

POLICY NUMBER: 1.1

NAME OF POLICY: Finance - Investments

LAST REVISED: 3/21/2019

PREVIOUSLY REVISED: 05/16/2013

PURPOSE: All financial assets, including special revenue funds, capital project funds, internal service funds and other funds that may be created from time to time, shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this Policy and are accounted for in the Annual Financial Report. This Investment Policy is used to guide Authority staff in investment decisions and transactions.

POLICY: It is the policy of East Bay Dischargers Authority (Authority) to invest public funds in a manner which prioritizes security over investment return, while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the Authority, and conforming to California Government Code Sections 53601 through 53686 and other statutes governing the investment of public funds.

DETAILED DISCUSSION:

A. OBJECTIVES:

When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling and managing public funds, the primary objectives, in priority order, of the investment activities shall be:

- 1. Safety:** Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the East Bay Dischargers Authority shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. To attain this objective, diversification is required in order that potential losses on individual securities do not exceed the income generated from the remainder of the portfolio.
- 2. Liquidity:** The investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the East Bay Dischargers Authority to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.

3. Return on Investments: The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio. (CGC 53600.5)

B. STANDARD OF CARE:

- **Prudence:** All investments shall be made within the policy framework of liquidity, safety, and investment return, with the judgment and care a person of prudence and intelligence would, under the circumstances then prevailing, exercise in the management of his/her affairs.
- **Ethics and Conflict of Interest:** District officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Officers and employee involved in the investment process shall abide by CGC Section 109, et seq. and the California Political Reform Act.
- **Delegation of Authority:** The authority to manage investment programs is granted to the Investment Committee which is comprised of the two members of the Financial Management Committee appointed by the Commission, and the General Manager/Treasurer. The responsibility for the operation and day-to-day maintenance of the investment program is delegated to the Authority's General Manager/Treasurer. The General Manager/Treasurer shall file with the Authority an official bond in the amount of \$250,000. The Authority shall pay the cost of said bonds.

C. PROCEDURES:

The General Manager/Treasurer shall establish written procedures and a system of internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy to be incorporated into the Authority's Financial Management System Policy and Procedures Manual. Procedures should include references to: safekeeping, PSA repurchase agreements, wire transfer agreements, collateral/depository agreements and banking services contracts, as appropriate. Such procedures shall include explicit delegation of authority to persons responsible for investment transactions. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the Financial Management Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials. The General Manager/Treasurer is a trustee and a fiduciary subject to the prudent investor standard. (CGC 53600.3)

D. AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND DEALERS:

The General Manager/Treasurer will maintain a list of financial institutions, selected on the basis of credit worthiness, financial strength, experience and minimal capitalization that are authorized to provide investment services. In addition, a list will also be maintained of approved security broker/dealers who are authorized to provide investment and financial advisory services in the State of California. No public deposit shall be made except in a qualified public depository as established by state laws.

For brokers/dealers of government securities and other investments, the General Manager/Treasurer shall select only broker/dealers who are licensed and in good standing with the California Department of Securities, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Association of Securities Dealers or other applicable self-regulatory organizations and familiar with the Government Code restrictions on public agency investments and have a substantial experience with other public agency investments.

Before engaging in investment transactions with a broker/dealer, the General Manager/Treasurer shall have received from said firm a signed Certification Form. This form shall attest that the individual responsible for the Authority's account with that firm has reviewed the Authority's Investment Policy and that the firm understands the policy and intends to present investment recommendations and transactions to the Authority that are appropriate under the terms and conditions of the Investment Policy.

E. AUTHORIZED AND SUITABLE INVESTMENTS:

The allowable investment instruments applicable to all local agencies, including the East Bay Dischargers Authority, are shown in the documents listed below and included by reference in this investment policy. The following documents are attached and included at the end of this Section:

- Figure 1, Chapter II. Fund Management, Local Agency Investment Guidelines 2007, California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission.
- California Government Code Section 5920-5924
- California Government Code Section 16429.1-16429.4
- California Government Code Section 53500-53505
- California Government Code Section 53600-53609
- California Government Code Section 53630-53686

See CGC 53601 for a detailed summary of the limitations and special conditions that apply to each of the above listed investment securities.

F. PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS:

Under the provisions of CGC 53601.6 and 53631.5, the Authority shall not invest any funds covered by this Investment Policy in inverse floaters, range notes, interest-only strips derived from mortgage pools or any investment that may result in a zero interest accrual if held to maturity.

G. COLLATERALIZATION:

All certificates of deposits and repurchase agreements must be collateralized by U. S. Treasury Obligations. Collateral must be held by a third party and valued on a monthly basis. The percentage of collateralization on Repurchase Agreements will adhere to the amount required under CGC 53601(i)(2).

H. DIVERSIFICATIONS:

It is the policy of the Authority to diversify its investment portfolio. With the exception of funds invested in LAIF, United State Treasury Bills, notes, and bonds, the Authority will diversify its investments by security type and, within each type, by institution. Invested assets shall be diversified to eliminate the risk of loss resulting from over concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer or a specific class of securities. Diversification shall be determined and revised periodically by the Treasurer in consultation with the Financial Management Committee. In establishing specific diversification strategies, the following guidelines shall apply:

- 1) Portfolio maturities shall be matched against projected liabilities to avoid an over concentration in a specific series of maturities.
- 2) Maturities selected shall provide for stability and liquidity.
- 3) Disbursement and payroll dates shall be covered by the scheduled maturity of specific investments, marketable U. S. Treasury Bills or Notes or other cash equivalent instruments, such as money market mutual funds.

I. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of obtaining a rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, commensurate with the investment risk constraints and the cash flow needs of the Authority. The Authority shall establish a performance benchmark. Benchmarks may change over time based on changes in market conditions, investment preferences, or cash flow requirements.

J. INTERNAL CONTROLS:

The Authority shall establish a set of internal controls which shall be documented in writing. The internal controls will be reviewed by the Authority and with the independent auditor. The controls shall be designed to prevent employee error, misrepresentations by third parties, and unanticipated changes in financial markets or imprudent actions by officers or employees of the Authority.

K. SAFEKEEPING & CUSTODY:

All security transactions entered into by the Authority shall be conducted on delivery-versus-payment (DVP) basis. All securities purchased or acquired shall be delivered to the Authority by book entry, physical delivery or by third party custodial agreement. (CGC 53601) The Treasurer shall deposit securities in which the Authority holds funds in a safe deposit box in the name of East Bay Dischargers Authority.

L. REPORTING:

The Treasurer shall submit to the Commission a monthly report. The report shall include a complete description of the portfolio, the type of investment, the issuers, maturity dates, par values and the current market values of each component of the portfolio, including funds managed by third party contractors. The report will also include the source of the portfolio valuation. In the case of funds invested in The Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), FDIC Insured accounts or county investment pools, current statements from those institutions will satisfy the above reporting requirement. The report will also include a certification that (1) all investment actions executed since the last report have been made in full compliance with the Investment Policy and, (2) the Authority will meet its expenditure obligations for the next six months. [CGC 53646(b)]. The Treasurer shall maintain a complete and timely record of all investment transactions.

M. INVESTMENT POLICY ADOPTION:

The Investment Policy shall be adopted by resolution of the East Bay Dischargers Authority. Moreover, the Policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis, and modifications must be approved by the Commission.

GLOSSARY:

ASK PRICE: The price at which a seller offers to sell a security to a buyer.

ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES: Bonds created from various types of consumer debt.

Returns on these securities come from customer payments on their outstanding loans. The primary types of asset-backed securities are mortgages, home equity loans, auto loans, leases, credit card receivables and student loans.

BANKERS' ACCEPTANCE: A letter of credit issued in a foreign trade transaction which allows exporters to receive payment prior to importation of their goods. Banks provide short-term financing to facilitate the transaction and may sell the obligation to a third party. Bankers' Acceptances are secured by the issuer of the bill, while the underlying goods also serve as collateral.

BANK DEPOSITS: Collateral in the form of currency that may be in the form of demand accounts (checking) or investments in accounts that have a fixed term and negotiated rate of interest.

BENCHMARK: A comparative base for measuring the performance or risk tolerance of the investment portfolio. A benchmark should represent a close correlation to the level of risk and the average duration of the portfolio's investments.

BID PRICE: The price at which a buyer offers to purchase a security from the seller.

BOND: A debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity (corporate or governmental) that borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a fixed interest rate called a coupon payment. Bonds are used by companies, municipalities, states and the U.S. government to finance a variety of projects and operating activities.

BROKER: A broker aligns buyers and sellers of securities and receives a commission when a sale occurs. Brokers generally do not hold inventory or make a market for securities.

CALIFORNIA LOCAL AGENCY OBLIGATIONS: Bonds that are issued by a California county, Authority, Authority and county, including a chartered Authority or county, school district, community college district, public district, county board of education, county superintendent of schools, or any public or municipal corporation.

CD (CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT): Time deposits issued by a bank, savings or federal credit union, or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank. Negotiable Certificates of Deposits rely on the credit rating of the issuing entity.

COLLATERAL: Securities, evidence of deposit, or other property that a borrower pledges to secure repayment of a loan. Also refers to securities pledged by a bank to secure deposits of public monies.

COLLATERALIZATION: Process by which a borrower pledges securities, property, or other deposits for the purpose of securing the repayment of a loan and/or security.

COMMERCIAL PAPER: Short-term unsecured promissory note issued by a company or financial institution. Commercial paper is issued at a discount and matures at face value. Usually a maximum maturity of 270 days, and given a short-term debt rating by one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSROs).

COUNTY POOLED INVESTMENT FUNDS: The aggregate of all funds from public agencies placed in the custody of the county treasurer or chief finance officer for investment and reinvestment.

COUPON: The annual rate of interest that a bond's issuer promises to pay the bondholder, expressed as a percentage of the bond's face value.

CREDIT RISK: Credit risk is the likelihood that an issuer will be unable to make scheduled payments of interest or principal on an outstanding obligation.

CUSTODIAN: An agent such as a broker or a bank that stores a customer's investments for safekeeping. The custodian does not have fiduciary responsibilities.

DEALER: A dealer, as opposed to a broker, acts as a principal in security transactions, selling securities from, and buying securities for his/her own position.

DEFAULT: To default is to fail to repay principal or make timely interest payments on a bond or other debt investment security, or failure to fulfill the terms of a note or contract.

DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT (DVP): A securities industry procedure whereby payment for a security must be made at the time the security is delivered to the purchaser's agent.

DIVERSIFICATION: Dividing investment funds among a variety of securities offering independent returns.

DURATION: The weighted average time to maturity of a bond where the weights are the present values of future cash flows. Duration measures the price sensitivity of a bond to changes in interest rates.

FIDUCIARY: An individual who holds something in trust for another and bears liability for its safekeeping.

FLOATING RATE INVESTMENTS: Notes whose interest rate is adjusted according to the interest rates of other financial instruments. These instruments provide protection against rising or falling interest rates, but may pay lower yield than fixed rate notes.

FUTURES: Commodities, which are sold in the present time and are to be delivered at a future date.

INTEREST ONLY STRIPS: Securities with cash flow based entirely on the monthly interest payments received from a mortgage, Treasury, or bond payment. No principal is included in these types of securities.

INVERSE FLOATING RATE INVESTMENTS: Variable-rate notes (such as inverse floating rate notes) whose coupon and value increase as interest rates decrease.

INVESTMENT PROGRAM: The process of modern portfolio management. The process includes establishing investment policy, analysis of the economic and capital markets environment, portfolio monitoring and rebalancing, and measuring performance.

LIQUIDITY: The ease with which investments can be converted to cash at their present market value. Liquidity is significantly affected by the number of buyers and sellers trading a given security and the number of units of the security available for trading.

LOCAL AGENCY BONDS: These bonds are issued by a county, Authority, Authority and county, including a chartered Authority or county, school district, community college district, public district, county board of education, county superintendent of schools, or any public or municipal corporation.

LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND (LAIF): A voluntary investment fund open to state and local government entities and certain non-profit organizations in California in which organization pools their funds for investment. LAIF is managed by the State Treasurer's Office.

MARKET RISK: Market risk is the risk that investments will change in value based on changes in general market prices.

MARKET VALUE: The price at which a security is trading and could presumably be purchased or sold.

MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT: A written contract which includes provisions specific to the governmental agency that is signed by an authorized officer with each counterparty. A master agreement will often specify details to the nature of transactions, the relationship of the parties to the agreement, parameters pertaining to the ownership and custody of collateral, and remedies in the event of default by either party.

MATURITY: The date upon which the principal or stated value of an investment becomes due and payable.

MEDIUM TERM NOTES (MTN): Unsecured, investment-grade senior debt securities of major corporations that are sold either on a continuous or an intermittent basis. MTNs are highly flexible debt instruments that can be structured to respond to market opportunities or to investor preferences.

MONEY MARKET: The market in which short-term debt instruments (bills, commercial paper, bankers' acceptances, etc.) are issued and traded.

MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES: A debt instrument with a pool of real estate loans as the underlying collateral. The mortgage payments of the real estate assets are used to pay interest and principal on the bonds.

MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH SECURITIES: A securitized participation in the interest and principal cash flows from a specified pool of mortgages. Principal and interest payments made on the mortgages are passed through to the holder of the security.

MUTUAL FUNDS: An investment company that pools money and can invest in a variety of securities, including fixed-income securities and money market instruments. **Money market mutual funds** invest exclusively in short-term (1-day to 1-year) debt obligations such as Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, and commercial paper. The principal objective is the preservation of capital and generation of current income.

OFFER: The price asked by a seller of securities. See Ask Price and Bid Price.

OPTION: A contract that provides the right or obligation, depending on the buyer or seller's position within the contract, to buy or to sell a specific amount of a specific security within a predetermined time period at a specified price. A call option provides the right to buy the underlying security. A put option provides the right to sell the underlying security. The seller of the contracts is called the writer.

PORTFOLIO: A collection of securities held by an investor.

PRIMARY DEALER: A group of government securities dealers who submit daily reports of market activity and positions and monthly financial statements to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and are subject to its informal oversight. Primary dealers include Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)-registered securities broker-dealers, banks, and a few unregulated firms.

PRINCIPAL ONLY STRIPS: Securities with cash flow based entirely on the principal payments received from an obligation.

RANGE NOTES: A range note is a bond that pays interest if a specified interest rate remains above or below a certain level and/or remains within a certain range.

RATE OF RETURN: The yield obtainable on a security based on its purchase price or its current market price.

REPURCHASE AGREEMENT (RP, Repo): A contractual transaction between an investor and an issuing financial institution (bank or securities dealer). The investor exchanges cash for temporary ownership or control of collateral securities, with an agreement between the parties that on a future date, the financial institution will repurchase the securities.

SAFEKEEPING: A service to customers rendered by banks for a fee whereby securities and valuables of all types and descriptions are held by the bank in the customer's name.

SECONDARY MARKET: A market made for the purchase and sale of outstanding issues following the initial distribution.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC): A federal government agency comprised of five commissioners appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. The SEC was established to protect the individual investor from fraud and malpractice in the marketplace. The Commission oversees and regulates the activities of registered investment advisers, stock and bond markets, broker/dealers, and mutual funds.

STATE OBLIGATIONS: Registered treasury notes or bonds of the 50 United States, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by a state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of any of the 50 United States.

STRIPS: Bonds, usually issued by the U.S. Treasury, whose two components, interest and repayment of principal, are separated and sold individually as zero-coupon bonds. Strips are an acronym for Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities.

SUPRANATIONALS: International financial institutions that are generally established by agreements among nations, with member nations contributing capital and participating in management. Supranational bonds finance economic and infrastructure development and support environmental protection, poverty reduction, and renewable energy around the globe.

TRUSTEE: An individual or organization, which holds or manages and invests assets for the benefit of another. The trustee is legally obliged to make all trust-related decisions with the trustee's interests in mind, and may be liable for damages in the event of not doing so.

U.S. AGENCY OBLIGATIONS: Federal agency or United States government-sponsored enterprise obligations (GSEs), participations, or other instruments. The obligations are issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by federal agencies or United States government-sponsored enterprises. Issuers include: Fannie Mae, Farmer Mac, Federal Farm Credit Banks, Freddie Mac, Federal Home Loan Banks, Financing Corporation, Tennessee Valley Authority, Resolution Trust Funding Corporation, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and PEFCO.

U.S. TREASURY OBLIGATIONS (TREASURIES): Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Treasuries are considered to have no credit risk and are the benchmark for interest rates on all other securities in the U.S. and overseas. The Treasury issues both discounted securities and fixed coupon notes and bonds.

Treasury Bills: All securities issued with initial maturities of one year or less are issued as discounted instruments, and are called Treasury Bills (T-bills). The Treasury currently issues 3-month and 6-month T-bills at regular weekly auctions. It also issues "cash management" bills as needed to smooth cash flows.

Treasury Notes: All securities issued with initial maturities of 2- to 10-years are called Treasury Notes (T-notes), and pay interest semi-annually.

Treasury Bonds: All securities issued with initial maturities greater than 10-years are called Treasury Bonds (T-bonds). Like Treasury Notes, they pay interest semi-annually.

WAL: Weighted Average Life: The average life of all the securities that comprise a portfolio, typically expressed in days or years.

YIELD: The rate of annual income return on an investment, expressed as a percentage. Yield does not include capital gains.

Income Yield is obtained by dividing the current dollar income by the current market price for the security.

Net Yield or **Yield to Maturity** is the current income yield minus any premium above par or plus any discount from par in purchase price, with the adjustment spread over the period from the date of purchase to the date of maturity of the bond.

ZERO-COUPON BOND: A bond on which interest is not payable until maturity (or earlier redemption), but compounds periodically to accumulate to a stated maturity amount. Zero-coupon bonds are typically issued at a discount and repaid at par upon maturity.