

# **VENTURA COUNTY**

## **STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY**

**AS APPROVED DECEMBER 4, 2018**



### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**SUPERVISOR STEVE BENNETT, DISTRICT 1**

**SUPERVISOR LINDA PARKS, DISTRICT 2,**

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# Table of Contents

<b>STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Introduction .....</i>	3
<i>Investment Objective .....</i>	3
<i>Investment and the Notion of Risk .....</i>	4
<i>Liquidity .....</i>	5
<i>Yield .....</i>	5
<b>INTERNAL CONTROLS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Safekeeping of Securities .....</i>	6
<i>Security Custody and Deliveries .....</i>	6
<b>SECURITY INSTRUMENTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>Qualifications of Brokers, Dealers, and Financial Institutions .....</i>	6
<i>Ratings .....</i>	7
<i>U.S. Agencies .....</i>	7
<i>U.S. Government .....</i>	8
<i>Commercial Paper .....</i>	8
<i>Medium Term Notes and Deposit Notes .....</i>	8
<i>Municipal Notes, Bonds and Other Obligations .....</i>	8
<i>Bankers Acceptances .....</i>	8
<i>Negotiable Certificates of Deposit and Yankee Certificates of Deposit .....</i>	9
<i>Certificates of Deposit .....</i>	9
<i>Repurchase Agreements .....</i>	9
<i>Securities Lending .....</i>	10
<i>Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) .....</i>	10
<i>CalTrust and California Asset Management Program (CAMP) .....</i>	10
<i>Local Agency Debt and State Warrants .....</i>	10
<i>Supranationals .....</i>	10
<i>Prohibited Transactions and Asset-Backed Securities .....</i>	10
<i>Apportionment of Interest and Costs .....</i>	11
<b>AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR ..</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Delegation of Authority to Invest .....</i>	11
<i>Authority to Execute Investment Transactions .....</i>	11
<i>Competitive Bidding .....</i>	11
<i>Place and Time for Conducting Business .....</i>	12
<i>Conflict of Interest .....</i>	12
<i>Portfolio Reporting .....</i>	12
<i>Disaster Recovery Program .....</i>	12
<i>Extraordinary Withdrawals .....</i>	13
<i>Terms and Conditions of Local Agency .....</i>	13
<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>APPENDIX A.....</b>	<b>18</b>

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY

This Statement of Investment Policy (“Policy”) provides the guidelines for prudent investment of public funds in a manner which will provide the highest investment return with optimal security and liquidity. The Policy and practices of the County Treasurer are based on prudent money management principles and California State Law, specifically Government Code Sections 27000 - 27000.5; 27130 - 27137; and 53600 - 53686. Furthermore, it outlines the policies essential to ensuring the safety and financial strength of the County’s investment portfolio.

This Policy is based on the principles of prudent money management and conforms to all applicable Federal and State laws governing the investment of public funds. In instances in which the Policy is more restrictive than Federal or State law, the Policy will supersede.

The Policy shall be reviewed annually and any modifications made thereto must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

### Introduction

The Treasurer-Tax Collector of Ventura County manages pooled cash under the prudent investor rule. This rule states that:

“Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.”

This rule allows the County the option to operate over a broad spectrum of investment opportunity defined within Section 53601 *et seq* of the California Government Code. Therefore, the County's portfolio will be made up of a selection of investments that ensure diversification and meet the liquidity needs of the organization. The major overriding premise underlying the County's investment objective is always to ensure that funds are available when needed.

### Investment Objective

It is the policy of the County to invest public funds in a manner which will provide for the preservation of capital while meeting the daily cash flow requirements of the County and other participants, while attaining a market average yield within an acceptable and defined level of risk.

The Policy has three primary objectives, in order of priority:

- 1) The safety of principal.
- 2) Maintenance of liquidity to meet cash flow needs.
- 3) To earn a competitive rate of return (i.e., yield) within the confines of the California Government Code, this policy, and procedural structure.

In order to accomplish the objectives of safety, liquidity, and yield, the economy and various financial markets are monitored daily in order to assess the probable course of interest rates and thus maximize yield on the County's temporarily idle funds. In a market with increasing interest rates, the Treasury will attempt to invest in securities with shorter maturities. This strategy allows funds to be available for other investments when interest rates are at higher levels. Conversely, when interest rates appear to be near a plateau, the Treasury will attempt to lock in a higher rate of return. The length of term for all investments shall be commensurate with the short, medium, and long-term cash flow needs of the County and other investment pool participants.

### ***Investment and the Notion of Risk***

In order to accomplish the investment philosophy outlined above, the concept of risk must be clearly defined as it relates to the investment of public funds. This concept of risk finds its ultimate translation into a structured and well-diversified portfolio.

The County shall ensure the safety of its idle funds by limiting credit and interest rate risk. These are the two types of risk that can clearly damage a public sector portfolio.

Credit risk is defined as the risk of loss due to the failure of the issuer of a security and shall be mitigated by:

- 1) Pre-qualifying financial institutions with which it will do business through the utilization of Moody's Investors Service, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services, and Fitch Ratings.
- 2) Diversifying the portfolio so that the failure of any one issuer or backer will not place any undue financial burden on the County.
- 3) Monitor all County investments on a daily basis to anticipate and respond appropriately to a significant reduction in the credit worthiness of a depository.

Interest rate risk is defined as the risk that the market value of portfolio securities will fall due to an increase in interest rates. This risk shall be mitigated by:

- 1) Structuring the portfolio so that securities mature at times to meet the ongoing cash needs of the County.
- 2) Restructure of the portfolio to minimize the loss of market value or cash flow.
- 3) Limit the weighted average maturity of the portfolio holdings to 375 days.

The investment program of Ventura County shall be managed with a degree of professionalism that is worthy of the public trust and adheres to the tenets of modern portfolio theory.

The Treasury is very cognizant of past losses of public funds by local agencies throughout California. Those losses resulted in a loss of confidence by the public in public sector investment expertise. This policy seeks to ensure that proper controls are maintained by the Treasurer-Tax Collector and subordinate staff.

There are times when it becomes necessary for losses to be taken:

- A) Interest rates appear to be rising and the funds can be invested shorter term at higher rates.
- B) When opportunities arise that will result in an increase in overall interest income to the County.
- C) When cash needs are greater than expected.

Therefore, in order to mitigate these event risks to the County's portfolio all investment losses shall be approved by the Treasurer-Tax Collector, exclusively. This authority shall not be delegated.

### ***Liquidity***

The County's portfolio will be structured so that securities will mature at or about the same time as cash is needed to meet demand and in accordance with the economic projections mentioned above.

The Treasury will construct a portfolio that will consist of securities with active secondary and resale markets. Any investments for which no secondary market exists, such as time deposits, shall not exceed 375 days and no investment will have a maturity of more than 1150 days.

### ***Yield***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall always attempt to obtain a competitive rate of return on any investment type consistent with the required safety, liquidity, and other parameters of this policy, departmental procedures, and the laws of the State of California.

## **INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall establish a system of internal controls, which shall be documented in writing. The controls will be designed to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, and unanticipated changes in financial markets.

Except for declared emergencies, the County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office shall observe the following procedures on a daily basis:

- All investment transactions shall be entered into the accounting system.
- County investments shall be transacted, confirmed, accounted for, and audited by different people.

### ***Safekeeping of Securities***

To protect against potential losses caused by the collapse of individual securities dealers, all securities owned by the County, including collateral on repurchase agreements, shall be held in safekeeping by a third party bank trust department, acting as agent for the County under the terms of a custody agreement executed by the bank and the Treasurer-Tax Collector. All trades executed between the County and a dealer will settle on a delivery vs. payment basis with a custodial bank. All security transactions engaged in by the Treasurer-Tax Collector shall be countersigned by another authorized treasury department employee.

### ***Security Custody & Deliveries***

All securities purchased shall be deposited for safekeeping with the custodial bank that has contracted to provide the County Treasurer with custodial security clearance services.

All security holdings shall be reconciled monthly by the County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office and audited at least quarterly by the Auditor-Controller's Office.

All security transactions are to be conducted on a "delivery-versus-payment basis". Confirmation receipts on all investments are to be reviewed immediately for conformity with County transaction documentation. Confirmations resulting from securities purchased under repurchase agreements should clearly state the exact and complete nomenclature of the underlying securities purchased, that these securities have been sold to the County under a repurchase agreement, and the stipulated date and amount of the resale by the County back to the seller of the securities.

## **SECURITY INSTRUMENTS**

### ***Qualifications of Brokers, Dealers, and Financial Institutions***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector will maintain a list of approved financial institutions authorized to provide investment services. Additionally, the Treasurer-Tax Collector shall transact business only with approved direct issuers; security brokers/dealers selected by credit worthiness that licensed by the State of California and licensed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA); National or State chartered bank or savings institutions; and primary government dealers designated by the Federal Reserve.

Any broker/dealer interested in conducting business with the County must have an office within the State of California and is required to fill out an extensive questionnaire maintained by the Treasurer-Tax Collector. This questionnaire is then reviewed by the Treasurer-Tax Collector and upon acceptance permits the County to deal with the broker/dealer.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector views the relationship of the firm and its representatives to the County as being a long-term mutually beneficial business relationship. The Treasurer-Tax Collector expects the firm and its staff to act with integrity and trust. The firm must ensure that its staff is aware of the County Treasurer's Investment Policy as well as California Government Code sections 53601 and 53635 that govern the securities transactions of the County. The firm will be required to annually issue written acknowledgment that it has read and will comply with the County's Investment Policy.

No broker/dealer may have made political contributions greater than the limits expressed in Rule G-37 of the Municipal Securities Rule Making Body to the Treasurer-Tax Collector, Board of Supervisors, or candidate for those offices, or Treasury Oversight Committee members.

The Treasury staff shall investigate dealers with which it will conduct business in order to determine: if the firm is adequately capitalized and meets the Federal Reserve's minimum capital requirements for broker/dealer operations, makes markets in securities appropriate to the County's investment policy, the individual covering the account has a minimum of three years dealing with large institutional accounts, and receives three favorable recommendations from other short term cash portfolio managers.

Upon application, all firms will provide a copy of their most recent published annual report; quarterly reports issued since the last annual report; Financial and Operational Combined Uniform Single (FOCUS) Report; organization chart; and any financial information regarding credit lines and debt support provided by the parent firm.

Furthermore, no later than July 31 of each calendar year, in addition to the required annual written acknowledgment of the Investment Policy compliance, only as requested by the Treasurer-Tax Collector, all firms will provide a copy of their most recent published annual report; FOCUS Report; organization chart; and any financial information regarding credit lines and debt support provided by the parent firm.

### ***Ratings***

With the exception of LAIF, insured deposits, and U.S. Treasury and Government Agency issues, investments shall be placed only in those instruments and institutions rated favorably as determined by the Treasurer-Tax Collector in accordance with this Statement and with the assistance of Moody's Investors Service, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services, and Fitch Ratings.

If the rating of any security drops below the minimum acceptable rating for that security class, the investment will be sold if no significant loss of principal is involved or matured at the earliest possible convenience. These sales must be individually approved by the Treasurer-Tax Collector. A rating of "NR" by one rating service is not a split rating and does not bar the purchase of the security.

### ***U.S. Agencies***

The purchase of U.S. agency securities shall be limited to issues of the Federal Farm Credit Banks (FFCB), Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (Freddie Mac/FHLMC), the Federal National Mortgage Corporation (Fannie Mae/FNMA), Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac/FAMCA), or in obligations, participations, or other instruments of, or issued by, a federal agency or a United States government-sponsored or backed entity. The fund's holdings of any one federal agency security shall not exceed 25% of the total fund at the time of purchase. The maximum maturity of any one agency investment shall not exceed three years or 1150 days.



### ***U. S. Government***

United States Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. There shall be no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio which can be invested in this category. The maturity of a security is limited to a maximum of three years or 1150 days.

### ***Commercial Paper***

Commercial Paper is a short term unsecured promissory note issued to finance short term credit needs. Commercial Paper eligible for investment must be of “prime” quality of the highest ranking or of the highest short-term letter and numerical rating as provided for by Standard and Poor's Ratings Services, Moody's Investors Service, and Fitch Ratings (S&P A-1+, A-1; Moody's P-1; Fitch F1+, F1). Eligible paper is further limited to issuing corporations that are organized and operating within the United States and have total assets in excess of \$500 million and an “A” or higher rating for the issuer's debt, other than commercial paper, if any, as provided for by S&P (A or higher), Moody's (A2 or higher) and Fitch (A or higher). Purchases of eligible Commercial Paper may not exceed 270 days to maturity. Purchases of Commercial Paper may not exceed 40 percent of the investment portfolio at the time of the purchase. No more than 10 percent of the total assets of the pool at the time of the purchase may be invested in the outstanding paper of any single issuing corporation. The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall establish a list of approved Commercial Paper issuers in which investments may be made.

### ***Medium-Term Notes and Deposit Notes***

Medium-Term Notes eligible for investment must be rated in the same categories described in **Commercial Paper**, above, to wit: Short-term ratings by S&P A-1 or higher; Moody's P-1; and Fitch F1 or higher; and long-term ratings of S&P A or higher, Moody's A2 or higher, and Fitch A or higher. Medium-Term Notes may not exceed 20 percent of the investment portfolio at the time of the purchase and may not have a maturity of longer than 2 years or 735 days.

### ***Municipal Notes, Bonds and Other Obligations***

Municipal notes, bonds, and other obligations eligible for investment are registered securities issued by the State of California and local California government agencies as well as registered securities issued by any of the other 49 states to finance capital and operating expenses. The characteristics of a municipal bond or note often are similar to the characteristics of corporate bonds and notes or the U.S. government and federal agency bonds and notes. Municipal notes normally have a specific maturity date, and bear interest that is scheduled to be paid at specific intervals. Municipal notes, bonds and other obligations may not exceed 30 percent of the investment portfolio at the time of purchase and the maturity may not exceed three years or 1150 days. Municipal notes must meet the minimum debt rating described above in Medium Term Notes and Deposit Notes.

### ***Bankers Acceptances***

A Bankers Acceptance is a draft or bill of exchange accepted by a bank or trust company and brokered to investors in the secondary market. Bankers Acceptances may be purchased for a period of up to 180 days and in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the investment portfolio at the time of the purchase, with no more than 30 percent of the investment portfolio at the time of the purchase in the Bankers Acceptances of any one commercial bank. The Treasurer-



Tax Collector shall establish a list of those banks deemed most credit worthy for the investment in Bankers Acceptances, limited to those institutions rated as noted in **Commercial Paper** and **Medium-Term Notes**, above.

### ***Negotiable Certificates of Deposit and Yankee Certificates of Deposit***

Negotiable Certificates of Deposit (NCD) are issued by commercial banks, foreign banks, and thrift institutions against funds deposited for a specified period of time and earn specified or variable rates of interest. The Treasurer-Tax Collector may invest up to 30 percent of the investment portfolio at the time of the purchase in NCD's. Negotiable certificates of deposit shall be limited to those institutions rated as noted in **Commercial Paper** and **Medium-Term Notes**, above.

NCD's differ from other Certificates of Deposit in that they are illiquid instruments which are traded in secondary markets. The maximum term to maturity of any NCD shall be one year or 365 days. The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall establish a list of eligible domestic commercial banks, thrifts and state licensed foreign banks (Yankee Certificates of Deposit) which will be eligible for investment.

Yankee Certificates of Deposit (YCD) are issued in the United States by a branch or agency of a foreign bank. They are negotiable instruments, and most have a minimum face value of \$100,000, making them appropriate for large investors. The maximum term to maturity of any YCD shall be one year or 365 days.

### ***Certificates of Deposit***

Certificates of Deposit are deposits by the Treasurer-Tax Collector in commercial banks or savings and loan associations within the State of California and shall be limited to those institutions rated as noted above in **Negotiable Certificates of Deposit**. Local institutions shall receive preference for deposits up to \$250,000 if competitive rates are offered. These investments are non-negotiable. The maximum term to maturity shall not exceed one year or 365 days and shall be fully insured by the FDIC.

### ***Repurchase Agreements***

The County may invest in repurchase agreements with banks and dealers of primary dealer status recognized by the Federal Reserve with which the County has entered into a repurchase contract which specifies terms and conditions of repurchase agreements. The maturity of repurchase agreements shall not exceed 90 days. The market value of securities used as collateral for repurchase agreements shall be monitored daily by the Treasurer-Tax Collector and will not be allowed to fall below 102% of the value borrowed against those funds. The value is adjusted quarterly based on the value of the repurchase agreement.

In order to conform with provisions of the Federal Bankruptcy Code which provide for the liquidation of securities held as collateral for repurchase agreements, the only securities acceptable as collateral shall be certificates of deposit, commercial paper, eligible bankers' acceptances, or securities that are direct obligations of, or that are fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States or any agency of the United States. Furthermore, this collateral shall not exceed three years or 1150 days to maturity.

There shall be a \$75 million limitation in repurchase agreements entered into with any one institution.

### ***Securities Lending***

Securities Lending is permissible as an agreement to lend securities to a borrower who provides collateral to the local agency. The local agency retains ownership and continues to receive all interest, dividends, and capital appreciation. Both securities and 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.

### ***Local Agency Investment Fund***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector may invest in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) established by the State Treasurer for the benefit of local agencies up to the maximum permitted by State law.

### ***CalTrust and California Asset Management Program (CAMP)***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector may invest in The Investment Trust of California, doing business as CalTRUST, and in California Asset Management Program (CAMP), California joint powers authorities in which local agencies may invest funds pursuant to Government Code section 53601(p). The combined investment in CalTrust and CAMP shall not exceed \$25,000,000 at the time of the purchase. The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall withdraw its entire investment in a program if the S&P rating falls below AAF/S-1+ for CalTrust or AAAm for CAMP.

### ***Local Agency Debt and State Warrants***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector may invest in bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness of any local agency within this state, including bonds payable solely out of 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.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector may invest in 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.

### ***Supranationals***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector may invest surplus funds to include United States dollar denominated senior unsecured unsubordinated obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), or Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

These instruments must have a maximum remaining maturity of three years (1150 days) or less, be eligible for purchase and sale within the United States, be S&P rated "AAA" and shall not exceed 30% of the investment pool.

### ***Prohibited Transactions and Asset-Backed Securities***

At the time of purchase, all permitted investments shall conform in all respects with this Investment Policy Statement and with applicable provisions of the California Government Code.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector may not invest in asset backed securities such as Collateralized Mortgage Obligations.

### ***Apportionment of Interest and Costs***

Interest shall be apportioned to all pool participants quarterly, based upon the ratio of the average daily balance of each individual fund to the average daily balance of all funds in the Investment Pool. The amount of interest apportioned shall be determined using the accrual method of accounting, whereby interest will be apportioned for the quarter in which it was actually earned. The Treasurer-Tax Collector may deduct from the gross interest earnings those administrative costs relating to the management of the Treasury, including salaries and other compensation, banking costs, equipment costs, supplies, the cost of information services, cashiering, accounting, reporting remittance processing, depositing of public funds, audit, and any other costs as provided by Section 27013, 27133(f), and 27135.

## **AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR**

### ***Delegation to Authority to Invest***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's authority to invest is delegated by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with the California Government Code Sections 27000.1 and 53607. Statutory authority for the investment and safekeeping functions are found in Sections 53600 et seq., and 53630 et seq., of the California Government Code.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector has the authority to react to unstable market conditions in order to preserve the safety, liquidity or yield of the portfolio. The Treasurer-Tax Collector's reaction may temporarily change the investment parameters or investment practices of the County until the market has stabilized or until the Board of Supervisors has approved a revised Investment Policy.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall immediately notify the Treasury Oversight Committee members and the Board of Supervisors at their next scheduled meeting of any changes to the investment parameters or practices that were precipitated by the unstable market conditions.

### ***Authority to Execute Investment Transactions***

The authority to execute investment transactions on a daily basis is limited to the Treasurer-Tax Collector. This function may be delegated to the Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector and/or other Treasury personnel at the discretion of the Treasurer-Tax Collector.

### ***Competitive Bidding***

All purchase/sales shall be made only after a process of competitive bidding, unless information provided on electronic market quotation services, faxes, or email transmissions show current market rates. A minimum of three offer/bids should be obtained before an investment is purchased or sold. Exceptions to the above would involve transactions in U.S. Treasury or agency obligations, repurchase agreements, securities possessing unique characteristics which would make competitive bidding impractical, or market circumstances in which competitive bidding could be adverse to the best interest of the Treasurer-Tax Collector's investment program.

***Place and Time for Conducting Business***

Investment transactions shall not be conducted from any place other than the office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector during normal business hours established for Treasury operations. Exceptions must have the approval of the Treasurer-Tax Collector.

***Conflict of Interest***

No agency employee nor Treasury Oversight Committee member may directly or indirectly accept or solicit from any persons, corporations, or group having a business relationship with this Agency anything of economic value as a gift, gratuity, or favor which would be in conflict with the County Administrative Policy.

No agency employee nor Treasury Oversight Committee member shall, outside of regular working hours, engage in any profession, trade, business, or occupation which is incompatible or involves a conflict of interest with his duties as a county officer or employee, or which in any way may reflect unfavorably on this Agency, the appointing authority, or his fellow employees.

***Portfolio Reporting***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector shall prepare a monthly Investment Report to be presented at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors, including a succinct management summary that provides a clear picture of the status of the current investment portfolio, market conditions and strategy for the coming months. The report will also include a listing of all investments by type, name of issuer, date of maturity, par and dollars amount invested in each security, investment, and the money within the Treasury. There will be a separate statement advising the Board of the longest maturity of a security in the portfolio. The report will contain a statement assuring the Board that the anticipated cash flow needs of the participants will be met. The report will also include a statement that the investment practices and portfolio holdings are in compliance with the investment policy or an explanation as to why there is a condition which exists outside of the investment policy. The Treasurer-Tax Collector will also provide a copy of the Investment Report to the Treasury Oversight Committee members at scheduled meetings.

***Disaster Recovery Program***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's Disaster Plan includes critical phone numbers and addresses of key Treasury and investment personnel, as well as, currently approved bankers and broker/dealers. The plan provides for an offsite location to be communicated at the time of readiness if the Treasurer-Tax Collector's offices are uninhabitable. In the event the Treasurer or authorized staff is unable to invest the portfolio, the Treasurer has an agreement with the custodian for a daily sweep of all uninvested cash with the custody bank into an interest-bearing account.

Until normal operations of the Treasurer's office have been restored, the limitations on the size of an Individual issuer and the percentage restrictions by investment type would be allowed to exceed those approved in this Investment Policy Statement and would be required to be reported to the Board of Supervisors and Pool Participants in a timely manner.

***Extraordinary Withdrawals***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector will maintain a schedule of seasonal deposits into and withdrawals from the investment pool by participating districts. Constant contact with the pool participants will be maintained to ascertain any cash needs beyond the anticipated cash-flow patterns. Our investment strategy is based upon the known cash-flow patterns, which allow the Treasurer-Tax Collector to maximize interest earnings for the County and other pool participants.

Extraordinary withdrawals could create a liquidity problem and negatively impact the earnings of the remaining pool participants if the Treasurer-Tax Collector is forced to liquidate securities before their scheduled maturity date. A pool participant who wishes to withdraw from the pool or make an extraordinary withdrawal, will be encouraged to work with the Treasury to arrange a withdrawal schedule that would prevent losses to the withdrawing district or the remaining pool participants. Losses experienced by the County investment pool, which were precipitated by the unnoticed extraordinary withdrawal of funds, will be borne by the district who caused such losses to occur. The Treasurer-Tax Collector reserves the right to choose which securities to liquidate and could choose to sell the securities that have the lowest earnings.

***Terms and Conditions that a Local Agency May Participate in the Pool***

Local agencies may, by resolution of their governing bodies and the approval of the Treasurer-Tax Collector, deposit excess funds in the County Treasury for the purpose of investment by the Treasurer-Tax Collector. The procedures for this process are contained in the Treasury Procedural Manual.

## **INVESTMENT GLOSSARY**

**Accrued Interest** – Interest that has accumulated but has not yet been paid from the most recent interest payment date or issue date to a certain date.

**Agency Issues** – Securities issued by federal agencies, those chartered by the federal government or Government Sponsored Enterprises that are considered to be backed by the federal government. See also Government Sponsored Enterprises.

**Amortized Cost** – The original cost of the principal adjusted for the periodic reduction of any discount or premium from the purchase date until a specific date (also called “Book Value”).

**Bankers Acceptance** – Money market instrument created from transactions involving foreign trade. In its simplest and most traditional form, a bankers’ acceptance is merely a check, drawn on a bank by an importer or exporter of goods.

**Basis Point** – A unit of measurement equal to 1/100 of 1 percent. As an example, the difference between a security yielding 3.25% and one yielding 3.20% is five basis points.

**Benchmark** – An index or security used to compare the performance of a portfolio.

**Bond** – A long-term debt instrument of a government or corporation promising payment of the original investment plus interest by a specified future date.

**Bullet** – A colloquial term for a bond that cannot be redeemed, or called, prior to maturity.

**Callable Bond** – A bond in which all or a portion of its outstanding principal may be redeemed prior to maturity by the issuer under specified conditions.

**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.

**Collateralized Certificate of Deposit** – An instrument representing a receipt from a bank for a deposit at a specified rate of interest for a specified period of time that is collateralized by the bank with securities at a minimum of 110% of the deposit amount.

**Commercial Paper** – Money Market instrument representing an unsecured short-term promissory note of a corporation at a specified rate of return for a specified period of time.

**Coupon** – The stated interest rate on a debt security that an issuer promises to pay.

**Credit Quality** – An indication of risk that an issuer of a security will fulfill its obligation, as rated by a rating agency.



**Credit Rating** – A standardized assessment, expressed in alphanumeric characters, of a company’s creditworthiness.

**Credit Risk** – The risk to an investor that an issuer will default in the payment of interest and/or principal on a security.

**Derivatives** – Securities which derive their value from that of another security or an underlying index, currency or other measure. Floating rate notes (also “floaters”) are not considered derivatives.

**Discount Instruments** – Securities that are sold at a discount to face value.

**Diversification** – The practice or concept of investing in a range of securities by sector, maturity, asset class or credit quality in order to reduce and spread financial risk.

**Dollar Weighted Average Maturity** – The sum of the amount of each security investment multiplied by the number of days to maturity, divided by the total amount of security investments.

**Duration** – Is a measure of the price volatility of a portfolio and reflects an estimate of the projected increase or decrease in the value of that portfolio based upon a decrease or increase in the interest rates. A duration of 1.0 means that for every one percent increase in interest rates, the market value of the Portfolio would decrease by 1.0 percent.

**Earnings Apportionment** – Is the quarterly interest distribution to the Pool Participants where the actual investment costs incurred by the Treasurer are deducted from the interest earnings of the Pool.

**Government Obligations** – Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury and Federal Agencies. U.S. Treasuries are direct obligations of the Federal Government. Agencies are not direct obligations of the Federal Government, but involve Federal sponsorship or guarantees.

**Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE’S)** – Private, shareholder-owned companies with a relationship with government agencies. These agencies generally are viewed to have an implied guarantee of the U.S. government.

**Highly Liquid** – The most eminent type of security that is easily converted to cash because there are many interested buyers and sellers to trade large quantities at a reasonable price.

**Illiquid** – A security that is difficult to buy or sell or has a wide spread between the bid price and offer price in the secondary market. There are few buyers and sellers willing to trade large quantities at a reasonable price.

**Interest Rate Risk** – The risk associated with declines or rises in interest rates which cause an investment in a fixed-income security to increase or decrease in value. Also called “Market Risk”.



**Liquid** – A security that is easily bought and sold because of the willingness of interested buyers and sellers to trade large quantities at a reasonable price.

**Local Agency Obligation** – An indebtedness issued by a local agency, department, board, or authority within the State of California.

**Long-Term** – The term used to describe a security when the maturity is greater than one year.

**Market Value** – An estimate of the value of a security at which the principal would be sold from a willing seller to a willing buyer at the date of pricing.

**Medium-Term Notes** – These are Corporate Notes and Bank Notes that are debt obligations of banks, corporations, and insurance companies. They are issued at a specific rate of return for a specific period of time.

**Money Market Mutual Fund** – A mutual fund with investments directed in short-term money market instruments only, which can be withdrawn daily without penalty.

**Municipal Notes, Bonds and Other Obligations** - Municipal notes, bonds, and other obligations are securities issued by state and local government agencies to finance capital and operating expenses. The characteristics of a municipal bond or note often are similar to the characteristics of corporate bonds and notes or the U.S. government and federal agency bonds and notes. Municipal notes normally have a specific maturity date, and bear interest that is scheduled to be paid at specific intervals. Municipal notes, bonds and other obligations may not exceed a maximum of three years or 1150 days. Municipal notes must meet the minimum debt rating described above in Medium Term Notes and Deposit Notes.

**Negotiable Certificate of Deposit** – A Money Market instrument representing a receipt from a bank for a deposit at a specified rate of interest for a specified period of time that is traded in secondary markets.

**Par** – The stated maturity value, or face value, of a security.

**Pass-Through Securities** – A debt instrument that reflects an interest in a mortgage pool, consumer receivables pool and equipment lease-backed pool that serves as collateral for a bond.

**Pool** – In this context, the pooled monies of different government agencies administered by the County Treasurer. Each pool member owns a fractional interest in the securities held in the Pool.

**Portfolio Value** – The total book value amount of all the securities held in the Treasurer's Pooled Money Fund.

**Primary Dealer** – A group of dealers and banks that can buy and sell securities directly with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

**Private Placements** – Securities that do not have to be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission because they are offered to a limited number of sophisticated investors.

**Range Notes** – Notes which pay interest only if the underlying index upon which it is benchmarked, falls within a certain range.

**Repurchase Agreement** – A repurchase agreement consists of two simultaneous transactions. One is the purchase of securities by an investor (i.e., the County), the other is the commitment by the seller (i.e. a broker/dealer) to repurchase the securities at the same price, plus interest, at some mutually agreed future date.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreement** – The mirror image of Repurchase Agreements. In this instance the County Pool is the seller of securities to an investor (i.e. brokers).

**Safekeeping** – A custodian bank's action to store and protect an investor's securities by segregating and identifying the securities.

**Securities Lending** – A transaction wherein the Treasurer's Pool transfers its securities to broker/dealers and other entities for collateral which may be cash or securities and simultaneously agrees to return the collateral for the same securities in the future.

**Short-Term** – The term used to describe a security when the maturity is one year or less.

**Supranationals** – Senior unsecured unsubordinated obligations that are issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, or Inter-American Development Bank. They are eligible for purchase and sale within the United States and approved for investments by local agencies in California as of January 1, 2015.

**Total Return** – The sum of all investment income plus changes in the capital value of a portfolio for a given period.

**Voluntary Participants** – Local agencies that are not required to deposit their funds with the County Treasurer.

**Weighted Average Maturity** – The remaining average maturity of all securities held in a portfolio.

**Yankee Certificates of Deposit** - Yankee Certificates of Deposit (YCD) are issued in the United States by a branch or agency of a foreign bank. They are negotiable instruments, and most have a minimum face value of \$100,000, making them appropriate for large investors.

**Yield** – The gain, expressed as a percentage that an investor derives from a financial asset.

**Yield to Maturity** – The percentage rate of return paid if the security is held to its maturity date. The calculation is based on the coupon rate, length of time to maturity, and market price. It assumes that coupon interest paid over the life of the security is reinvested at the same rate.

**APPENDIX A: INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS**

<b>Investment Instruments</b>	<b>Maximum Maturity</b>	<b>Maximum Specified Percentage of Portfolio</b>	<b>Approved Selected Agencies</b>
U.S. Agencies	3 years or 1150 days	N/A	Yes
Commercial Paper (CP)	270 days	40%	Yes
Medium Term Notes (MTN)	2 years or 735 days	20%	Yes
Supranationals	3 years (1150 days) or less	30%	Yes
U.S. Government Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds	3 years or 1150 days	N/A	
Yankee Certificates of Deposit (YCD)	1 year or 365 days	30%	Yes
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit (NCD)	1 year or 365 days	30%	Yes
Certificates of Deposits (CD)	1 year or 365 days	30%	Yes
Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)	N/A	Maximum As Permitted by State Law	
CalTrust/CAMP		\$25 MM	
Munis	3 years or 1150 days	30%	