For more information, get FTB Pub. 1540 at **ftb.ca.gov** or see code **934** on page 83 to order FTB Pub.1540 by telephone.

Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child
Check the box on Long or Short Form 540NR, line 5 and use the joint tax return tax rates for 2016 if **all five** of the following apply:

- Your spouse/RDP died in 2014 or 2015 and you did not remarry or enter into another registered domestic partnership in 2016.
- You have a child, stepchild, adopted child, or foster child whom you claim as a dependent.
- This child lived in your home for all of 2016. Temporary absences, such as for vacation or school, count as time lived in the home.
- You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home for this child.
- You could have filed a joint tax return with your spouse/RDP the year he or she died, even if you actually did not do so.

What's New and Other Important Information for 2016

Differences between California and Federal Law

In general, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, California law conforms to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) as of January 1, 2015. However, there are continuing differences between California and federal law. When California conforms to federal tax law changes, we do not always adopt all of the changes made at the federal level. For more information, go to **ftb.ca.gov** and search for **conformity**. Additional information can be found in FTB Pub. 1001, Supplemental Guidelines to California Adjustments, the instructions for California Schedule CA (540NR), and the Business Entity tax booklets.

The instructions provided with California tax forms are a summary of California tax law and are only intended to aid taxpayers in preparing their state income tax returns. We include information that is most useful to the greatest number of taxpayers in the limited space available. It is not possible to include all requirements of the California Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC) in the instructions. Taxpayers should not consider the instructions as authoritative law.

2016 Tax Law Changes/What's New

Voluntary Contributions – You may contribute to the following new funds:

- Revive the Salton Sea Fund
- California Domestic Violence Victims Fund
- Special Olympics Fund
- Type 1 Diabetes Research Fund

Low-Income Housing Credit – Allocations to Partners - For partnerships owning projects that receive a preliminary reservation of the Low-Income Housing Credit (LIHC) before January 1, 2020, the prior law exception that requires a partnership to allocate the credit among partners based upon the partnership agreement is re-enacted.

Sale of Credit – For projects that receive a preliminary reservation of the LIHC beginning on or after January 1, 2016, and before January 1, 2020, a taxpayer may make an irrevocable election in its application to the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee to sell all or any portion of the LIHC allowed to one or more unrelated parties for each taxable year in which the credit is allowed. An original purchaser is allowed a one-time resale of that credit to one or more unrelated parties. For more information, get form FTB 3521, Low-Income Housing Credit, or go to the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee website at treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac.

California Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, the California Qualified ABLE Program was established and California generally conforms to the federal income tax treatment of ABLE accounts.This program was established to help blind or disabled people save money in a tax-favored ABLE account to maintain health, independence, and quality of life.Additional information can be found in the instructions of Form 3805P, Additional Taxes on Qualified Plans (Including IRAs) and Other Tax-Favored Accounts.

New California Motion Picture and Television Production Credit – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, a **new** California motion picture and television production credit will be allowed to a qualified taxpayer. The credit is allocated and certified by the California Film Commission (CFC). The qualified taxpayer can:

- Offset the credit against income tax liability.
- Sell the credit to an unrelated party (independent films only).
- Assign the credit to an affiliated corporation.
- Apply the credit against qualified sales and use taxes.

For more information, get form FTB 3541, California Motion Picture and Television Production Credit, form FTB 3551, Sale of Credit Attributable to an Independent Film, go to **ftb.ca.gov** and search for **motion picture**, or go to the CFC website at **film.ca.gov** and search for **incentives**.

Native American Income – California does not tax reservation sourced income earned or received from the same Indian country in which you live and are an enrolled member. Additional information can be found in the instructions for California Schedule CA (540NR) and form FTB 3504, Enrolled Tribal Member Certification.

Other Important Information

Electronic Funds Withdrawal (EFW) – Make extension or estimated tax payments using tax preparation software. Check with your software provider to determine if they support EFW for extension or estimated tax payments.

Earned Income Tax Credit – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, the refundable California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is available to taxpayers who earned wage income within California. This credit is similar to the federal Earned Income Credit (EIC). This credit is available to taxpayers with earned income of less than $13,870. Additional information can be found on California form FTB 3514, California Earned Income Tax Credit.

Payments and Credits Applied to Use Tax – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, if a taxpayer includes use tax on their personal income tax return, payments and credits will be applied to use tax first, then towards income tax, interest, and penalties. Additional information can be found in the instructions for California Form 540.

Dependent Social Security Number (SSN) – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, taxpayers claiming an exemption credit must write each dependent's SSN in the spaces provided within Line 10 for the California Form 540 and California Form 540NR (long and short).

Financial Incentive for Seismic Improvement – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, taxpayers can exclude from gross income any amount received as loan forgiveness, grant, credit, rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive issued by the California Residential Mitigation Program or the California Earthquake Authority to assist a residential property owner or occupant with expenses paid, or obligations incurred, for earthquake loss mitigation. Additional information can be found in the instructions for California Schedule CA (540 and 540NR).

Natural Heritage Preservation Credit – For qualified contributions made on or after January 1, 2015, the credit carryover period has been extended to 15 years or until exhausted, whichever occurs first. Any unused credits remaining before January 1, 2015, will remain subject to an eight-year carryover provision. In addition, the period for when a qualified contribution is made, for which a tax credit will be allowed, has been extended to June 30, 2020.

Disaster Losses – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2024, taxpayers may deduct a disaster loss for any loss sustained in any city, county, or city and county in California that is proclaimed by the Governor to be in a state of emergency. For these Governor-only declared disasters, subsequent state legislation is not required to activate the disaster loss provisions. Additional information can be found in the instructions for California form FTB 3805V, Net Operating Loss (NOL) Computation and NOL Disaster Loss Limitations – Individuals, Estates, and Trusts.

Head of Household – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, California requires taxpayers who use head of household (HOH) filing status to file form FTB 3532, Head of Household Filing Status Schedule, to report how the HOH filing status was determined.

Financial Incentive for Turf Removal – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2019, taxpayers can exclude from gross income any amount received as a rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive issued by a local water agency or supplier for participation in a turf removal water conservation program. Additional information can be found in the instructions for California Schedule CA (540NR).

New Employment Credit – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2021, the New Employment Credit (NEC) is available to a qualified taxpayer that hires a qualified full-time employee on or after January 1, 2014, and pays or incurs qualified wages attributable to work performed by the qualified full-time employee in a designated census tract or economic development area, and receives a **tentative credit reservation** for that qualified full-time employee. In addition, an **annual certification of employment** is required with respect to each qualified full-time employee hired in a previous taxable year. In order to be allowed a credit, the qualified taxpayer must have a net increase in the total number of full-time employees in California. Any credits not used in the taxable year may be carried forward up to five years. If a qualified employee is terminated within the first 36 months after beginning employment,