INCOME TAX FORMS

Starting with the 2010 tax season, individuals and businesses will no longer receive paper income tax packages from the IRS and California Franchise Tax Board. These Federal and State tax packages contained the forms, schedules and instructions for filing a paper income tax return. The IRS and California Franchise Tax Board are taking this step because of the continued growth in electronic filing and the availability of free options to taxpayers, as well as to help reduce costs.

There are numerous **free options** available to obtain tax products, tax preparation and assistance in filing their Federal income tax returns:

- Download Forms and instructions online (http://www.irs.gov/app/picklist/list/formsInstructions.html) at IRS.gov
- Visit an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC) (http://www.irs.gov/localcontacts/index.html) and U. S. Post Offices
- Individuals making $49,000 or less can use the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html) program for free tax preparation and, in many cases, free electronic filing
- Individuals aged 60 and older can take advantage of free tax counseling and basic income tax preparation through Tax Counseling for the Elderly (http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html)
- IRS Free File (http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=118986,00.html) provides options for free brand-name tax software or online fillable forms plus free electronic filing. For more information, visit IRS Fee File on IRS.gov
- Order forms directly from the IRS at 1-800-829-3676.

Tax forms for California are available online from the California Franchise Tax Board (http://www.ftb.ca.gov/forms/search/index.aspx) or may be ordered by phone at 1-800-338-0505

Check with your local branch library regarding the availability of the most commonly used forms such as the IRS 1040 or CA 540 forms. If the library does not have the form you need, individuals may also obtain printouts of many of the Federal and State tax forms from their local branch library for a small fee.