filed

- Form 100, 100W, or 100S
- Form 100 for farmers' cooperative
- Form 199 or 109, generally
- Form 109 for employee's trust (IRC 401(a)) or IRA

Calendar Year Filers

- October 15, 2012
- April 15, 2013
- December 17, 2012
- November 15, 2012

Fiscal Year Filers: 15th day of the

- 10th month following the close of the taxable year
- 16th month following the close of the taxable year
- 12th month following the close of the taxable year
- 11th month following the close of the taxable year

1. An extension of time to file the CA tax return is **not** an extension of time to pay the tax.
2. When the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline to file and pay without penalty is extended to the next business day. Due to the Emancipation Day holiday on April 16, 2012, tax returns filed and payments mailed or submitted on April 17, 2012, will be considered timely.
3. Save the completed worksheet, on next page, as a permanent part of the corporation's or exempt organization's tax records, along with a copy of the CA tax return.
4. The FTB may waive the late payment penalty based on reasonable cause if 90% of the tax shown on the return is paid by the original due date of the return, but not less than the minimum franchise tax if applicable.

organizations that are subject to this requirement. Those that do not meet these requirements may participate on a voluntary basis.

If the corporation or exempt organization pays electronically, complete the worksheet for the corporation's or exempt organization's records. **Do not mail form FTB 3539.** For more information, go to ftb.ca.gov and search for **eft**, or call 916.845.4025.

Where to File

If tax is due and the corporation or exempt organization is not paying electronically through EFT or Web Pay, make a check or money order using black or blue ink payable to the "Franchise Tax Board" for the amount of the tax due. Write the California corporation number or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) and "2011 FTB 3539" on the check or money order. Enclose, but **do not** staple, the payment with the form FTB 3539 and mail to:

FRANCHISE TAX BOARD
PO BOX 942857
SACRAMENTO CA 94257-0551

Make all checks or money orders payable in U.S. dollars and drawn against a U.S. financial institution.

Private Mail Box (PMB)

Include the PMB in the address field. Write "PMB" first, then the box number. Example: 111 Main Street PMB 123.

Penalties and Interest

- If the corporation or exempt organization fails to pay its total tax liability by the original due date, the corporation or exempt organization will incur a late payment penalty plus interest. If the corporation or exempt organization paid at least 90% of the tax shown on the return by the original due date of the return, but not less than the minimum franchise tax if applicable, the FTB **may** waive the penalty based on reasonable cause. However, the imposition of interest is mandatory.
- If the corporation or exempt organization does not file its CA tax return by the extended due date, or the corporation's powers, rights, and privileges have been suspended or forfeited by the FTB or the California SOS, as of the original due date, the automatic extension will not apply and a delinquency penalty plus interest will be assessed from the original due date of the CA tax return.

- If the corporation or exempt organization is required to remit all of its payments electronically and pays by another method, a 10% non-compliance penalty will be assessed.

Combined Reports

- If members of a combined unitary group have made or intend to make an election to file a combined unitary group single return, only the key corporation designated to file the return should submit form FTB 3539. The key corporation must include payment of at least the minimum franchise tax for each corporation of the combined unitary group that is subject to the franchise tax in California.
- If members of a combined unitary group intend to file separate returns with the FTB, each member must submit its own form FTB 3539 if there is an amount entered on line 3 of the Tax Payment Worksheet.
- If any member of a combined unitary group meets the requirements for mandatory EFT, all members must remit their payments electronically, regardless of their filing election.

Exempt Organizations

- Form 100 filers:**
The due dates for corporations also apply to the filing of Form 100, California Corporation Franchise or Income Tax Return, by political action committees and exempt homeowners' associations.
Political action committees and exempt homeowners' associations that file Form 100 should not enter the minimum franchise tax on line 1 of the Tax Payment Worksheet.
- Form 199 Filers:**
Generally, Form 199, California Exempt Organization Annual Information Return, requires a \$10 filing fee to be paid with the return on the original or extended due date.
Use form FTB 3539 only if paying the fee early. Enter the amount of the fee on line 3 of the Tax Payment Worksheet.
- Form 109 Filers:**
The due dates for filing Form 109, California Exempt Organization Business Income Return, depend on the type of organization filing the return. Employees' pension trusts and IRAs (including education IRAs) must file on or before the 15th day of the 4th month after the close of their taxable year. All other exempt organizations (except homeowners' associations and political organizations) must file on or before the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of their taxable year.

TAX PAYMENT WORKSHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS

1 Total tentative tax. Include alternative minimum tax if applicable. See instructions	1		00
2 Estimated tax payments including prior year overpayment applied as a credit	2		00
3 Tax due. If line 2 is more than line 1, see instructions. If line 1 is more than line 2, subtract line 2 from line 1. Enter the result here and on form FTB 3539	3		00

How to Complete the Tax Payment Worksheet

Line 1

Enter the total tentative tax, including the alternative minimum tax if applicable, for the taxable year.

- If filing Form 100, Form 100W, or Form 100S, and subject to franchise tax, the tentative tax may not be less than the minimum franchise tax and Qualified Subchapter S Subsidiary (QSub) annual tax (S corporations only).
- If filing Form 100, Form 100W, or Form 100S, and subject to income tax, enter the amount of tax. Corporations subject to the income tax do not pay the minimum franchise tax.
- If a corporation incorporates or qualifies to do business in California on or after January 1, 2000, the corporation will compute its tax liability for the first taxable year by multiplying its state net income by the appropriate tax rate and will not be subject to the minimum franchise tax. The corporation will become subject to minimum franchise tax beginning in its second taxable year.
- If filing Form 109, enter the amount of tax. Form 109 filers are not subject to the minimum franchise tax.

- If filing Form 199, use form FTB 3539 only if paying the filing fee of \$10 early. Skip line 1 and line 2, and enter the amount of the filing fee on line 3 of the Tax Payment Worksheet, and on form FTB 3539.

Line 2

Enter the estimated tax payments, including prior year overpayment applied as a credit. S corporations may include any QSub annual tax payments.

Line 3

Excess payments. If the amount on line 2 is more than the amount on line 1, the payments and credits are more than the tentative tax. The corporation or exempt organization has no tax due. **Do not mail form FTB 3539.** The corporation or exempt organization will automatically qualify for an extension if the CA tax return is filed by the extended due date and the corporation or exempt organization is in good standing with the FTB and California SOS.

Tax due. If the amount on line 1 is more than the amount on line 2, the corporation's or exempt organization's tentative tax is more than its payments and credits. The corporation or exempt organization has tax due. Subtract line 2 from line 1. Enter this amount on line 3 and on form FTB 3539.