



# **MERCED COUNTY TREASURY**



## **INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT 2021**

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# PREFACE

Each issue addressed in this policy is considered to be of timely and significant importance to the administration of the investment portfolio. While some portions of this policy are a restatement of State law, these restatements are integral to the purpose and flow of this policy.

The following statements are intended to insure the achievement of the purpose, goals, and objectives of the investment strategy in an orderly, accurate manner. However, there is no guarantee that problems, errors or losses will not arise in the course of administering the investment of funds.

Unforeseen factors may effect the achievement of the goals and objectives of the portfolio. A list of factors include, but are not limited to, the following: national or international events or crises, deviation of actual cash flow from forecasted cash flow, unexpected demands on cash flow, policies made with regard to investment in local depositories, and errors in data or advice used to make decisions, as well as any other unforeseen aberration or event that may impact local, national or international financial markets, economies or politics which in turn has a decided effect upon the portfolio.

Keeping in mind the obstacles and deterrents in pursuing portfolio goals and objectives, this policy is designed to achieve a reasonable rate of return over an economic cycle, consistent with limited risk and prudent investment practices.

## **SCOPE**

The following investment policy pertains to the pooled operating funds of Merced County and depository agencies. Depository agencies consist of school districts, Merced College, special districts and other local agencies. The County retirement system is an independent CA 1937 Act system and the Treasurer is a trustee on the board. The independent retirement system only deposits short-term liquidity monies in the treasury for retiree payroll. This policy is concerned with the deposit, safekeeping and investment of all funds under the control of the Treasurer, as well as all related transactions and investment activities.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the investment policy is to facilitate accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the Treasurer with regard to the investment of idle funds, to provide a framework within which to carry out the business of administering and investing the idle funds of the Treasury, to improve communications at all levels between those interested in the process of investing and administering the idle funds of the Treasury, and to ensure compliance with legal requirements and policies adopted by the Oversight Committee and Board of Supervisors.

## **LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

All investing and investment decisions shall be made with full compliance to California Government Code § 27000 et seq. and 53600 et seq., as well as any forthcoming amendments or additions to the California Government Code in relation to the investment of local agency idle funds. In addition, the Treasurer may provide further restrictions and guidelines for the investment of idle funds through this Statement of Investment Policy and the Investment Guidelines and Procedures Manual.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **PRIMARY GOALS**

The Treasurer's primary goals for the investment of idle funds (the portfolio) are in order of priority:

#### **1. Safety**

Safety of Principal shall mean the safeguarding of capital through the selection of investments and investing procedures to best protect against loss arising from default, fraud or error. To achieve preservation of principal the portfolio structure will be diversified to mitigate credit risk and market risk.

**Credit Risk:** The inherit risk of an issuer(s) ability and willingness to repay interest and principal, which shall be mitigated by diversifying the fund so that the failure of any one issuer would not unduly harm the Fund's cash flow.

**Market Risk:** The inherit risk of market value fluctuations due to changes in the general level of interest rates. Because longer maturity fixed-income securities have greater market risk than shorter maturity securities, market risk will be mitigated by establishing a limit for the weighted average maturity. It is recognized in an active portfolio occasional losses on individual securities are inevitable and must be considered within the context of the overall investment return.

2. **Liquidity**

Liquidity Maintenance shall mean to always have the ability to convert sufficient securities in the portfolio to cash, with little or no loss in value, to cover cash flow needs of the county and its investing agencies, to meet contingency needs.

3. **Yield**

Yield refers to earning a reasonable rate of return and shall take into consideration current market conditions, the present phase of the market cycle, both present and future cash flow needs, and the other primary goals of Safety and Liquidity Maintenance.

**PRUDENCE**

The administration of idle funds of the Merced County Treasurer, as a fiduciary trustee, shall be performed in accordance with the prudent investor standard as stated in California Government Code § 27000.3 and 53600.3:

"When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling and managing public funds, the County Treasurer shall act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiarity with those matters would use in the conduct of funds of a like character and with like aims, to safeguard the principal and maintain the liquidity need of the county and other depositors."

**MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC TRUST**

As the Treasurer has been entrusted with the safekeeping of Public Monies received from Public Sources, the Treasurer in managing Investment Portfolios shall exercise a high degree of professionalism to insure and sustain public confidence, remembering that both the investment instruments and the methods of transacting investment business are subject to public review and scrutiny.

**ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Treasurer and all investment personnel shall refrain from personal business activity which could create a conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to execute impartial investment decisions. The Treasurer and all investment personnel shall disclose to the Treasury Oversight Committee any material financial interests in financial institutions which conduct business with the County of Merced and shall disclose

any material financial investment positions which could be related in a conflicting manner to the performance of the County of Merced investment portfolio.

## **POLICY SUMMATION OF BASIC STRATEGY**

The basic investment strategy will be to safeguard the principal of all investments, maintain sufficient liquidity to meet the regular cashflow needs of the Treasury while reserving contingent liquidity to meet unanticipated cashflow demands, and utilize various investment approaches to take advantage of current market yield opportunities. A maximum rate of return will be sought in a manner consistent with the safeguarding of principal and meeting liquidity needs.

# **AUTHORITY**

## **DELEGATION**

Investment authority is delegated to the Treasurer by the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with California Government Code § 53607, by Merced County Ordinance No.1720, as codified at Chapter 5.40.

Pursuant to California Government Code § 27000.1, subject to § 53607, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, delegate to the County Treasurer the authority to invest or reinvest the funds of the County and the funds of the other depositors in the County Treasury, pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Government Code § 53600) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code. The County Treasurer shall assume full responsibility for those transactions until the Board of Supervisors either revokes its delegation of authority, by ordinance, or decides not to renew the annual delegation.

Annual approval of this Investment Policy by the Board of Supervisors constitutes renewal of the annual delegation of investment authority to the Treasurer, effective January 1st of each year.

## **RETENTION**

The Treasurer shall retain the authority to add to, delete or amend the Investment Policies and the Investment Guidelines as is necessary to facilitate accurate and efficient transactions pertaining to the investment of idle funds, for the best interest of the County.

# **TREASURY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the addition of Article 6, to Chapter 5 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the California Government Code, the County Treasurer shall create a County Treasury Oversight Committee to promote the public interest by involving depositors in the management of their funds and by enhancing the security and investment return of their funds through the establishment of criteria for the withdrawal of funds. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to allow the County Treasury Oversight Committee to direct individual investment decisions, select individual investment advisors, brokers or dealers, or impinge on the day-to-day operations of the County Treasury. The duties of the County Treasury Oversight Committee will be delineated in the Investment Guidelines. In compliance with California Government Code § 27131 and to maintain equity of all depositors, the membership of the County Treasury Oversight Committee shall consist of the following:



## **MEMBERS**

The members of the Treasury Oversight Committee (TOC) shall consist of:

- The County Auditor – or alternate
- A Board of Supervisors - designee or alternate
- The Superintendent of Schools - or alternate
- A College District - designee or alternate
- A Special District - designee or alternate
- Two Members of the Public with expertise, or academic background, in public finance.

Government Code § 27133 (d) requires limits to be set on the receipt of honoraria, gifts, and gratuities from advisors, brokers, dealers, bankers, or other persons with whom the County Treasury conducts business by any member of the County Treasury Oversight Committee. These limits may be in addition to the limits set by a committee member's own agency, by state law, or by the Fair Political Practices Commission. TOC Members are prohibited from raising money for the County Treasurer or a Board of Supervisor (with the exception of raising money for their own position) while serving as a member on the committee.

## **DUTIES OF THE TREASURY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (TOC)**

The Treasury Oversight Committee (TOC) is required annually to review and monitor the investment policy prepared by the County Treasurer, pursuant to Government Code § 27133, and to cause an annual compliance audit, pursuant to Government Code § 27134.

Established here as policy, the TOC will review and accept the Statement of Investment Policy prepared by the Treasurer in January of each year. Any revisions to the Statement of Investment Policy will also be reviewed and accepted by the TOC prior to submitting any such revisions to the Board of Supervisors for review and acceptance.

The Treasurer will annually submit the Statement of Investment Policy to the Board of Supervisors to be reviewed and accepted at a public meeting as required by Government Code § 53646. This section also requires that any change in the policy be reviewed and accepted by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting. As a matter of policy, the Statement of Investment Policy will be accepted by the TOC prior to being submitted to the Board of Supervisors in January of each year.

## **ANNUAL AUDIT**

As of the end of each fiscal year, the TOC shall cause an annual audit to be conducted to determine compliance with the Statement of Investment Policy and an audit of the interest apportionment. Additionally, the audit may address questions of portfolio structure and risk. The audit findings will be an agenda item at the TOC meeting following the release of the audit. The cost of the audit will be charged against the Treasurer's budget and will be included in the investment expenses which are deducted from earnings prior to interest

apportionment. A copy of the annual audit will be distributed pursuant to Government Code § 53686.

## **MEETINGS**

The TOC meets on a quarterly basis. These meetings are held within 30 days after the end of each quarter. Meeting dates and times are established at the beginning of each calendar year.

# **ADMINISTRATION**

## **SAFEKEEPING**

Investments are held in a third-party safekeeping custodial account designated by the Treasurer to provide the public with the highest degree of protection with regard to investments held in the portfolio. The delivery-versus-payment (DVP) purchase procedure will be used. Third-party safekeeping refers to holding securities in a trust account by an entity other than the party through whom the investment was purchased. The DVP refers to the practice of using an escrow procedure to process a transaction through the third-party safekeeper. This practice ensures that the transaction settles after the transaction terms and conditions of the parties involved have been met.

## **COLLATERALIZATION**

Repurchase agreements are required to be collateralized by securities or cash authorized under California Government Code § 53601.7(e). In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security the collateralization level will be a minimum of 102% of market value of the principal and accrued interest and shall be marked-to-market no less frequently than weekly. A Master Repurchase Agreement is required for the authorized bank and broker/dealer accounts for all daily cash surplus (see Investment Terminology).

## **PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK**

The investment portfolio is constructed with the objective of obtaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, matching the investment risk controls and cash flow requirements, thus preserving capital, meeting liquidity, and providing yield. The Treasurer's investment strategy is to manage the portfolio with less risk than a benchmark comparable index and to use economies of scale to invest and administer the program at a reasonable cost. As a result the portfolio is benchmarked against both the BofA Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year US Treasury Index and the California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

## **INTERNAL CONTROLS & PROCEDURES**

The Treasurer has established a system of written internal controls, which is reviewed annually with the County's independent (external) auditor. The controls are designed to prevent loss of public funds due to fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated market changes, or imprudent actions of employees of the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer shall evaluate any audit reports in a timely manner with the Treasury Oversight Committee. The quarterly audit reports of the Treasury shall be provided as required by Government Code § 26920 through 26922. Daily compliance of the investment portfolio shall be performed by the Treasurer's Compliance Division. Compliance will be determined on a fair market value basis. Cash held at the bank will not be included in the pool balance. All agreements, statements, and trade packets will be subject to review annually by auditors in conjunction with their audit.

The Treasurer has procedures for the investment process that are consistent with this policy and are statutorily compliant. Procedures include safekeeping, master repurchase

agreements, wire transfer agreements, collateral and depository agreements, banking service contracts and other investment and banking related activities. Such procedures include explicit delegation of authority to personnel responsible for investment transactions.

The Treasurer shall designate a staff person as a liaison/deputy in the event circumstances require timely action and the County Treasurer is not present. No investment personnel may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under terms of this policy and the procedures established by the County Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of Treasury personnel.

### **COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

All transactions will be made through the use of competitive bids whenever possible. At least two (2) competitive bids will be solicited for each transaction. If the solicitation of two bids is not feasible or practical, the reason will be stated in the transaction documentation. Exceptions to the use of competitive bids may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Market circumstances where time constraints would make the bid process impractical.
2. Investments possessing distinctive characteristics.
3. Overnight deposits where time constraints may not accommodate the bid process.
4. Transactions in which investments are actively traded and priced by market information services such as Telerate and Bloomberg, where current market price can be readily determined.

### **REPORTING**

California Government Code § 53646 require the following regarding reporting:

The Treasurer shall annually render a Statement of Investment Policy to the Oversight Committee and to the Board of Supervisors. The Treasurer shall render quarterly an Investment Report to the County Executive Officer, the County Auditor, Board of Supervisors and Oversight Committee within 30 days following the end of the quarter covered by the report.

As required by Government Code § 53646, the quarterly report will include:

1. A ledger of daily transactions for the quarter;
2. A list of holdings as of the last day of the quarter which notes:
  - a. Type of Investment
  - b. Issuer
  - c. Date of Maturity
  - d. Par Amount
  - e. Book Value
  - f. Market Value at Quarter-end (and Source of Value);

3. A statement of compliance with the Statement of Investment Policy or an explanation of any variance;
4. A statement of the pool's ability to meet the expenditure requirements for the next six months or an explanation of why the pool cannot meet the expenditure requirements.

A monthly transaction report will be made available to the legislative body per Government Code § 53607.

As deemed appropriate, the Treasurer or the TOC may issue additional statistical or narrative reports.

### **MARKED-TO-MARKET**

Marked-to-Market is the requirement of the AICPA's pronouncement GASB 31 which dictates that portfolios disclose the Fair Market Value of investments on a given date. Fair Market Value can be determined by an independent agency. The cost of an independent agency is significant and we have determined that the portfolio valuation will be marked-to-market using our custodian's fair market valuation rather than incurring an additional vendor cost. Our Custodian utilizes several market pricing services, including Merrill Lynch, Bloomberg, and others.

### **INTEREST APPORTIONMENT**

Historically, Interest Apportionment was calculated using the cash basis method of accounting. Effective July 1, 1999, the Interest Apportionment changed from the cash basis to the modified accrual basis method of accounting. All interest earnings, amortization earnings, and coupon payments are deposited into Trust Fund # 2070 Treasurer's Interest. A modified journal entry is processed to recognize the accrued interest and amortization for the quarter. Departmental treasury costs are recovered quarterly based on actual treasury expenditures. After all expenditures are netted against earnings, the net revenues are distributed to the Pool Participants through the following Interest Apportionment process.

At end of month, the Auditor-Controller's department requests OneSolution report Average Daily Cash Balances and OneSolution report Interest Apportionment Control Report.

The OneSolution Average Daily Cash Balances shows each fund's cumulative balance, number of days the fund had a balance, and average balance for each fund. The cumulative balance is computed by adding the daily balances of the fund. The average balance is the cumulative balance divided by the number of days the fund had a balance.

The OneSolution Interest Apportionment Control Report shows the Apportionment Total which was posted to each fund. The Apportionment Total is calculated as follows:

- (1) First, the system determines the fund's percent of the pool by using the following

figures calculated on the OneSolution report Average Daily Cash Balance:  
Cumulative balance for the fund divided by the total cumulative balance of all funds.

(2) Next, the fund's percent of the pool is multiplied times the Net Revenues. The result is the fund's Interest Apportionment for the quarter.

### **VOLUNTARY DEPOSITORS**

A voluntary depositor is any local agency who has applied for and been granted participation in the county investment pool. The local agency's treasurer or other official responsible for their funds has determined that they have excess funds which are not required for immediate use. Once the excess funds are identified, the local agency's legislative or governing body must adopt a resolution that authorizes the investment of the funds pursuant to Government Code § 53684, and with the consent of the County Treasurer, deposit the excess funds in the county treasury for the purpose of investment by the County Treasurer pursuant to Government Code § 53601 or 53635. The resolution shall specify that the local agency acknowledges and is willing to be bound by the withdrawal provisions of Government Code § 27136, and that administrative charges will be deducted by the Treasurer as permitted by Government Code § 53684(b) and 27013. The Treasurer shall approve or disapprove such agency's request in writing.

### **WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS**

Withdrawals for claims and accounts payable are to be made by auditor's warrant. Various forms of electronic transfer can be used to make withdrawals for the purpose of payroll, bond and note related transactions and to transfer investment funds.

The Treasurer's Investment Policy establishes guidelines for unusual or unexpected withdrawal of cash and provides for adequate liquidity to cover day-to-day operations of pool depositors. On occasion, depositors have need of withdrawals that exceed those normally associated with operations. It is essential that all agencies inform the Treasurer of anticipated withdrawals in excess of \$2,000,000 as far in advance as possible. To accommodate such withdrawals, the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office has established written notification requirements as set forth below to allow for adjustments to the liquidity position of the Portfolio.

The notification required is as follows:

Withdrawals of up to \$2,000,000 - 24 hours

Withdrawals of \$2,000,001 and more - 72 hours

*Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in payment being delayed by the Treasurer-Tax Collector's office.*

Pursuant to CA Government Code § 27136, prior written notice is required for withdrawals from the county treasury pool for the purpose of investing or depositing funds outside of the county treasury. The written notice may be submitted via email or fax, with original request to follow. The Treasurer will evaluate each proposal to ensure that the request will not adversely

affect the interest of the other depositors in the Treasury. Should the Treasurer determine that a withdrawal for the purpose of investing or depositing funds (including reinvestment of note proceeds) outside of the county treasury would adversely affect the interest of other depositors in the pool, the Treasurer may utilize either: the provisions of Government Code § 53684 to require 30 days written notice prior to any withdrawals, or honor the withdrawal at the current market value of the portfolio. Approval of the withdrawal does not constitute approval or endorsement of the investment.

## **BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN**

Merced County is located in a severe flood plain as determined by the California Office of Emergency Services. Due to the concern that mission critical functions cannot be performed, the Merced County Treasury has established a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for conducting Treasury business. In the event the primary place of business is inaccessible, please refer to the Merced County COOP Plan.

Located within the Treasury department is one (1) separate and secure workstation used for the sole purpose of accessing Wells Fargo CEO web portal for wire transfers. All other information is located on the County server.

In the event we are unable to conduct normal business operations, authorized personnel shall activate the Merced County Treasury's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) using three (3) secure laptops at remote locations. These secure laptops are programmed to access the Wells Fargo CEO web portal and a secure cloud portal using Microsoft OneDrive for Business only, to perform the mission critical functions.

Ongoing testing of the Merced County Treasury's COOP is performed to ensure preparedness should an emergency occur.

The Plan provides for continuity of mission critical functions of the Treasury to be initiated within 0-12 hours of an event.

Mission critical functions for the Treasury have been identified as follows:

1. Project daily cash flow and ensure sufficient liquidity to meet the needs of the pool participants.
2. Reconcile daily cash with bank.
3. Reconcile daily cash to OneSolution General Ledger.
4. Reconcile daily checkbook.
5. Prepare bank deposit.
6. Evaluate Positive Pay and make decision to honor or reject.
7. Initiate wires and transfer funds as required.
8. Review and approve initiated funds wires.
9. Monitor investment portfolio and make changes as required.

In all cases, the safety of Treasury personnel is paramount. In no event will the alternate locations or processes be employed if doing so will endanger any person at any time.

# AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS & DIVERSIFICATION

Pursuant to CA Government Code § 27000 - Prudence definition,  
 § 53600 - Local agency definition, § 53601 - Authorized investments  
 (See Appendix 1 for complete investment listing)

The Treasurer has established the following self-imposed restrictions which are stricter than the statutory requirement to ensure diversification is maintained in the portfolio. The diversification is critical to reduce risks associated with investment concentration, quality and duration. The portfolio's approved Weighted Average Maturity (WAM) is not to exceed 730 days with no more than 10% held in one issuer's name. Cashflow projections, fed fund targets and other opportunities are continuously evaluated to define the strategy for the portfolio.

| <b>Government Code § 53601<br/>INVESTMENT TYPES &amp; RESTRICTIONS*</b>   |                 |  | <b>TREASURER<br/>IMPOSED</b>                     |
|---|-----------------|--|--|
| TYPE  | MAXIMUM<br>TERM | MAXIMUM %  | RESTRICTIONS                                     |
| (a) Local Agency Bonds  | 5 years         | No limit   | 30%  |
| (b) USTN, Bonds, Bills,...  | 5 years         | No limit   | 50%  |
| (c) Reg'd State Wts, TN Bonds   | 5 years         | No limit   | 30%  |
| (e) Local Agency Bonds, Notes,..  | 5 years         | No limit   | 75%  |
| (f) Agency Obligations...Federal Agency/<br>GSE   | 5 years         | No limit   | 75%  |
| (g) Bankers Acceptances   | 180 days        | 40%; limited to 30%<br>in one specific bank      | 25%; limited to 10% in<br>one specific bank      |
| (h) Commercial Paper  | 270 days        | 40%; limited to 10%<br>in one single corp.issuer | 30%; limited to 10% in<br>one single corp.issuer |
| (i) Certificates of Deposits  | 5 years         | 30%  | 30%  |
| (j) Repurchase Agreements *   | 1 years         | 20%  | 20%  |
| (k) Corp. Notes (MTNs) *  | 5 years         | 30%  | 30%  |
| (q) Supranationals –Int'l Bk for Recons &<br>Devel (IBRD), Int'l Fin Corp (IFC) or Inter-<br>American Dev Bk (IADB) | 5 years         | 30%  | 30%  |
| LAIF **   | not specified   | 75MM   | 75MM or 25%                                      |
| Managed Pool Accounts   | not specified   | No limit   | 25%  |

*Due to fluctuations in the portfolio's balance, compliance testing is applicable on the day of purchase.*

\* THE COUNTY TREASURER WILL NOT PURCHASE reverse repurchase agreements, strips or zero interest accrual investments, with the exception of any exposure in money markets purchased for the portfolio.

\*\* The County has authority over two LAIF accounts; a general pool account and a Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) account.



## **AUTHORIZED BROKERS/DEALERS & DEPOSITORIES**

Brokers, Dealers and Banks approved for transacting business with the Merced County Treasurer's office must complete a detailed questionnaire and provide audited financial statement, references and requested financial institution information. A review and approval is required before any investment services can be considered. On-going evaluations are completed on all approved broker/dealer/depositories relationships on a regular basis as deemed necessary. A current list is maintained in the Treasury and available upon request.

1. Institutions designated as primary dealers by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, or
2. Banks identified as one of the top 100 banks in the world, or
3. Banks, brokers or dealers whose transactions are guaranteed by one of the top 100 banks in the world, or
4. Banks, brokers or dealers whose parent company is one of the top 100 banks in the world.
6. Prohibited from making Political Contributions to County officials.
6. All authorized brokers of the County certify that they have reviewed the California Government Code § 53600 et seq. and the County's Investment Policy and that all securities offered to the Merced County Treasury will comply with the provisions of the Code and Investment Policy.
7. The Treasurer has posted the "Independent Registered Municipal Advisor Exemption Notice" on the webpage at [www.mercedtaxcollector.org](http://www.mercedtaxcollector.org) under the Treasury tab.

## **REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PROSPECTIVE INVESTMENTS**

Whenever possible, investment vehicles shall be selected according to specific needs and portfolio guidelines, as well as economic and market conditions. Due to the complexity of the various investment instruments available and uncertainty of market conditions, the Treasurer may seek professional advice in making investment decisions in order to optimize investment selections.

The portfolio is managed in accordance with Statement No. 40 of the Government Accounting Standards Board for Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure. The investments shall be diversified by limiting investments to avoid concentration in specific issuer or business sector; limiting investment in securities that have higher credit or liquidity risks; investing in varying maturities; and continuously investing in overnight repurchase agreements, money markets, and the California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

## **PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The County Treasurer's portfolio and related transactions are a matter of Public Record. Any member of the public may receive a copy of the portfolio or Investment Policy by requesting a copy at the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer may charge a fee for the copy, as prescribed in our fee ordinance No.1968.

# MERCED COUNTY TREASURER

## LISTING OF INVESTMENT TERMINOLOGY

**ACCRUED INTEREST:** The amount of interest that is earned, but unpaid since the last interest payment date.

**AGENCY:** Securities issued by government-sponsored corporations such as Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB) or Federal Land Banks (FLB.) Agency securities are exempt from Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration requirements.

**AMERICAN CALL:** Bonds may be called at any time following the first call or lockout period.

**AMORTIZATION:** Accounting procedure that gradually reduces the cost value of a limited life or intangible asset through periodic charges to income. It is a common practice to amortize any premium over par value paid in the purchase of bond investments or any discount under par value recognized in the purchase of bond investments.

**ASKED PRICE:** The price at which securities are offered from a seller.

**ASSET BACKED SECURITIES (ABS):** Securities collateralized with consumer receivables, such as automobile loans, credit card receivables, or home equity loans, which are owned by the issuer, but placed with a trustee for the benefit of the investor.

**BANKER'S ACCEPTANCE (BA):** Time draft drawn on and accepted by a bank [for up to 6 months], the customary means of effecting payment for merchandise sold in import-export transactions and a source of financing used extensively in international trade. These are time drafts in which a bank "accepts" as its financial responsibility to pay the principal at maturity even if the importer does not. In essence, these are bank obligations collateralized by goods being shipped between an exporter and an importer. With the credit strength of a bank behind it, the banker's acceptance usually qualifies as a MONEY MARKET instrument. The liability assumed by the bank is called its acceptance liability.

**BANKER NOTE (BN):** Similar to Commercial Paper (debt instrument issued by the Bank's holding company), but the Bank Note is issued directly by the Bank and not the holding company. BNs represent the highest senior debt issued by the bank, second only to Certificate of Deposit holders; highly negotiable and liquid; an allowable and accepted institutional investment form.

**BASIS POINT:** When a yield is expressed as 7.32%, the digits to the right of the decimal point are known as basis points. One basis point equals 1/100 of one percent. Example: 0.25% is twenty-five basis points. Basis points are used more often to describe changes in yields on bonds, notes and other fixed-income securities.

**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.

**BERMUDA CALL:** Bonds may only be called on a pre-determined schedule of call dates. Monthly, Quarterly, Annually etc.

**BID PRICE:** The price at which a buyer offers to buy a security.

**BOND:** A long-term debt instrument in which the investor lends money to the bond issuer, who agrees to pay a stated rate of interest over a specified period of time. Very simply, a bond is a promissory note which is traded in the financial markets. The investor's position is that of lender.

**BOND RATING:** A rating selected from a scale which indicates the relative likelihood of default.

**BOOK ENTRY:** The system, maintained by the Federal Reserve, by which most money market securities are "delivered" to an investor's custodian bank. The Federal Reserve maintains a computerized record of the ownership of these securities, and records any changes in ownership corresponding to payments made over the Federal Reserve wire (delivery versus payment). These securities do not receive physical certificates.

**BOOK VALUE:** The original cost of the investment, plus accrued interest and amortization of any premium or discount.

**BROKER:** A broker brings buyers and sellers together and is compensated for his/her service.

**CALL OPTION:** A contract which allows the holder to buy a specified quantity of an asset at a specified price on or within a specified date.

**CALLABLE BONDS:** Bonds which may be redeemed by the issuing company prior to the maturity date.

**CANARY CALL:** Bonds may be called during an open call period, if not called on the last date, then they become non callable to maturity.

**CAPITAL GAIN/LOSS:** The profit or loss realized from the sale of a capital asset.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD):** A time deposit with a specific maturity evidenced by a certificate. Large-denomination CD's are typically negotiable.

**COLLATERAL:** Securities or cash pledged by a borrower to secure repayment of a loan or repurchase agreement or securities pledged by a financial institution to secure deposits of public moneys. Repurchase agreements are required and must be executed with approved broker-dealers, collateralized with either: (1) U.S. Treasuries or Agencies with a market value of 102% for collateral marked to market daily; or (2) money market instruments which are on

the approved list of the County and which meet the qualifications of the Policy with a market value of 102%.

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR):** The official annual report for the County. It includes five combined statements for each individual fund necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, extensive introductory material, and a detailed.

**COMMERCIAL PAPER (CP):** Short-term obligations with maturities ranging from 2 to 270 days issued by banks, corporations, and other borrowers to investors with temporarily idle cash. Such instruments are unsecured and usually discounted, although some are interest-bearing. Investors (actually lenders, since commercial paper is a form of debt) like the flexibility and safety of an instrument that is issued only by top-rated concerns and is nearly always backed by bank lines of credit. Both Moody and Standard & Poor assign ratings to commercial paper.

**COUPON OR COUPON RATE:** The rate at which a bond pays interest. Stated as a percentage of par and computed out to a dollar amount. Example: A note with a coupon of 6% pays \$30,000 interest per million dollars of par every six months, or \$60,000 annually.

**CURRENT YIELD:** The annual income from an investment divided by the current market value. Since the mathematical calculation relies on the current market value rather than the investor's cost, current yield is unrelated to the actual return the investor will earn if the security is held to maturity.

**CUSTODIAN:** A bank or other financial institution that keeps custody of stock certificates and other assets.

**DEALER:** A dealer, as opposed to a broker, acts as a principal in all transactions, buying and selling for his own account.

**DEBENTURE:** A bond secured only by the general credit of the issuer.

**DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT (DVP):** Delivery of securities with a simultaneous exchange of money for the securities.

**DERIVATIVE:** A security whose interest rate of principal amount may vary and is determined by a market index or a combination of market indexes.

**DISCOUNT:** The difference between the par value of a bond and the cost of the bond, when the cost is below par. Some short-term securities, such as Treasury bills and bankers acceptances, are known as discount securities. They sell at a discount from par, and return the par value to the investor at maturity without additional interest. Other securities, which have fixed coupons, trade at a discount when the coupon rate is lower than the current market rate for securities of that maturity and/or quality.

**DISCOUNT SECURITIES:** Non-interest bearing money market instruments that are issued at

a discount and redeemed at maturity for the full face value of the investment.

**DIVERSIFICATION:** An investment strategy designed to spread the risk in a portfolio by dividing investments among different sectors, industries and companies.

**DOLLAR-WEIGHTED AVERAGE MATURITY:** A calculation that expresses the “average maturity” of an investment portfolio using each investment’s maturity weighted by size of that investment.

**EUROPEAN CALL:** Bonds may only be called on one pre-determined date.

**FEDERAL CREDIT AGENCIES:** Agencies of the Federal government set up to supply credit to various classes of institutions and individuals.

**FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC):** A federal agency that insures bank deposits, currently up to \$100,000 per deposit.

**FED FUNDS:** The settlement is to be consummated with funds on deposit at the Federal Reserve Bank; and thus available the same day. All government securities are traded on Fed Funds; also referred to as “same day funds”.

**FEDERAL FUNDS RATE:** Interest rate at which banks lend federal funds to each other.

**FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS (FHLB):** Government sponsored wholesale banks that lend funds and provide correspondent banking services to member commercial banks, thrift institutions, credit unions and insurance companies.

**FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (FNMA):** FNMA, like GNMA was chartered under the Federal National Mortgage Association Act in 1938. FNMA is a federal corporation working under auspices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is the largest single provider of residential mortgage funds in the United States. Fannie Mae, as the corporation is called, is a private stockholder owned corporation.

**FEDERAL OPEN MARKET COMMITTEE (FOMC):** This committee sets Federal Reserve guidelines regarding purchases and sales of government securities in the open market as a means of influencing the volume of bank credit and money.

**FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM:** A U.S. centralized banking system which has supervisory powers over the 12 Federal Reserve banks and about 6,000 member banks.

**FIXED-INCOME SECURITIES:** Securities which return a fixed income over a specified period.

**FLOATING RATE NOTE:** A debt security whose interest rate is reset periodically (monthly, quarterly, annually) and is based on a market index (e.g. Treasury bills, LIBOR, ect.).

**GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (GNMA or Ginnie Mae):** Securities influencing the volume of bank credit guaranteed by GNMA and issued by

mortgage bankers, commercial banks, saving and loan associations, and other institutions. Security holder is protected by full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Ginnie Mae securities are backed by the FHA, VA or FmHA mortgages. The term “pass-throughs” is often used to describe Ginnie Maes.

**GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES (GSE):** Government sponsored obligations, participation, or other instruments, including those issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by federal agencies or United States government-sponsored enterprises.

**INTEREST:** The amount earned while owning a debt security, generally calculated as a percentage of the principal amount.

**LIQUIDITY:** The speed and ease with which an investment can be converted to cash.

**LOCAL AGENCY:** County, city, city and county, including a charter city or county, school district, community college district, public district, county board of education, county superintendent of schools, or any public or municipal corporation.

**MARKET:** Refers to the place, physical or electronic, that investment transactions take place. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is a recognized exchange (stock market) with a physical location in New York. The Chicago Board of Trade (CBT) is a recognized exchange (commodities market) with a physical location in Chicago. The “over-the-counter” market is an electronic and phone system used to trade investments which are not traded on recognized exchanges. Bond and money market investments (fixed income securities) are traded on the “over-the-counter” market.

**MARKET RISK:** The risk that changes in overall market conditions or interest rate may adversely affect current market prices.

**MARK-TO-MARKET:** The market valuation for every security in a portfolio used in determining Net Asset Value (NAV).

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

**MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT:** A required written contract covering all future transactions between the parties to repurchase agreements that establish each party’s rights in the transactions. A master agreement will often specify, among other things, the right of the buyer-lender to liquidate the underlying securities in the event of default by the seller borrower (see Collateral).

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

**MEDIUM TERM NOTE (MTN):** Debt securities issued by a corporation or depository institution with a maturity ranging from nine months to five years. The term “medium-term

notes” refers to the time it takes for an obligation to mature, and includes other corporate debt securities originally issued for maturities longer than five years, but which have now fallen within the five year maturity range. MTNs issued by banks are also called “bank notes.”

**MONEY MARKET:** The market in which short term debt instruments (Treasury bills, discount notes, commercial paper, bankers’ acceptances, ect.) are issued and traded.

**MONEY MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS:** An investment company that pools money from investors and invests in a variety of short-term money market instruments. The Net Asset Value (NAV) of these funds should remain at \$1.00; however, it is not guaranteed.

**MUNICIPAL DEBT:** Issued by public entities to meet capital needs.

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RATING SERVICES:** Firms that review the creditworthiness of the issuers of debt securities, and express their opinion in the form of letter ratings (e.g. AAA, AA, A, BBB, etc.) The primary rating agencies include Standard & Poor’s Corporation; Moody’s Investor Services, Inc.; Fitch Investors Service; Duff & Phelps Investment Service; Thompson Bank Watch and International Bank Credit Analyst.

**NEGOTIABLE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD):** Large-dollar-amount, short-term certificate of deposit. Such certificates are issued by large banks and bought mainly by corporations and institutional investors. They are payable either to the bearer or to the order of the depositor, and, being NEGOTIABLE, they enjoy an active SECONDARY MARKET, where they trade in round lots of \$5 million.

**NET ASSET VALUE (NAV):** A per-share valuation of a mutual fund based on total assets minus total liabilities.

**NON CALLABLE:** Bond that is exempt from any kind of redemption for a stated time period. Also known as a Bullet Bond.

**OFFER PRICE:** The price asked by a seller of securities.

**OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS:** Purchases and sales of government and certain other securities in the open market by the New York Federal Reserve Bank as directed by the FOMC in order to influence the volume of money and credit in the economy.

**PAR VALUE:** The amount of principal which must be paid at maturity; also referred to as the face amount of a bond, normally quoted in \$1,000 increments per bond.

**PHYSICAL DELIVERY:** The delivery of an investment to a custodian bank in the form of a certificate and/or supporting documents evidencing the investment (as opposed to “book entry” delivery).

**PLAIN VANILLA:** Non-derivative investments which are not leveraged and whose interest rates do not change.



**PORTFOLIO:** A group of securities held by an investor.

**PREMIUM:** The difference between the par value of a bond and the market value of the bond, when the market value is above par.

**PRICE:** The percentage of par at which a security is bought and sold. Corporate debt is traded in denominations of 100th of a percent. Government debt is traded in denominations of 32nds of a percent.

**PRICE RISK:** The risk that the price of a bond sold prior to maturity will be less than the price at which the bond was originally purchased.

**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.

**PRIME RATE:** The interest rate banks charge the biggest borrowers with the best credit ratings.

**PRINCIPAL:** The face value or par value of an investment.

**PRUDENT PERSON RULE:** An investment standard. In some states the law requires that a fiduciary, such as a trustee, may invest money only in a list of securities selected by the custody state. In other states the trustee may invest in a security if it is one which would be bought by a prudent person of discretion and intelligence who is seeking a reasonable income and preservation of capital.

**PSA MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT:** A required written contract covering all future transactions between the authorized bank and the Treasurer to repurchase agreements that establish each party's rights in the transactions (see Collateral & Repurchase Agreement).

**QUALIFIED PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES:** A financial institution which does not claim exemption from the payment of any sales or compensating use or ad valorem taxes under the laws of this state, which has segregated for the benefit of the commission eligible collateral having a value of not less than its maximum liability and which has been approved by the Public Deposit Protection Commission to hold public deposits.

**RATE OF RETURN:** The yield obtainable on a security based on its purchase price or its current market price. This may be the amortized yield to maturity on a bond the current income return.

**RECEIVABLE-BACKED SECURITIES:** Securities collateralized with consumer receivables, such as automobile loans, credit card receivables, or home equity loans, which are owned by the issuer, but placed with a trustee for the benefit of the investor.

**RECEIVABLE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATE:** A debt obligation that is backed by a portfolio of receivables, normally issued by a bank of financial institution. The interest and

principal of the obligation is paid out of the cash flow generated by the receivables portfolio.

**REGISTERED STATE WARRANT:** A short-term obligation of a state governmental body issued in anticipation of revenue.

**REINVESTMENT RISK:** The risk that coupon payments (or other payments received) cannot be reinvested at the same rate as the initial investment.

**REPURCHASE AGREEMENT (RP OR REPO):** The purchase of securities, on a temporary basis, with the seller's simultaneous agreement to repurchase the securities at a later date at a specified price that includes interest for the buyer's holding period. In essence, this is a collateralized investment whereby the security "buyer" lends the "seller" money for the period of the agreement.

**REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES OR RANS:** Notes issued for thirteen months or less which are used to finance cashflow in anticipation of future tax revenue. Used by agencies having cashflow gaps between revenues and expenses that requires short-term interim financing. Also see Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs) and Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs).

**RULE G-37 OF THE MUNICIPAL SECURITIES RULEMAKING BOARD:** Federal regulations to sever any connection between the making of political contributions and the awarding of municipal securities business.

**SAFEKEEPING:** The holding of securities in a segregated account by a custody agent or trustee. Transactions are escrowed through these accounts by the custody agent or trustee. Safekeeping services are typically provided by banks and other financial institutions.

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

**SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC):** The federal agency responsible for supervising and regulating the securities industry.

**SETTLEMENT DATE:** The date on which the purchase or sale of securities is executed. For example, in a purchase transaction, the day securities are physically delivered or wired to the buyer in exchange for cash is the settlement date.

**SUPRANATIONALS:** International institutions that provide development financing, advisory services and/or other financial services to their member countries to achieve overall goal of improving living standards through sustainable economic growth. Key features are Triple-A rated, 0% risk weighting with Basle II and III, Financial strength based on diversified, sovereign shareholders, conservative risk management, quality loan portfolio (preferred creditor status), substantial liquidity and consistent profitability strong capitalization.

**STRUCTURED NOTES:** Notes issued by Government Sponsored Enterprises (FHLB,

FNMA, SLMA, ect.) and Corporations that have imbedded options (e.g., call features, step-up coupons) into their debt structure. Their market performance is impacted by the fluctuation of interest rates, the volatility of the imbedded options and shifts in the shape of the yield curve.

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES OR TANS:** Notes issued for thirteen months or less which are used to finance cashflow in anticipation of future tax revenue. Commonly used by California local governments whose primary revenues are property taxes which are collected in December and April. Also see Revenue Anticipation Notes (RANs) and Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs).

**TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES OR TRANs:** Notes issued for thirteen months or less. They are a combination of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs) and Revenue Anticipation Notes (RANs). Also see Revenue Anticipation Notes (RANs) and Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs).

**TRADE DATE:** The date and time corresponding to an investor's commitment to buy or sell a security.

**TREASURIES:** Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury and backed by the FULL FAITH & 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. The income from Treasury securities is exempt from state and local, but not federal taxes.

**TREASURY BILLS:** Non-interest bearing discount securities with maturities under one year issued by the U.S. Treasury to finance the national debt.

**TREASURY NOTES (USTN):** Interest-bearing obligations issued by the U.S. Treasury with maturities ranging from two to ten years from the date of issue.

**TREASURY BONDS:** Interest-bearing obligations issued by the U.S. Treasury with maturities that range from ten to thirty years from date of issue.

**YANKEE BANK:** A foreign bank with operations in the U.S. Bonds issued by these banks are called Yankee bonds.

**YIELD:** The annual rate of return on a debt investment computed as though held to maturity expressed in %.

**YIELD TO MATURITY (YTM):** The rate of return earned on an investment considering all cashflows and timing factors: interest earnings, discounts, and premiums above par.

**ZERO-COUPON BONDS/U.S. TREASURY STRIPS:** A bond which represents ownership of a single coupon or principal payment due on a U.S. Treasury bond. "Zero" or "strips" mature at face value at a specified date in the future and make no payments until that date. They always sell at a discount from face value.

# **AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT – APPENDIX 1**

## **CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV TITLE 5. LOCAL AGENCIES [50001 - 57550]**

*( Title 5 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81. )*

### **DIVISION 2. CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OTHER AGENCIES [53000 - 55821]**

*( Division 2 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81. )*

#### **PART 1. POWERS AND DUTIES COMMON TO CITIES, COUNTIES, AND OTHER AGENCIES [53000 - 54999.7]**

*( Part 1 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81. )*

#### **CHAPTER 4. Financial Affairs [53600 - 53997]**

*( Chapter 4 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81. )*

### **ARTICLE 1. Investment of Surplus [53600 - 53610]**

*( Article 1 added by Stats. 1949, Ch. 81. )*

#### **53601.**

This section shall apply to a local agency that is a city, a district, or other local agency that does not pool money in deposits or investments with other local agencies, other than local agencies that have the same governing body. However, Section 53635 shall apply to all local agencies that pool money in deposits or investments with other local agencies that have separate governing bodies. The legislative body of a local agency having moneys in a sinking fund or moneys in its treasury not required for the immediate needs of the local agency may invest any portion of the moneys that it deems wise or expedient in those investments set forth below. A local agency purchasing or obtaining any securities prescribed in this section, in a negotiable, bearer, registered, or nonregistered format, shall require delivery of the securities to the local agency, including those purchased for the agency by financial advisers, consultants, or managers using the agency's funds, by book entry, physical delivery, or by third-party custodial agreement. The transfer of securities to the counterparty bank's customer book entry account may be used for book entry delivery.

For purposes of this section, "counterparty" means the other party to the transaction. A counterparty bank's trust department or separate safekeeping department may be used for the physical delivery of the security if the security is held in the name of the local agency. Where this section specifies a percentage limitation for a particular category of investment, that percentage is applicable only at the date of purchase. Where this section does not specify a limitation on the term or remaining maturity at the time of the investment, no investment shall be made in any security, other than a security underlying a repurchase or reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement authorized by this section, that at the time of the investment has

a term remaining to maturity in excess of five years, unless the legislative body has granted express authority to make that investment either specifically or as a part of an investment program approved by the legislative body no less than three months prior to the investment:

(a) Bonds issued by the local agency, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the local agency or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the local agency.

(b) United States Treasury notes, bonds, bills, or certificates of indebtedness, or those for which the faith and credit of the United States are pledged for the payment of principal and interest.

(c) Registered state warrants or treasury notes or bonds of this state, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the state.

(d) Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49 states in addition to California, 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 other 49 states, in addition to California.

(e) Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness of a local agency within this state, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the local agency, or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the local agency.

(f) Federal agency or United States government-sponsored enterprise obligations, participations, or other instruments, including those issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by federal agencies or United States government-sponsored enterprises.

(g) Bankers' acceptances otherwise known as bills of exchange or time drafts that are drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank. Purchases of bankers' acceptances shall not exceed 180 days' maturity or 40 percent of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section. However, no more than 30 percent of the agency's moneys may be invested in the bankers' acceptances of any one commercial bank pursuant to this section.

This subdivision does not preclude a municipal utility district from investing moneys in its treasury in a manner authorized by the Municipal Utility District Act (Division 6 (commencing with Section 11501) of the Public Utilities Code).

(h) Commercial paper of "prime" quality of the highest ranking or of the highest letter and number rating as provided for by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO). The entity that issues the commercial paper shall meet all of the following conditions in either paragraph (1) or (2):

(1) The entity meets the following criteria:

(A) Is organized and operating in the United States as a general corporation.

(B) Has total assets in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

(C) Has debt other than commercial paper, if any, that is rated "A" or higher by an NRSRO.

(2) The entity meets the following criteria:

(A) Is organized within the United States as a special purpose corporation, trust, or limited liability company.

(B) Has programwide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, overcollateralization, letters of credit, or a surety bond.

(C) Has commercial paper that is rated "A-1" or higher, or the equivalent, by an NRSRO.

Eligible commercial paper shall have a maximum maturity of 270 days or less. Local agencies, other than counties or a city and county, may invest no more than 25 percent of their moneys in eligible commercial paper. Local agencies, other than counties or a city and county, may purchase no more than 10 percent of the outstanding commercial paper of any single issuer. Counties or a city and county may invest in commercial paper pursuant to the concentration limits in subdivision (a) of Section 53635.

(i) Negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a savings association or a federal association (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), a state or federal credit union, or by a federally licensed or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank. Purchases of negotiable certificates of deposit shall not exceed 30 percent of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, negotiable certificates of deposit do not come within Article 2 (commencing with Section 53630), except that the amount so invested shall be subject to the limitations of Section 53638. The legislative body of a local agency and the treasurer or other official of the local agency having legal custody of the moneys are prohibited from investing local agency funds, or funds in the custody of the local agency, in negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a state or federal credit union if a member of the legislative body of the local agency, or a

person with investment decisionmaking authority in the administrative office manager's office, budget office, auditor-controller's office, or treasurer's office of the local agency also serves on the board of directors, or any committee appointed by the board of directors, or the credit committee or the supervisory committee of the state or federal credit union issuing the negotiable certificates of deposit.

(j) (1) Investments in repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase agreements or securities lending agreements of securities authorized by this section, as long as the agreements are subject to this subdivision, including the delivery requirements specified in this section.

(2) Investments in repurchase agreements may be made, on an investment authorized in this section, when the term of the agreement does not exceed one year. The market value of securities that underlie a repurchase agreement shall be valued at 102 percent or greater of the funds borrowed against those securities and the value shall be adjusted no less than quarterly. Since the market value of the underlying securities is subject to daily market fluctuations, the investments in repurchase agreements shall be in compliance if the value of the underlying securities is brought back up to 102 percent no later than the next business day.

(3) Reverse repurchase agreements or securities lending agreements may be utilized only when all of the following conditions are met:

(A) The security to be sold using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement has been owned and fully paid for by the local agency for a minimum of 30 days prior to sale.

(B) The total of all reverse repurchase agreements and securities lending agreements on investments owned by the local agency does not exceed 20 percent of the base value of the portfolio.

(C) The agreement does not exceed a term of 92 days, unless the agreement includes a written codicil guaranteeing a minimum earning or spread for the entire period between the sale of a security using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement and the final maturity date of the same security.

(D) Funds obtained or funds within the pool of an equivalent amount to that obtained from selling a security to a counterparty using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement shall not be used to purchase another security with a maturity longer than 92 days from the initial settlement date of the reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement, unless the reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement includes a written codicil guaranteeing a minimum earning or spread for the entire period between the sale of

a security using a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement and the final maturity date of the same security.

(4) (A) Investments in reverse repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, or similar investments in which the local agency sells securities prior to purchase with a simultaneous agreement to repurchase the security may be made only upon prior approval of the governing body of the local agency and shall be made only with primary dealers of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or with a nationally or state-chartered bank that has or has had a significant banking relationship with a local agency.

(B) For purposes of this chapter, "significant banking relationship" means any of the following activities of a bank:

(i) Involvement in the creation, sale, purchase, or retirement of a local agency's bonds, warrants, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness.

(ii) Financing of a local agency's activities.

(iii) Acceptance of a local agency's securities or funds as deposits.

(5) (A) "Repurchase agreement" means a purchase of securities by the local agency pursuant to an agreement by which the counterparty seller will repurchase the securities on or before a specified date and for a specified amount and the counterparty will deliver the underlying securities to the local agency by book entry, physical delivery, or by third-party custodial agreement. The transfer of underlying securities to the counterparty bank's customer book-entry account may be used for book-entry delivery.

(B) "Securities," for purposes of repurchase under this subdivision, means securities of the same issuer, description, issue date, and maturity.

(C) "Reverse repurchase agreement" means a sale of securities by the local agency pursuant to an agreement by which the local agency will repurchase the securities on or before a specified date and includes other comparable agreements.

(D) "Securities lending agreement" means an agreement under which a local agency agrees to transfer securities to a borrower who, in turn, agrees to provide collateral to the local agency. During the term of the agreement, both the securities and the collateral are held by a third party. At the conclusion of the agreement, the securities are transferred back to the local agency in return for the collateral.

(E) For purposes of this section, the base value of the local agency's pool portfolio shall be that dollar amount obtained by totaling all cash balances placed in the pool by all pool participants, excluding any amounts obtained through selling securities by



way of reverse repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, or other similar borrowing methods.

(F) For purposes of this section, the spread is the difference between the cost of funds obtained using the reverse repurchase agreement and the earnings obtained on the reinvestment of the funds.

(k) Medium-term notes, defined as all corporate and depository institution debt securities with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, issued by corporations organized and operating within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by the United States or any state and operating within the United States. Notes eligible for investment under this subdivision shall be rated "A" or better by an NRSRO. Purchases of medium-term notes shall not include other instruments authorized by this section and shall not exceed 30 percent of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section.

(l) (1) Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies that invest in the securities and obligations as authorized by subdivisions (a) to (k), inclusive, and subdivisions (m) to (q), inclusive, and that comply with the investment restrictions of this article and Article 2 (commencing with Section 53630). However, notwithstanding these restrictions, a counterparty to a reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement is not required to be a primary dealer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York if the company's board of directors finds that the counterparty presents a minimal risk of default, and the value of the securities underlying a repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement may be 100 percent of the sales price if the securities are marked to market daily.

(2) Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies that are money market funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a-1 et seq.).

(3) If investment is in shares issued pursuant to paragraph (1), the company shall have met either of the following criteria:

(A) Attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two NRSROs.

(B) Retained an investment adviser registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with not less than five years' experience investing in the securities and obligations authorized by subdivisions (a) to (k), inclusive, and subdivisions (m) to (q), inclusive, and with assets under management in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

(4) If investment is in shares issued pursuant to paragraph (2), the company shall have met either of the following criteria:

(A) Attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two NRSROs.

(B) Retained an investment adviser registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with not less than five years' experience managing money market mutual funds with assets under management in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

(5) The purchase price of shares of beneficial interest purchased pursuant to this subdivision shall not include commission that the companies may charge and shall not exceed 20 percent of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section. However, no more than 10 percent of the agency's funds may be invested in shares of beneficial interest of any one mutual fund pursuant to paragraph (1).

(m) Moneys held by a trustee or fiscal agent and pledged to the payment or security of bonds or other indebtedness, or obligations under a lease, installment sale, or other agreement of a local agency, or certificates of participation in those bonds, indebtedness, or lease installment sale, or other agreements, may be invested in accordance with the statutory provisions governing the issuance of those bonds, indebtedness, or lease installment sale, or other agreement, or to the extent not inconsistent therewith or if there are no specific statutory provisions, in accordance with the ordinance, resolution, indenture, or agreement of the local agency providing for the issuance.

(n) Notes, bonds, or other obligations that are at all times secured by a valid first priority security interest in securities of the types listed by Section 53651 as eligible securities for the purpose of securing local agency deposits having a market value at least equal to that required by Section 53652 for the purpose of securing local agency deposits. The securities serving as collateral shall be placed by delivery or book entry into the custody of a trust company or the trust department of a bank that is not affiliated with the issuer of the secured obligation, and the security interest shall be perfected in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Commercial Code or federal regulations applicable to the types of securities in which the security interest is granted.

(o) A mortgage passthrough security, collateralized mortgage obligation, mortgage-backed or other pay-through bond, equipment lease-backed certificate, consumer receivable passthrough certificate, or consumer receivable-backed bond of a maximum of five years' maturity. Securities eligible for investment under this subdivision shall be issued by an issuer having an "A" or higher rating for the issuer's

debt as provided by an NRSRO and rated in a rating category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO. Purchase of securities authorized by this subdivision shall not exceed 20 percent of the agency's surplus moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section.

(p) Shares of beneficial interest issued by a joint powers authority organized pursuant to Section 6509.7 that invests in the securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (r), inclusive. Each share shall represent an equal proportional interest in the underlying pool of securities owned by the joint powers authority. To be eligible under this section, the joint powers authority issuing the shares shall have retained an investment adviser that meets all of the following criteria:

(1) The adviser is registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(2) The adviser has not less than five years of experience investing in the securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (q), inclusive.

(3) The adviser has assets under management in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

(q) United States dollar denominated senior unsecured unsubordinated obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, or Inter-American Development Bank, with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, and eligible for purchase and sale within the United States. Investments under this subdivision shall be rated "AA" or better by an NRSRO and shall not exceed 30 percent of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section.

(r) Commercial paper, debt securities, or other obligations of a public bank, as defined in Section 57600.

*(Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 442, Sec. 11. Effective January 1, 2020.)*