NUVEEN CALIFORNIA SELECT TAX FREE INCOME PORTFOLIO
Form N-CSRS
December 08, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-6623

Nuveen California Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy
Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (312) 917-7700

Date of fiscal year end: March 31

Date of reporting period: September 30, 2011

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

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Chairman's
Letter to Shareholders

Dear Shareholders,

The global economy continues to be weighed down by an unusual combination of pressures facing the larger developed economies. Japanese leaders continue to work through the economic aftereffects of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Political leaders in Europe and the U.S. have resolved some of the near term fiscal problems, but the financial markets are not convinced that these leaders are able to address more complex longer term fiscal issues. Despite improved earnings and capital increases, the largest banks in these countries continue to be vulnerable to deteriorating mortgage portfolios and sovereign credit exposure, adding another source of uncertainty to the global financial system.

In the U.S., recent economic statistics indicate that the economic recovery may be losing momentum. Consumption, which represents about 70% of the gross domestic product, faces an array of challenges from seemingly intractable declines in housing values, increased energy costs and limited growth in the job market. The failure of Congress and the administration to agree on the debt ceiling increase on a timely basis and the deep divisions between the political parties over fashioning a balanced program to address growing fiscal imbalances that led to the recent S&P ratings downgrade add considerable uncertainty to the domestic economic picture.

On a more positive note, corporate earnings continue to hold up well and the municipal bond market is recovering from recent weakness as states and municipalities implement various programs to reduce their budgetary deficits. In addition, the Federal Reserve has made it clear that it stands ready to take additional steps should the economic recovery falter. However, there are concerns that the Fed is approaching the limits of its resources to intervene in the economy.

These perplexing times highlight the importance of professional investment management. Your Nuveen investment team is working hard to develop an appropriate response to increased risk, and they continue to seek out opportunities created by stressful markets using proven investment disciplines designed to help your Fund achieve its investment objectives. On your behalf, we monitor their activities to assure that they maintain their investment disciplines.

As always, I encourage you to contact your financial consultant if you have any questions about your investment in a Nuveen Fund. On behalf of the other members of your Fund Board, we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Bremner
Chairman of the Board
November 21, 2011

Portfolio Managers' Comments

Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio (NXP)
Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio 2 (NXQ)
Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio 3 (NXR)
Nuveen California Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio (NXC)
Nuveen New York Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio (NXN)

Portfolio managers Tom Spalding and Scott Romans review key investment strategies and the six-month performance of the Nuveen Select Portfolios. With 35 years of investment experience, Tom has managed the three national Portfolios since 1999. Scott, who joined Nuveen in 2000, has managed NXC since 2003 and NXN since January 2011.

What key strategies were used to manage the Nuveen Select Portfolios during the six-month reporting period ended September 30, 2011?

During this reporting period, municipal bond prices generally rallied as yields declined across the municipal curve. The relative decline in yields was attributable in part to the continued depressed levels of municipal bond issuance. Tax-exempt volume, which had been limited in 2010 by issuers' extensive use of taxable Build America Bonds (BABs), continued to drift lower in 2011. Even though BABs were no longer an option for issuers (the BAB program expired at the end of 2010), some borrowers had accelerated issuance into 2010 in order to take advantage of the program's favorable terms before its termination, fulfilling their capital program borrowing needs well into 2012. This reduced the need for many borrowers to come to market with new issues during this period. For the six months ended September 30, 2011, national municipal issuance was down 25% compared with the same period in 2010, while the decline was smaller in both California and New York, which saw issuance drop 5% and 7%, respectively, during the same period.

Despite the constrained issuance of tax-exempt municipal bonds and relatively lower yields, we continued to take a bottom-up approach to discovering undervalued sectors and individual credits with the potential to perform well over the long term. During this period, NXC found value in health care and redevelopment agency (RDA) bonds, which fund programs to improve economically depressed areas in California. In addition, NXC purchased higher-rated, long-dated zero coupon bonds issued by local school districts and community colleges. In NXN, we added to our positions in health care, education,

Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements. Discussions of specific investments are for illustration only and are not intended as recommendations of individual investments. The forward-looking statements and other views expressed herein are those of the portfolio managers as of the date of this report. Actual future results or occurrences may differ significantly from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements, and the views expressed herein are subject to change at any time, due to numerous market and other factors. The Funds disclaim any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or views expressed herein.

Ratings shown are the highest rating given by one of the following national rating agencies: Standard & Poor's Group, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Fitch, Inc. Credit ratings are subject to change. AAA, AA, A, and BBB are investment grade ratings; BB, B, CCC, CC, C and D are below-investment grade ratings. Bonds backed by U.S. Government or agency securities are given an implied rating equal to the rating of such securities. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by a national rating agency.

utilities and tax-backed credits. In the national Portfolios, our focus was on adding bonds rated A and BBB, along with some AA rated credits, across a broad base of sectors, including transportation and tax-backed bonds, in states where issuance remained stronger, such as California, New York, Texas and Illinois. In general, we emphasized discounted bonds that had strong performance potential.

Extending duration was a common theme across all of the Portfolios during this period. In NXC, this included buying long zero coupon bonds as previously mentioned, while NXN added to its position in inverse floating rate securities. Because the national Portfolios tended to have shorter durations, they were in a position to benefit from opportunities to purchase bonds with longer maturities when we found appropriate candidates. The purchase of longer bonds also provided attractive yields at the longer end of the municipal yield curve.

Cash for new purchases during this period was generated by the proceeds from called and maturing bonds, which we worked to redeploy to keep the Portfolios fully invested. On the whole, selling was relatively limited, as the bonds in our portfolios generally offered higher yields than those available in the current marketplace. Both NXC and NXN sold some bonds with very short maturities or short call dates in order to fund additional purchases, while the national Portfolios did not engage in any active selling.

As of September 30, 2011, all these Portfolios continued to use inverse floating rate securities. We employ inverse floaters for a variety of reasons, including duration management, income enhancement and total return enhancement.

How did the Portfolios perform?

Individual results for the Nuveen Select Portfolios, as well as for relevant index and peer group information, are presented in the accompanying table.

Average Annual Total Returns on Net Asset Value*
For periods ended 9/30/11

	6-Month	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year
National Portfolios				
NXP	6.30%	3.59%	4.07%	4.70%
NXQ	6.74%	3.16%	3.18%	4.16%
NXR	6.36%	3.38%	4.09%	4.62%
Standard & Poor's (S&P) National Municipal Bond Index**	8.08%	3.87%	4.69%	5.10%
Lipper General and Insured Unleveraged Municipal Debt Classification Average**	7.92%	3.52%	3.73%	4.35%
California Portfolio				
NXC	9.92%	5.69%	4.31%	4.78%
Standard & Poor's (S&P) California Municipal Bond Index**	9.30%	4.19%	4.54%	4.99%
Lipper California Municipal Debt Classification Average**	16.32%	3.94%	3.38%	5.36%
New York Portfolio				
NXN	7.17%	4.45%	4.56%	4.78%
Standard & Poor's (S&P) New York Municipal Bond Index**	7.49%	3.70%	4.88%	5.15%
Lipper New York Municipal Debt Classification Average**	12.11%	3.52%	3.80%	5.54%

For the six months ended September 30, 2011, the cumulative returns on net asset value (NAV) for NXP, NXQ and NXR underperformed the Standard & Poor's (S&P) National Municipal Bond Index and the Lipper General and Insured Unleveraged Municipal Debt Classification Average. For this same period, NXC outperformed the Standard & Poor's (S&P) California Municipal Bond Index, while NXN trailed the return of the Standard & Poor's (S&P) New York Municipal Bond Index. Both Portfolios underperformed their respective state Lipper averages. One of the major reasons behind the underperformance of NXC and NXN relative to their Lipper peer groups was the fact that these Portfolios do not use structural leverage, while the majority of Funds in the Lipper California and New York groups are leveraged. The use of structural leverage generally added to the Lipper averages' portfolio performance over this period.

Past performance is not predictive of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the data shown. Returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that shareholders may have to pay on Portfolio distributions or upon the sale of Portfolio shares.

For additional information, see the individual Performance Overview for your Portfolio in this report.

* Six-month returns are cumulative; all other returns are annualized.

** Refer to Glossary of Terms used in this Report for definitions.

Key management factors that influenced the Portfolios' returns during this period included yield curve and duration positioning, credit exposure and sector allocation.

During this period, as yield across the municipal yield curve declined, municipal bonds with longer maturities generally outperformed those with shorter maturities, with credits at the longest end of the municipal yield curve posting the strongest returns. The outperformance of longer term bonds was due in part to the decline in interest rates, particularly at the longer end of the curve. In general, the national Portfolios had greater exposure to the short end of the yield curve that produced the weakest returns and smaller exposure to the outperforming longer segments of the curve. This hurt the performance of these three Portfolios for the period. Duration and yield curve positioning was more of a neutral factor in NXC and NXN, although NXC's yield curve positioning detracted somewhat from its performance.

Credit exposure also played an important role in performance during these six months, as bonds rated BBB and A generally outperformed those rated AAA. This outperformance was due in part to the longer durations typically associated with the lower-rated categories. During this period, credit exposure was a strong positive contributor to the performance of NXC, which was overweighted in lower-rated bonds, especially those rated BBB, and underweighted in bonds rated AAA and AA. NXP, NXQ, NXR and NXN were overweighted in the AAA credit sector, which detracted from their performance, while NXN also was underexposed to bonds rated A that outperformed.

Holdings that generally made positive contributions to the Portfolios' returns during this period included zero coupon bonds and hospitals, transportation and education credits. NXC, in particular, benefited from its allocations to health care and education, while exposures to health care, higher education and utilities were helpful for the national Portfolios. Although general obligation (GO) and other tax-supported bonds generally trailed the market during this period, NXC's holdings of GO bonds issued by local municipalities performed well for the Portfolio. NXC also benefited from its underweighting in California state GOs, which underperformed during this period. NXC's underweighting resulted from the fact that California GOs comprise such a large portion of the tax-supported sector in California that it is difficult to match the market weighting in our portfolios.

In contrast, pre-refunded bonds, which are often backed by U.S. Treasury securities, were among the poorest performing market segments during this period. The underperformance of these bonds can be attributed primarily to their shorter effective maturities and higher credit quality. As of September 30, 2011, the three national Portfolios were overweighted in pre-refunded bonds relative to the market average, which detracted from their investment performance. NXC and NXN held significantly smaller amounts of these bonds, which lessened the negative impact.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Fund shares are not guaranteed or endorsed by any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Fund common shares are subject to a variety of risks, including:

Investment Risk. The possible loss of the entire principal amount that you invest.

Price Risk. Shares of closed-end investment companies like these Funds frequently trade at a discount to their NAV. Your common shares at any point in time may be worth less than your original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions.

Tax Risk. The tax treatment of Fund distributions may be affected by new IRS interpretations of the Internal Revenue Code and future changes in tax laws and regulations.

Issuer Credit Risk. This is the risk that a security in a Fund's portfolio will fail to make dividend or interest payments when due.

Interest Rate Risk. Fixed-income securities such as bonds, preferred, convertible and other debt securities will decline in value if market interest rates rise.

Reinvestment Risk. If market interest rates decline, income earned from a Fund's portfolio may be reinvested at rates below that of the original bond that generated the income.

Call Risk or Prepayment Risk. Issuers may exercise their option to prepay principal earlier than scheduled, forcing a Fund to reinvest in lower-yielding securities.

Dividend
and Share Price Information

During the six-month reporting period ended September 30, 2011, NXC and NXN each had one monthly dividend increase. The monthly dividends of NXP and NXR remained stable throughout the reporting period, while NXQ's dividend was cut effective June 2011.

All of these Portfolios seek to pay stable dividends at rates that reflect each Portfolio's past results and projected future performance. During certain periods, each Portfolio may pay dividends at a rate that may be more or less than the amount of net investment income actually earned by the Portfolio during the period. If a Portfolio has cumulatively earned more than it has paid in dividends, it holds the excess in reserve as undistributed net investment income (UNII) as part of the Portfolio's NAV. Conversely, if a Portfolio has cumulatively paid dividends in excess of its earnings, the excess constitutes negative UNII that is likewise reflected in the Portfolio's NAV. Each Portfolio will, over time, pay all of its net investment income as dividends to shareholders. As of September 30, 2011, all of the Portfolios had positive UNII balances, based upon our best estimate, for tax purposes and positive UNII balances for financial reporting purposes.

SHARE REPURCHASES AND SHARE PRICE INFORMATION

Since the inception of the Portfolios' repurchase programs, the Portfolios have not repurchased any of their outstanding shares.

As of September 30, 2011, the share prices of the Select Portfolios were trading even to or at (-) discounts to their NAVs as shown in the accompanying table.

Portfolio	9/30/11 (-)Discount	6-Month Average (-)Discount
NXP	0.00%	(-)1.08%
NXQ	(-)3.35%	(-)3.27%
NXR	(-)1.85%	(-)2.24%
NXC	(-)8.05%	(-)6.15%
NXN	(-)5.15%	(-)4.94%

NXP Performance OVERVIEW

Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio

as of September 30, 2011

Fund Snapshot

Share Price	$	14.07
Net Asset Value (NAV)	$	14.07
Premium/Discount to NAV		0.00%
Market Yield		5.07%
Taxable Equivalent Yield1		7.04%
Net Assets ($000)	$	232,408

Average Annual Total Return
(Inception 3/19/92)

	On Share Price	On NAV
6-Month (Cumulative)	8.98%	6.30%
1-Year	-2.93%	3.59%
5-Year	4.79%	4.07%
10-Year	5.36%	4.70%

States3
(as a % of total investments)

Illinois	15.7%
California	10.6%
Texas	9.1%
Colorado	