

# Northern Funds CALIFORNIA TAX-EXEMPT FUND

4Q2011

NCATX/FIXED INCOME

## OVERALL MORNINGSTAR RATING™



among 145 municipal California long funds derived from a weighted average of the fund's 3-, 5- and 10-year risk-adjusted returns as of 12/31/11\*

## FUND FACTS

**Fund Objective:** Current Tax-Exempt Income

**Inception Date:** April 8, 1997

**Ticker Symbol:** NCATX

**Gross Expense Ratio:** 0.97%

**Net Expense Ratio:** 0.45%<sup>1</sup>

**Dividend Schedule:** Monthly

**Benchmark:** Barclays Capital California Municipal Bond Index

**Morningstar Category:** Municipal California Long

## FUND CHARACTERISTICS

**Total Net Assets:** \$147 million

**Number of Holdings:** 73

**30-Day SEC Yield:** 3.02%

**Tax-Equivalent 30-Day SEC Yield:** 5.45%<sup>2</sup>

**Modified Duration:** 5.7 years

**Average Maturity:** 14.8 years

## FUND STRATEGY

- Concentrate our investments in California state-specific, investment-grade municipal instruments which are exempt from federal income tax and California state personal income tax while maintaining an average maturity, under normal circumstances, between 10 and 30 years.
- Invest in high-quality securities, primarily investment-grade debt.
- Select investments on the basis of their relative value with a focus on total return.

## PERFORMANCE as of 12/31/11

FUND	ANNUALIZED						
	Quarter	YTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
FUND	2.80%	15.15%	15.15%	9.59%	5.52%	5.40%	5.74%
BARCLAYS CAPITAL CA MUNI BOND INDEX <sup>3</sup>	2.42%	12.29%	12.29%	9.07%	5.04%	5.33%	5.74%
MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY AVG MUNI CA LONG	2.27%	11.74%	11.74%	10.26%	3.62%	4.40%	—

**Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than that shown here. Performance data current to the most recent month end is available by calling 800-595-9111.**

**The Advisor has agreed to reimburse certain expenses of the Fund. The contractual reimbursement arrangement is expected to continue until at least December 31, 2012. After this date, the contractual arrangements may be terminated if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In the absence of fee waivers, yield, total return, growth since inception and dividends would have been reduced. Total return is based on net change in NAV assuming reinvestment of distributions. The 30-day SEC yield more closely reflects the current earnings of the Fund than the total returns.**

**Bond Risk:** Bond funds will tend to experience smaller fluctuations in value than stock funds. However, investors in any bond fund should anticipate fluctuations in price, especially for long-term issues and in environments of rising interest rates.

**Non-Diversified Risk:** The Fund invests in a smaller number of securities than the average mutual fund. The change in value of a single holding may have a more pronounced effect on the Fund's net asset value and performance than for other funds.

**Regional Investment Risk:** The geographical concentration of portfolio holdings in this Fund may involve increased risk.

**Tax-Free/AMT Risk:** Tax-exempt funds' income may be subject to certain state and local taxes and, depending on your tax status, the federal alternative minimum tax.

\*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Ratings reflect fee waivers in effect; in their absence, ratings may have been lower.

Star ratings are based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a fund's monthly performance (including the effects of sales charges and redemption fees), placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The overall rating is a weighted average of the 3-, 5- and 10-year (if applicable) returns. 5 stars = top 10% of funds in an asset category; 4 stars = next 22.5% of funds; 3 stars = next 35%; 2 stars = next 22.5% and 1 star = next 10%. A fund must be in existence three years to be rated. Ratings are subject to change monthly. The California Tax-Exempt Fund received 3 stars for the 3-year rating among 145 municipal California long funds, 5 stars for the 5-year rating among 134 funds and 4 stars for the 10-year rating among 109 funds.

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<sup>1</sup> The Net Expense Ratio, as reported in the most recent prospectus, includes contractual expense reimbursements that, if not extended, will end on December 31, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Tax-equivalent yields are based on an assumed tax rate of 44.6% for California.

Please see back page for calendar year returns and index definitions.



Managed by  
Northern Trust

NOT FDIC INSURED

May lose value/No bank guarantee

**MATURITY DISTRIBUTION**

Maturity Range	Fund
0 - 1 Year	6.9%
2 - 5 Years	12.6%
6 - 10 Years	12.8%
11 - 20 Years	36.7%
21 - 30 Years	21.6%
30+ Years	9.4%
TOTAL	100.0%

**QUALITY DISTRIBUTION**

Quality Rating	Fund	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
AAA	2.6%	4.5%
AA	52.4%	44.1%
A	26.1%	41.6%
BBB	1.4%	9.8%
SP1+/MIG1	10.5%	0.0%
Not Rated	0.1%	0.0%
Cash Equivalents	6.9%	0.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

**SECTOR WEIGHTINGS**

Economic Sector	Fund	Benchmark <sup>3</sup>
Revenue	50.6%	47.3%
General Obligation	40.5%	36.0%
Short-Term	6.9%	0.0%
Insured	1.3%	9.9%
Government-Backed	0.7%	6.8%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

**PORTFOLIO MANAGER**



ERIC V. BOECKMANN | Began career in 1985  
 With Northern Trust since 1985  
 Mr. Boeckmann received a B.S. in finance from the University of Illinois.

**CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
<b>FUND</b>	<b>15.15%</b>	<b>1.74%</b>	<b>12.35%</b>	<b>-3.26%</b>	<b>2.76%</b>
BARCLAYS CAPITAL CA MUNI BOND INDEX <sup>3</sup>	12.29%	2.98%	12.22%	-4.14%	2.81%
MORNINGSTAR CATEGORY AVG MUNI CA LONG	11.74%	1.77%	17.38%	-11.05%	0.71%

**Performance quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results.**

**A Conservative Investment Approach**  
 Northern Trust has built a tradition of strength and stability in investment management. Markets fluctuate over time, but we have remained steadfast in our disciplined, risk-managed investment philosophy.

All data is as of date indicated and subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> **Barclays Capital California Municipal Bond Index** is an unmanaged index of investment grade (Baa3 or better) tax-exempt California bonds with a remaining maturity of at least one year. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

**Modified Duration:** Duration is a measure of a bond fund's sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The Fund's duration is calculated using the modified duration formula.

**Quality Distribution:** Credit quality ratings are based on converting the available Moody's, Standard & Poor's and/or Fitch ratings to a common numerical basis and averaging that result. If none of these three rating agencies has assigned a rating, the Fund will assign a rating of not rated. The ratings, expressed in Standard & Poor's nomenclature, range from AAA (extremely strong capacity to meet its financial commitment) to D (in default). Short-term ratings, expressed in Standard & Poor's nomenclature, range from A-1 (obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong) to A-3 (exhibits adequate protection parameters). The Standard & Poor's short-term municipal rating of SP1 reflects a strong capacity to pay principal and interest (an issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation). The Moody's short-term municipal rating of MIG1 denotes superior credit quality (excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing). The ratings represent the rating agencies' opinions of the quality of the securities they rate. Ratings are relative and subjective and are not absolute standards of quality.

**Please carefully read the prospectus and summary prospectus and consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of Northern Funds before investing. Call 800-595-9111 to obtain a prospectus and summary prospectus, which contain this and other information about the funds.**



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