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NUVEEN CALIFORNIA SELECT TAX FREE INCOME PORTFOLIO Form N-CSRS December 04, 2015

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 811-06623

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, 2015

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,

For better or for worse, the financial markets have spent the past year waiting for the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to end its accommodative monetary policy. The policy has propped up stock and bond markets since the Great Recession, but the question remains: how will markets behave without its influence? This uncertainty has been a considerable source of volatility for stock and bond prices lately, despite the Fed carefully conveying its intention to raise rates slowly and only when the economy shows evidence of readiness.

There may be at least one rate hike before the end of 2015. After all, the U.S. has reached "full employment" by the Fed's standards and growth has resumed – albeit unevenly. But the picture remains somewhat uncertain. Inflation has remained stubbornly low, most recently weighed down by an unexpectedly sharp decline in commodity prices since mid-2014. With the Fed poised to tighten and foreign central banks easing, the U.S. dollar has risen against other currencies, which has weighed on corporate earnings and further contributed to commodity price weakness. U.S. consumers have benefited from an improved labor market and lower prices at the gas pump, but the overall pace of economic expansion has been lackluster.

Nevertheless, the global recovery continues to be led by the United States. Policy makers around the world are deploying their available tools to try to bolster Europe and Japan's fragile growth, and manage China's slowdown. Contagion fears ebb and flow with the headlines about Greece and China. Greece reluctantly agreed to a third bailout package from the European Union in July and China's central bank and government intervened aggressively to try to stem the sell-off in their stock prices. But persistent structural problems in these economies will continue to garner market attention.

Wall Street is fond of saying "markets don't like uncertainty," and asset prices are likely to continue to churn in the current macro environment. In times like these, you can look to a professional investment manager with the experience and discipline to maintain the proper perspective on short-term events. And if the daily headlines do concern you, I encourage you to reach out to your financial advisor. Your financial advisor can help you evaluate your investment strategies in light of current events, your time horizon and risk tolerance. On behalf of the other members of the Nuveen Fund Board, we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead. Sincerely,

William J. Schneider Chairman of the Board November 23, 2015

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)

These Funds feature portfolio management by Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, an affiliate of Nuveen Investments, Inc. Portfolio managers Thomas C. Spalding, CFA, and Scott R. Romans, PhD, discuss key investment strategies and the six-month performance of the Nuveen Select Portfolios (the "Funds"). Tom has managed the three national Funds since 1999, while Scott has managed NXC since 2003 and NXN since 2011.

What key strategies were used to manage these Funds during the six-month reporting period ended September 30, 2015?

The six-month reporting period spanned considerable turbulence in municipal bond prices. Yields, which move in the opposite direction of prices, had shuffled higher in the first half of the reporting period on expectations of higher interest rates in the near future. However, the Federal Reserve (Fed) left its main policy interest rate unchanged at its September meeting and yields fell, ending the reporting period only slightly higher than where they began. Both the California and the New York municipal markets outperformed the national market for this reporting period. During this time, we continued to take a bottom-up approach to discovering sectors that appeared undervalued as well as individual credits that we believed had the potential to perform well over the long term.

In NXP, NXQ and NXR, we were focused on finding bonds that could enhance our efforts to achieve overall portfolio objectives. Duration management was also a focus, as short-term bonds, including pre-refunded credits, rolled off and we purchased bonds with longer maturities to help maintain the Funds' longer durations. All three national Funds purchased zero coupon bonds, which provided long maturities and additional income to support their dividends. For NXC and NXN, we continued to find opportunities to purchase bonds in both the primary and secondary markets that helped us keep the Funds fully invested. Overall, our emphasis in purchase activity was on relative value and credit quality, rather than the municipal market. That is, when considering the purchase of a lower rated bond or a slightly less liquid issue, we looked carefully at the compensation offered by the bond in question relative to its credit quality or liquidity to determine that, if the bond were held for the long term rather than swapped when interest rates rise, the Funds would be well compensated.

For NXN, we found the most attractive opportunities in the AA and A rated categories. Additions to NXN's portfolio during this reporting period included higher education and health care bonds, as well as credits secured by the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan. Purchases for NXC included bonds issued for state general obligations (GOs), state-supported higher education and

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 (S&P), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's) or Fitch, Inc. (Fitch). 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. Certain bonds backed by U.S. government or agency securities are regarded as having an implied rating equal to the rating of such securities. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by these national rating agencies.

Bond insurance guarantees only the payment of principal and interest on the bond when due, and not the value of the bonds themselves, which will fluctuate with the bond market and the financial success of the issuer and the insurer. Insurance relates specifically to the bonds in the portfolio and not to the share prices of a Fund. No representation is made as to the insurers' ability to meet their commitments.

Refer to the Glossary of Terms Used in this Report for further definition of the terms used within this section.

Portfolio Managers' Comments (continued)

ports. For both NXN and NXC, we continued to position our portfolios with longer durations than their respective state municipal markets.

Cash for purchases was generated primarily by proceeds from called and matured bonds, which we worked to redeploy to keep the Funds fully invested and support their income streams. We continued to see heightened call activity during the reporting period, as bond issuers sought to lower costs through refinancings. This provided ample cash for purchases and drove most of our trading activity for the reporting period.

As of September 30, 2015, NXP, NXQ, NXR and NXN 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. For duration management purposes, NXP and NXR held interest rate swaps during the reporting period, which worked as intended to shorten the durations of these two Funds and bring them within our target range. At the end of May, we reduced the Funds' swap positions, decreasing the amount of hedge in the portfolios. Swaps had a negligible impact on the two Funds' performance during this reporting period.

How did the Funds perform during the six-month reporting period ended September 30, 2015?

The tables in each Fund's Performance Overview and Holding Summaries section of this report provide the Funds' total returns for the six-month, one-year, five-year and ten-year periods ended September 30, 2015. Each Fund's returns on common share net asset value (NAV) are compared with the performance of corresponding market indexes and Lipper classification average.

For the six months ended September 30, 2015, the total returns on common share NAV for these five Funds trailed the returns for their respective state's S&P Municipal Bond Index as well as that of the national S&P Municipal Bond Index. For this same period, NXP, NXQ and NXR underperformed the average return for the Lipper General and Insured Unleveraged Municipal Debt Funds Classification Average and NXC and NXN lagged the Lipper California Municipal Debt Funds and the Lipper New York Municipal Debt Funds classification average returns, respectively. Key management factors that influenced the Funds' returns during this reporting period included duration and yield curve positioning and credit exposure. Municipal market sector allocation produced mixed results among the Funds. In addition, the use of leverage was an important factor in performance, except in NXC, which does not use leverage. Leverage is discussed in more detail later in this report.

The impact of duration and yield curve positioning on the Funds' performance varied over this reporting period because of the municipal market's price volatility. For NXP, NXQ and NXR, duration positioning detracted slightly from performance due to these Funds' allocations to zero coupon bonds, which have long maturities. Generally speaking, the performance of longer-dated bonds lagged that of shorter-dated bonds during the reporting period. NXC's duration positioning marginally dampened performance relative to the broader California municipal market, while NXN modestly benefited relative to the New York market from its duration positioning.

During this reporting period, lower rated bonds generally outperformed higher quality bonds, although the trend was not consistent across all ratings categories. In the California and New York municipal markets, below investment grade and A rated bonds led their respective state markets for this reporting period, while AAA, AA and BBB rated bonds underperformed. As both NXC and NXN held meaningful exposures to A rated bonds, credit exposure was a positive contributor to the two Funds' relative performance. For the three national Funds, NXP, NXQ and NXR, ratings allocations were not a meaningful driver of performance for this reporting period.

The stronger performing municipal market sectors were those with longer dated and lower quality profiles such as tobacco, health care, industrial development revenue/pollution control revenue (IDR/PCR) and higher education. The Funds participated at varying levels in these outperforming sectors, which generally benefited performance. Conversely, sectors composed of shorter maturity and higher quality bonds, including the pre-refunded, water and sewer, housing and tax-supported sectors, underperformed during this reporting period and the Funds' exposures to these sectors was disadvantageous to performance. Additionally, for NXP, NXQ and NXR, holdings in Illinois bonds, which underperformed the national market, were a key detractor during this reporting period.

An Update Involving Puerto Rico

As noted in the previous Shareholder Fund Report, we continue to monitor situations in the broader municipal market for any impact on the Funds' holdings and performance: the ongoing economic problems of Puerto Rico is one such case. Puerto Rico's continued economic weakening, escalating debt service obligations, and long-standing inability to deliver a balanced budget led to multiple downgrades on its debt over the past two years. Puerto Rico has warned investors since 2014 that the island's debt burden debt may be unsustainable and the Commonwealth has been exploring various strategies to deal with this burden, including Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

In terms of Puerto Rico holdings, shareholders should note that NXC and NXN had no exposure to Puerto Rico debt during this reporting period, while, NXP, NXQ and NXR had allocations of 1.5%, 0.8% and 2.0%, respectively, at the end of the reporting period. The Puerto Rico credits offered higher yields, added diversification and triple exemption (i.e., exemption from most federal, state and local taxes). However, Puerto Rico's continued economic weakening, escalating debt service obligations, and long-standing inability to deliver a balanced budget led to multiple downgrades on its debt over the past two years. Puerto Rico general obligation debt currently is rated Caa2/CC/CC (below investment grade) by Moody's, S&P and Fitch, respectively, with negative outlooks.

The Nuveen complex's entire exposure to obligations of the government of Puerto Rico and other Puerto Rico issuers totaled 0.26% of assets under management as of September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, Nuveen's limited exposure to Puerto Rico generally was invested in bonds that were insured, pre-refunded (and therefore backed by securities such as U.S. Treasuries), or tobacco settlement bonds. Overall, the small size of our exposures meant that our Puerto Rico holdings had a negligible impact on performance.

Fund Leverage

IMPACT OF THE FUNDS' LEVERAGE STRATEGIES ON PERFORMANCE

One important factor impacting the returns of the Funds relative to their comparative benchmarks was the Funds' use of leverage through investments in inverse floating rate securities, which represent leveraged investments in underlying bonds. The Funds use leverage because our research has shown that, over time, leveraging provides opportunities for additional income, particularly in the recent market environment where short-term market rates are at or near historical lows, meaning that the short-term rates the Fund has been paying on its leveraging instruments have been much lower than the interest the Fund has been earning on its portfolio of long-term bonds that it has bought with the proceeds of that leverage. However, use of leverage also can expose the Fund to additional price volatility. When a Fund uses leverage, the Fund will experience a greater increase in its net asset value if the municipal bonds acquired through leverage decline in value, which will make the Fund's net asset value more volatile, and its total return performance more variable over time. In addition, income in levered funds will typically decrease in comparison to unlevered funds when short-term interest rates increase when short-term interest rates decrease. Leverage had a positive impact on the performance of the Funds during the current reporting period, where applicable.

As of September 30, 2015, the Funds' percentages of leverage are as shown in the accompanying table.

 NXP
 NXQ
 NXR
 NXC
 NXN

 Effective Leverage*
 1.31 % 1.84 % 0.53 % — %** 8.55 %

Effective Leverage is a Fund's effective economic leverage, and includes both regulatory leverage and the leverage effects of certain derivative and other investments in a Fund's portfolio that increase the Fund's investment exposure. Currently, the leverage effects of Tender Option Bond (TOB) inverse floater holdings are included in effective leverage values.

** NXC did not invest in inverse floating rate securities during the current reporting period.

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Share Information

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

The following information regarding the Funds' distributions is current as of September 30, 2015. Each Fund's distribution levels may vary over time based on each Fund's investment activity and portfolio investment value changes.

During the current reporting period, each Fund's distributions to shareholders were as shown in the accompanying table.

	Per Share	e Amounts			
Ex-Dividend Date	NXP	NXQ	NXR	NXC	NXN
April 2015	\$0.0475	\$0.0460	\$0.0490	\$0.0570	\$0.0460
May	0.0475	0.0460	0.0490	0.0570	0.0460
June	0.0475	0.0445	0.0470	0.0545	0.0460
July	0.0475	0.0445	0.0470	0.0545	0.0460
August	0.0475	0.0445	0.0470	0.0545	0.0460
September 2015	0.0455	0.0445	0.0455	0.0545	0.0460
-					
Market Yield*	4.03	% 4.07 <i>4</i>	% 3.98 %	% 4.30 %	% 4.14 %
Taxable-Equivalent Yield*	5.60	% 5.65	% 5.53 %	% 6.58 %	% 6.16 %

Market Yield is based on the Fund's current annualized monthly distribution divided by the Fund's current market price as of the end of the reporting period. Taxable-Equivalent Yield represents the yield that must be earned on a fully taxable investment in order to equal the yield of the Fund on an after-tax basis. It is based on a combined

federal and state income tax rate of 28.0%, 28.0%, 28.0%, 34.7% and 32.8% for NXP, NXQ, NXR, NXC and NXN, respectively. When comparing a Fund to investments that generate qualified dividend income, the Taxable-Equivalent Yield is lower.

Each Fund in this report seeks to pay regular monthly dividends out of its net investment income at a rate that reflects its past and projected net income performance. To permit each Fund to maintain a more stable monthly dividend, the Fund may pay dividends at a rate that may be more or less than the amount of net income actually earned by the Fund during the period. If a Fund has cumulatively earned more than it has paid in dividends, it will hold the excess in reserve as undistributed net investment income (UNII) as part of the Fund's net asset value. Conversely, if a Fund has cumulatively paid in dividends more than it has earned, the excess will constitute a negative UNII that will likewise be reflected in the Fund's net asset value. Each Fund will, over time, pay all its net investment income as dividends to shareholders.

As of September 30, 2015, the Funds had positive UNII balances, based upon our best estimate, for tax purposes. NXP, NXQ, NXR and NXN had positive UNII balances while NXC had a negative UNII balance for financial reporting purposes.

All monthly dividends paid by each Fund during the current reporting period, were paid from net investment income. If a portion of the Fund's monthly distributions was sourced from or comprised of elements other than net investment income, including capital gains and/or a return of capital, shareholders would have received a notice to that effect. For financial reporting purposes, the composition and per share amounts of each Fund's dividends for the reporting period are presented in this report's Statement of Changes in Net Assets and Financial Highlights, respectively. For income tax purposes, distribution information for each Fund as of its most recent tax year end is presented in Note 6 – Income Tax Information within the Notes to Financial Statements of this report.

Share Information (continued) SHARE REPURCHASES

During August 2015, the Funds' Board of Trustees reauthorized an open-market share repurchase program, allowing each Fund to repurchase an aggregate of up to approximately 10% of its outstanding shares.

As of September 30, 2015, and since the inception of the Funds' repurchase programs, the Funds have cumulatively repurchased and retired their outstanding shares as shown in the accompanying table.

	NXP	NXQ	NXR	NXC	NXN
Shares cumulatively repurchased and retired	0	0	0	0	0
Shares authorized for repurchase	1,655,000	01,770,000)1,305,000)630,000	390,000
OTHER SHARE INFORMATION					

As of September 30, 2015, and during the current reporting period, the Funds' share prices were trading at a premium/(discount) to their NAVs as shown in the accompanying table.

	NXP	NXQ	NXR	NXC	NXN
NAV	\$14.95		\$15.15	\$15.27	\$14.32
Share price	\$13.56	\$13.11	\$13.71	\$15.20	\$13.32
Premium/(Discount) to NAV	(9.30)%	6 (9.34)%	6 (9.50)%	6 (0.46)%	6.98)%
6-month average premium/(discount) to NAV	(6.84)%	6.82)%	6.64)%	6 (0.02)%	6 (5.60)%

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.

Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio (NXP)

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. Debt or fixed income securities such as those held by the Fund, are subject to market risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, liquidity risk, and income risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall. These and other risk considerations such as tax risk are described in more detail on the Fund's web page at www.nuveen.com/NXP. Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio 2 (NXQ)

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. Debt or fixed income securities such as those held by the Fund, are subject to market risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, liquidity risk, and income risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall. These and other risk considerations such as tax risk are described in more detail on the Fund's web page at www.nuveen.com/NXQ. Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio 3 (NXR)

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. Debt or fixed income securities such as those held by the Fund, are subject to market risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, liquidity risk, and income risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall. These and other risk considerations such as tax risk are described in more detail on the Fund's web page at www.nuveen.com/NXR. Nuveen California Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio (NXC)

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. Debt or fixed income securities such as those held by the Fund, are subject to market risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, liquidity risk, and income risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall. State concentration makes the Fund more susceptible to local adverse economic, political, or regulatory changes affecting municipal bond issuers. These and other risk considerations such as tax risk are described in more detail on the Fund's web page at www.nuveen.com/NXC.

Nuveen New York Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio (NXN)

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. Debt or fixed income securities such as those held by the Fund, are subject to market risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, liquidity risk, and income risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall. State concentration makes the Fund more susceptible to local adverse economic, political, or regulatory changes affecting municipal bond issuers. These and other risk considerations such as tax risk are described in more detail on the Fund's web page at www.nuveen.com/NXN.

NXP

Nuveen Select Tax-Free Income Portfolio

Performance Overview and Holding Summaries as of September 30, 2015

Refer to the Glossary of Terms Used in this Report for further definition of the terms used within this section. Average Annual Total Returns as of September 30, 2015

	Cumulative Average Annual		
	6-Month	1-Year 5-Year 10-Year	
NXP at NAV	0.44%	3.47% 5.58% 4.94%	
NXP at Share Price	(4.60)%	2.48% 2.35% 4.18%	
S&P Municipal Bond Index	0.70%	3.00% 4.27% 4.59%	
Lipper General and Insured Unleveraged Municipal Debt Funds Classification Average	0.74%	3.85% 5.33% 4.76%	

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 Fund distributions or upon the sale of Fund shares. Returns at NAV are net of Fund expenses, and assume reinvestment of distributions. Comparative index and Lipper return information is provided for the Fund's shares at NAV only. Indexes and Lipper averages are not available for direct investment.

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This data relates to the securities held in the Fund's portfolio of investments as of the end of the reporting period. It should not be construed as a measure of performance for the Fund itself. Holdings are subject to change. 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. Certain bonds backed by U.S. Government or agency securities are regarded as having an implied rating equal to the rating of such securities. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by these national rating agencies.

Fund Allocation (% of net assets)