

# **SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

## **Annual Statement of Investment Policy**

**Calendar Year 2021**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this document is to identify various policies and procedures that enhance opportunities for a prudent and systematic investment policy and to organize and formalize investment related activities. The ultimate goal is to enhance the economic status of the Water Authority while protecting its funds.

The Board of Directors and, upon formal delegation, the Treasurer for the San Diego County Water Authority, duly authorized to invest Water Authority monies by California Government Code, are trustees of Water Authority funds and therefore fiduciaries subject to the prudent investor standard.

### **SCOPE**

It is intended that this policy cover all funds and investment activities under the direct authority of the San Diego County Water Authority, except for the employee's retirement and deferred compensation funds. For investment purposes, the Water Authority manages the Operating Fund, Rate Stabilization Fund, Pay-As-You-Go Fund, Equipment Replacement Fund and Stored Water Fund together as the Pooled Operating Fund. The funds under the direct authority of the San Diego County Water Authority are accounted for in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and include:

Operating Fund – Holds the Water Authority's working capital and emergency operating reserve.

Rate Stabilization Fund – Established to mitigate future water rate increases.

Pay-As-You-Go Fund (PAYGO) – Funds are dedicated for construction outlays and debt service.

Equipment Replacement Fund – Used to purchase minor capital equipment such as computer systems, vehicles, etc.

Stored Water Fund – Used to purchase water to fill Water Authority reservoirs.

Construction (CIP) Fund – Holds the proceeds of long-term debt and commercial paper to be expended for construction.

Debt Service Reserve Fund – Holds the required legal reserve for Water Authority debt issues.

## OBJECTIVES

The investment policies and practices of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer for the San Diego County Water Authority are based upon limitations placed on it by governing legislative bodies. These policies have three primary goals:

1. To assure compliance with all Federal, State and Local laws governing the investment of monies under the control of the Treasurer.
2. To protect the principal monies entrusted to this organization.
3. To generate the maximum amount of investment income within the parameters of this Annual Statement of Investment Policy.

These goals are enhanced by the following objectives in order of importance.

- A. Safety: It is the primary duty and responsibility of the Treasurer to protect, preserve and maintain cash and investments placed in his/her trust. Each investment transaction shall seek to ensure that capital losses are avoided, whether from institution default, broker-dealer default, or erosion of market value of securities. The Treasurer shall evaluate or cause to have evaluated each potential investment, seeking both quality in issuer and in underlying security or collateral. Diversification of the portfolio will be used in order to reduce exposure to principal loss.
- B. Liquidity: An adequate percentage of the portfolio will be maintained in liquid short-term securities which can be converted to cash if necessary to meet disbursement requirements. Since all cash requirements cannot be anticipated, investment in securities with active secondary markets will be utilized. These securities will have a low sensitivity to market risk.
- C. Return on Investments: The investment portfolio will be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints for safety and liquidity needs.
- D. Public Trust: All participants in the investment process shall act as custodians of the public trust. Investment officials shall recognize that the investment portfolio is subject to public review and evaluation. The overall program shall be designed and managed with a degree of professionalism that is worthy of the public trust. In a diversified portfolio it must be recognized that occasional measured losses are inevitable, and must be considered within the context of the overall portfolio's investment return, provided that adequate diversification has been implemented.

## PRUDENT INVESTOR STANDARD

The Board of Directors and Treasurer adhere to the guidance provided by the "prudent investor standard", California Government Code (Section 53600.3), which obligates a fiduciary to insure that "When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, or managing public funds, a trustee shall act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, including, but not limited to, the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of

the agency, 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 needs of the agency. Within the limitations of this section and considering individual investments as part of an overall strategy, investments may be acquired as authorized by law.”

## **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

The investment, per this policy, of Water Authority idle monies is annually delegated to the Treasurer by the Board of Directors who shall thereafter assume full responsibility for those transactions until the delegation of authority is revoked or expires. The Treasurer may delegate the day-to-day operations of investing to his/her designee(s), but not the responsibility for the overall investment program. A memorandum will be forwarded to the General Manager indicating the individual who is acting on the behalf of the Treasurer which details the period of time the designee will be responsible for the investment function. All transactions will be reviewed by the Treasurer on a regular basis to assure compliance with this Annual Statement of Investment Policy.

The Water Authority may engage the services of one or more external investment advisers, who are registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to assist in the management of the Water Authority’s investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the objectives. External investment advisers may be granted discretion to purchase and sell investment securities in accordance with this investment policy.

## **ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Employees and investment officers shall disclose any material financial interest in financial institutions that conduct business with this jurisdiction, and they shall further disclose any large personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the Water Authority’s portfolio. Employees and officers shall subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the Water Authority, particularly with regard to the timing of purchases and sales, and shall avoid transactions that might impair public confidence. All officers and employees involved in the investment of public funds are required to comply with the Water Authority’s Conflict of Interest Code.

## **AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS - POOLED OPERATING FUND**

The Water Authority is governed by the California Government Code, Sections 53600 et seq. Within the context of these limitations, the following investments are authorized:

Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF): The Water Authority may invest in the Local Agency Investment Fund established by the State Treasurer for the benefit of local agencies (Government Code Section 16429.1(b)). In order to ensure that LAIF is purchasing securities that comply with the Government Code, the monthly LAIF report shall be reviewed by the Treasurer. The maximum permitted investment will be governed by State Law.

Bankers’ Acceptances: The Water Authority may invest in Banker’s Acceptances, provided that they are issued by institutions which have short-term debt obligations rated “A-1” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO. No more than 40 percent of the portfolio may be invested

in Banker's Acceptances, and no more than 5 percent of the portfolio may be invested in any single issuer. The maximum maturity shall not exceed 180 days.

Treasury Securities: The Water Authority may invest in 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 (Government Code Section 53601(b)). The purchase of zero-coupon, or strips, is not permitted. Because these investments are the safest possible, there is no maximum portfolio limit.

Repurchase Agreements: The Water Authority may invest (Government Code Section 53601(j)) in overnight and term repurchase agreements with primary dealers of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and have long-term debt obligations which are rated in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO with which the Water Authority has entered into a master repurchase agreement. This agreement will be modeled after the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)'s master repurchase agreement.

All collateral used to secure this type of transaction is to be delivered to a third party prior to release of funds. The third party will have an account in the name of the San Diego County Water Authority. The market value of securities used as collateral for repurchase agreements shall be monitored on a daily basis by the Treasurer and will not be permitted to fall below 102 percent of the value of the repurchase agreement. Collateral shall not include strips, zero-coupon instruments or instruments with maturities in excess of five years. The right of substitution will be granted, provided that permissible collateral is maintained.

In order to conform with provisions of the Federal Bankruptcy Code which provides for the liquidation of securities held as collateral for repurchase agreements, the only securities acceptable as collateral shall be securities that are direct obligations of and guaranteed by the U.S. Government and Agency securities as permitted under this policy. The Water Authority will maintain a first perfected security interest in the securities subject to the repurchase agreement and shall have a contractual right to liquidation of purchased securities upon the bankruptcy, insolvency or other default of the counterparty. Maximum portfolio exposure will be limited to 20 percent and maturities that do not exceed one year.

Certificates of Deposit: The Water Authority may invest in Time Deposits (Non-Negotiable Certificates of Deposit). They may invest in Federally Insured Time Deposits in state or federally chartered banks, savings and loans, or credit unions, provided that the amount per institution is limited to the maximum covered under federal insurance, no more than 20 percent of the portfolio will be invested in a combination of federally insured and collateralized time deposits, and the maximum maturity does not exceed five (5) years. The Water Authority may invest in Collateralized Time Deposits in state or federally chartered bank, savings and loans, or credit unions in excess of insured amounts which are fully collateralized with the securities in accordance with California law, provided that no more than 20 percent of the portfolio will be invested in a combination of federally insured and collateralized time deposits, and the maximum maturity does not exceed five (5) years. The maximum portfolio exposure, combined with placement services and Negotiable CDs, is limited to 30 percent and no more than 5 percent of the portfolio may be invested in any single issuer.

Placement Service Deposits: The Water Authority may invest in deposits placed with a private sector entity that assists in the placement of deposits with eligible financial institutions located in the United States (Government Code Section 53601.8). The full amount of the principal and the interest

that may be accrued during the maximum term of each deposit shall at all times be insured by federal deposit insurance. The combined maximum portfolio exposure to deposits placed pursuant to this section, Certificates of Deposits, and Negotiable Certificates of Deposit is limited to 30 percent. Maximum investment maturity will be restricted to five years.

Negotiable Certificates of Deposit: The Water Authority may invest in negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a savings association or federal association, a state or federal credit union, or by a federally licensed or state licensed branch of a foreign bank, provided that no more than 30 percent of the total portfolio is invested in NCDs (in combination with CDs and Placement Services), and no more than 5 percent may be invested in a single issuer, and the maximum maturity shall not exceed five (5) years. The amount of the NCD insured up to the FDIC limit does not require any credit ratings, and any amount above the FDIC insured limit must be issued by institutions which have short term debt obligations rated “A-1” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO; or long term obligations rated in a rating category of “A” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO.

Commercial Paper: The Water Authority may invest in the highest grade of commercial paper (Government Code Section 53601(h)), rated “A-1” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO, issued by general corporations that are organized and operating within the United States and having total assets in excess of \$500 million. If the issuer has long term ratings, they must have long-term obligations rated in a rating category of “A” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO. The Water Authority may also invest in commercial paper issued by issuers organized within the United States as a special purpose corporation, trust, or limited liability company, provided the securities have program-wide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, overcollateralization, letters of credit, or a surety bond and the securities are rated “A-1” or the equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO. Purchases shall not exceed ten percent of the outstanding paper of the issuing general corporation. Maximum investment maturity will be restricted to 270 days. Maximum portfolio exposure is limited to 30 percent and single-issuer holdings to no more than 5 percent per issuer.

Medium-Term Notes: The Water Authority may invest in corporate and depository institution debt securities provided that the issuer is a corporation 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. Securities must have long-term obligations rated in a rating category of “A” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO. Permissible types of notes include fixed rate and variable rate. Maximum investment maturity is restricted to five years. Maximum portfolio exposure is limited to 30 percent and single-issuer holdings to no more than 5 percent per issuer.

Municipal Securities: The Water Authority may invest in: (i) Registered treasury notes or bonds issued by any of the 50 United States, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by a state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of any state (Government Code Section 53601(c)(d)); and (ii) Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidence of debt issued by a local agency or municipality located within California, 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 (Government Code Section 53601(a)(e)). Securities must have long-term obligations rated in a rating category of “A” or its equivalent or better by at least one NRSRO. Maximum portfolio exposure is limited to 30 percent and single-issuer holdings to no more than 5 percent per issuer.

Agencies: The Water Authority may invest in 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 (Government Code Section 53601(f)). Agency callable securities are limited to a maximum allocation of 20 percent of the portfolio.

Supranationals: The Water Authority may invest in 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. Securities must be eligible for purchase and sale within the United States and have a minimum rating of “AA” as rated by Moody’s Investors Service, Standard and Poor’s, or Fitch Ratings. Maximum maturity is limited to 5 years. Maximum portfolio exposure is limited to 15 percent and single-issuer holdings to no more than 5 percent per issuer.

Asset-Backed, Mortgage-Backed, Mortgage Pass-Through Securities, and Collateralized Mortgage Obligations from issuers not defined in the Treasury and Agencies section of the Authorized Investment Instruments section of this policy: The Water Authority may invest in these securities, given that the securities are rated in a rating category of “AA” or its equivalent or better by a NRSRO. No more than 20 percent of the total portfolio may be invested in these securities, and no more than 5 percent of the portfolio may be invested in any single Asset-backed or mortgage security issuer. The maximum legal final maturity does not exceed five (5) years.

Mutual Funds and Money Market Mutual Funds: Must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940, provided that:

- a. Mutual Funds: invest in the securities and obligations as authorized under California Government Code, Section 53601 (a) to (k) and (m) to (q) inclusive and that meet either of the following criteria:
  1. Attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two (2) NRSROs; or
  2. Have 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 California Government Code, Section 53601 and with assets under management in excess of \$500 million.
  3. No more than 10 percent of the total portfolio may be invested in shares of any one mutual fund.
- b. Money Market Mutual Funds: registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and issued by diversified management companies and meet either of the following criteria:
  1. Have attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two (2) NRSROs; or
  2. Have 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 \$500 million.
  3. No more than 20 percent of the total portfolio may be invested in shares of any one Money Market Mutual Fund.
- c. No more than 20 percent of the total portfolio may be invested in these securities.

Local Government Investment Pools: The Water Authority may invest in local government investment pools created by a joint powers authority authorized under Government Code Section 53601(p). Pools must have the highest rating by at least one of the three largest NRSROs. Maximum portfolio exposure is limited to 25 percent.

<b>Authorized Investments Summary</b>				
<b>Investment Type</b>	<b>Maximum Maturity</b>	<b>Maximum % of Portfolio</b>	<b>% Issuer</b>	<b>Minimum Rating Category</b>
<b>Local Agency Investment Fund</b>	Maximum permitted by program			
<b>Banker's Acceptances</b>	180 days	40%	5%	A-1, A by one NRSRO
<b>US Treasury</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Repurchase Agreement</b>	1 year	20%	None	A by one NRSRO
<b>Non-Negotiable CD</b>	5 years	30% all CDs	None	Limited to insured amount
<b>CDARS</b>	5 years	30% all CDs	N/A	
<b>Negotiable CD</b>	5 years	30% all CDs	5%	A-1, A by one NRSRO
<b>Commercial Paper</b>	270 days	30%	5%	A-1, A by one NRSRO if any long-term rating
<b>Corporate Medium Term Notes</b>	5 years	30%	5%	A by one NRSRO
<b>Municipal Bonds</b>	None	30%	5%	A by one NRSRO
<b>Federal Agency Obligations</b>	None	None	None	None
<b>Supranationals</b>	5 years	15%	5%	AA by one NRSRO
<b>ABS, MBS, &amp; CMO (Non-UST/non-agency)</b>	5 years	20%	5%	AA by one NRSRO
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	N/A	20%	10%	Highest by 2 NRSROs
<b>Money Market Mutual Funds</b>	N/A	20%	20%	Highest by 2 NRSROs
<b>LGIP</b>	N/A	25%	25%	AAA or higher by one NRSRO

**AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS - BOND PROCEEDS, DEBT SERVICE AND OTHER AFFILIATED ENTITIES**

All investment types listed above are authorized investments for bond proceeds, debt service, and other affiliated entities with the addition of the following:

Collateralized Guaranteed Investment Contracts (GICs)/Full Flex Repurchase Agreements: Investment of funds in GICs is permitted, as per Section 5922 of the Government Code, when collateralized by U.S. Government guaranteed and direct obligation securities. Collateral must be held

by a third party institution, and must be marked to market on a weekly basis to a minimum of the value of the outstanding balance of the contract. The maximum maturity date on a GIC is limited to the final maturity date of the bonds being issued.

Initially Uncollateralized Guaranteed Investment Contracts (GICs): Investment of funds in GICs which are not initially collateralized is permitted, as per Section 5922 of the Government Code, only if (a) the term of the GIC does not exceed three (3) years, (b) the counterparty to the GIC is rated in the highest long-term rating category by both Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's (or whose payment obligations under such GIC are insured or guaranteed by an entity the unsecured obligations of which are so rated), and (c) the GIC requires that it be collateralized as described above in the event the counterparty's rating is downgraded below the highest long-term rating category by either Moody's Investors Service or Standard & Poor's.

Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF): The Water Authority may also invest bond proceeds in the Local Agency Investment Fund (Government Code Section 16429.1(d)). There is a \$175M limit on the amount of bond proceeds that may be deposited into the fund. Liquidity for bond proceeds, per fund regulations, is thirty calendar day increments from the date of the initial deposit. Bond proceeds deposited in LAIF should be managed to include a 90-day review by the Treasurer to insure safety, as well as probable income.

In the event that a conflict arises between the bond covenants and this Annual Statement of Investment Policy, the following will guide the (re)investment of bond proceeds: when the Annual Statement of Investment Policy is more conservative than the bond covenants, the Annual Statement of Investment Policy will prevail; if the bond covenants are more conservative than the Annual Statement of Investment Policy, the bond covenants will prevail. All future debt transaction reinvestment guidelines will incorporate the current Annual Statement of Investment Policy into the bond covenants.

The Board of Directors has granted the Treasurer the authority to invest debt service reserve funds in U.S. Treasury, federal agency, and municipal securities with maturities exceeding 5 years if it is considered to be in the best interest of the Water Authority and if the maturity of such investments does not exceed the expected use of funds.

## **PORTFOLIO LIMITATIONS**

The total dollar amount of bond proceeds and debt service reserve funds invested are to be excluded from the total used to calculate percentages for investment types.

Percentage limitations, where listed, are applicable at the date of purchase. In the event that the percentage limits attributable to a security type is exceeded due to a temporary imbalance in the portfolio, the Treasurer will make a determination as to the appropriate course of action. The appropriate course of action may be to liquidate securities to rebalance the portfolio or to hold the securities to maturity in order to avoid a market loss. Portfolio percentages are in place to ensure diversification of the investment portfolio and, as such, a small temporary imbalance would not violate this basic tenet. When a portfolio percentage is exceeded, the Treasurer will report the occurrence in the Treasurer's Report at the next regularly scheduled Administrative and Finance Committee meeting of the Board, with detail of the strategy determined to address the imbalance, for Board ratification.

Credit requirements listed in this policy indicate the minimum credit rating (or its equivalent) required at the time of purchase without regard to modifiers (e.g., +/- or 1, 2, 3). In the event that an investment originally purchased within policy guidelines is downgraded to a credit level making the



security ineligible for future purchases, the investment manager may take action related to the downgrade. Any action taken related to the downgrade by the investment manager will be communicated to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

## **INELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS**

State law notwithstanding, any investments not specifically described herein are prohibited, including, but not limited to futures and options.

In accordance with Government Code, Section 53601.6, investment in inverse floaters, range notes, or mortgage derived interest-only strips is prohibited.

Investment in any security that could result in a zero interest accrual if held to maturity is prohibited, with the exception of securities issued or backed by the US government.

Trading securities for the sole purpose of speculating on the future direction of interest rates is prohibited.

Purchasing or selling securities on margin is prohibited.

The use of reverse repurchase agreements, securities lending or any other form of borrowing or leverage is prohibited.

The purchase of foreign currency denominated securities is prohibited.

## **INTERNAL CONTROLS**

A system of internal controls has been established and documented in writing in the Water Authority's Financial Services Policies and Procedures Manual. The controls shall be designed to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, and misrepresentation of third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets or imprudent action by employees and officers of the Water Authority. Controls deemed most important include: control of collusion, separation of duties and administrative controls, separating transaction authority from accounting and record keeping, custodial safekeeping, clear delegation of authority, management review and approval of investment transactions, specific limitations regarding securities losses and remedial action, written confirmation of telephone transactions, minimizing the number of authorized Investment Officials, documentation of transactions and strategies, and code of ethics standards. The Treasurer has established an annual process of independent review by an external audit firm. This review provides assurance of strong internal controls by reviewing compliance with previously established policies and procedures.

## **REPORTING**

### **Monthly Reports**

Monthly transaction reports will be submitted by the Treasurer to the Governing Body within 30 days of the end of the reporting period in accordance with California Government Code Section 53607.

### **Quarterly Reports**

At a minimum frequency of quarterly, the Water Authority will submit an investment report to the Governing Body which provides full disclosure of the Water Authority's investment activities within 30 days after the end of the period. These reports will disclose, at a minimum, the following information about the Water Authority's portfolio:

1. An asset listing showing par value, cost and independent third-party fair market value of each security as of the date of the report, the source of the valuation, type of investment, issuer, maturity date, and interest rate.

2. Transactions for the period.
3. A description of the funds, investments and programs (including lending programs) managed by contracted parties (i.e. LAIF; investment pools, outside money managers and securities lending agents)
4. A one-page summary report that shows:
  - a. Average maturity of the portfolio and modified duration of the portfolio;
  - b. Maturity distribution of the portfolio;
  - c. Percentage of the portfolio represented by each investment category;
  - d. Average portfolio credit quality; and,
  - e. Time-weighted total rate of return for the portfolio for the prior one month, three months, twelve months and since inception compared to the Water Authority's market benchmark returns for the same periods;
5. A statement of compliance with investment policy, including a schedule of any transactions or holdings which do not comply with this policy or with the California Government Code, including a justification for their presence in the portfolio and a timetable for resolution.
6. A statement that the Water Authority has adequate funds to meet its cash flow requirements for the next six months.

## **QUALIFIED BANKS AND SECURITIES DEALERS**

A competitive bid process, when practical, will be used to place all investment purchases and sales transactions. For any investment transaction not conducted directly with the issuer, the Water Authority shall conduct business only with banks, savings and loans, and registered investment securities dealers. The Water Authority's staff will investigate all institutions that wish to conduct business with the Water Authority. All institutions must sign the appropriate Information Request Form, and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the Water Authority's Annual Statement of Investment Policy. A list will be maintained by the cash management staff of approved institutions and securities broker/dealers. This will be done annually by having the financial institutions complete and return the Broker Dealer Information Request Form and an audited financial statement within 90 days of the institution's fiscal year-end. Previous Board approved substitute certification language may be offered to primary dealers of the Federal Reserve at the discretion of the Treasurer. In the event the substitute language is not accepted by the primary dealer, the Treasurer may return to the Water Authority's Board for approval of alternative language proposed by the primary dealer. If the Water Authority is utilizing the services of an investment advisor, the investment advisor may use their own list of approved issuers and financial institutions for executing transactions.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION**

The Water Authority recognizes that investment risks can result from issuer defaults, market price changes or various technical complications leading to temporary illiquidity. Portfolio diversification is employed as a way to control risk. The Treasurer is expected to display prudence in the selection of securities, as a way to minimize default risk. No individual investment transaction shall be undertaken which jeopardizes the total capital position of the overall portfolio. The Treasurer shall periodically establish guidelines and strategies to control risks of default, market price changes and illiquidity.

### **Mitigating Credit Risk in the Portfolio**

Credit risk is the risk that a security or a portfolio will lose some or all of its value due to a real or perceived change in the ability of the issuer to repay its debt. The Water Authority will mitigate credit risk by adopting the following strategies:

The diversification requirements included in the “Authorized Investments” section of this policy are designed to mitigate credit risk in the portfolio.

No more than 5 percent of the total portfolio may be deposited with or invested in securities issued by any single issuer unless otherwise specified in this policy.

The Water Authority may elect to sell a security prior to its maturity and record a capital gain or loss in order to manage the quality, liquidity or yield of the portfolio in response to market conditions or Agency’s risk preferences.

**Mitigating Market Risk in the Portfolio:**

Market risk is the risk that the portfolio value will fluctuate due to changes in the general level of interest rates. The Water Authority recognizes that, over time, longer-term portfolios have the potential to achieve higher returns. On the other hand, longer-term portfolios have higher volatility of return. The Water Authority will mitigate market risk by providing adequate liquidity for short-term cash needs, and by making longer-term investments only with funds that are not needed for current cash flow purposes.

The Water Authority further recognizes that certain types of securities, including variable rate securities, securities with principal paydowns prior to maturity, and securities with embedded options, will affect the market risk profile of the portfolio differently in different interest rate environments. The Water Authority, therefore, adopts the following strategies to control and mitigate its exposure to market risk:

The maximum stated final maturity of individual securities in the portfolio will be five (5) years, except for US Treasuries, Agencies and Municipals, or unless otherwise stated in this policy.

The duration of the portfolio will generally be approximately equal to the duration (typically, plus or minus 20 percent) of a Market Benchmark, an index selected by the Water Authority based on the Water Authority’s investment objectives, constraints and risk tolerances.

**PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK**

Controlling and managing risk is the foremost portfolio management objective. The Water Authority strives to maintain an efficient portfolio by providing for the lowest level of risk for a given level of return. The Water Authority shall monitor and evaluate the portfolio’s performance relative to the chosen market benchmark(s), which will be included in the quarterly report. The Water Authority shall select an appropriate, readily available index to use as a market benchmark.

## **SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY**

To protect against potential losses caused by the collapse of security dealer(s), all book-entry securities owned by the Water Authority, including repurchase agreement collateral, shall be kept in safekeeping with “perfected interest” by a third party bank trust department, acting as agent for the Water Authority under the terms of a custody agreement executed by the bank and by the Water Authority. All securities will be received and delivered using standard delivery-versus-payment procedures. The only exception to the foregoing shall be certificates of deposit and investments in: (i) LAIF; (ii) local government investment pools; and (iii) money market funds, since the purchased securities are not deliverable. A record of these investments shall be held by the Treasurer.

## **STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY**

This Annual Statement of Investment Policy shall be reviewed and submitted annually to the Board of Directors in order to incorporate any changes necessary to ensure consistency and its relevance to current law, and financial and economic trends. This Annual Statement of Investment Policy shall be reviewed at a public meeting and voted on prior to the start of each calendar year.

### **Glossary of Investment Terms**

**AGENCIES.** Shorthand market terminology for any obligation issued by *a government-sponsored entity (GSE)*, or a *federally related institution*. Most obligations of GSEs are not guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the US government. Examples are:

**FFCB.** The Federal Farm Credit Bank System provides credit and liquidity in the agricultural industry. FFCB issues discount notes and bonds.

**FHLB.** The Federal Home Loan Bank provides credit and liquidity in the housing market. FHLB issues discount notes and bonds.

**FHLMC.** Like FHLB, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation provides credit and liquidity in the housing market. FHLMC, also called “FreddieMac” issues discount notes, bonds and mortgage pass-through securities.

**FNMA.** Like FHLB and FreddieMac, the Federal National Mortgage Association was established to provide credit and liquidity in the housing market. FNMA, also known as “FannieMae,” issues discount notes, bonds and mortgage pass-through securities.

**GNMA.** The Government National Mortgage Association, known as “GinnieMae,” issues mortgage pass-through securities, which are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the US Government.

**PEFCO.** The Private Export Funding Corporation assists exporters. Obligations of PEFCO are not guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the US government.

**TVA.** The Tennessee Valley Authority provides flood control and power and promotes development in portions of the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi River valleys. TVA currently issues discount notes and bonds.

**ASKED.** The price at which a seller offers to sell a security.

**ASSET BACKED SECURITIES.** Securities supported by pools of installment loans or leases or by pools of revolving lines of credit.

**AVERAGE LIFE.** In mortgage-related investments, including CMOs, the average time to expected receipt of principal payments, weighted by the amount of principal expected.

**BANKER’S ACCEPTANCE.** A money market instrument created to facilitate international trade

transactions. It is highly liquid and safe because the risk of the trade transaction is transferred to the bank which “accepts” the obligation to pay the investor.

**BENCHMARK.** A comparison security or portfolio. A performance benchmark is a partial market index, which reflects the mix of securities allowed under a specific investment policy.

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

**BROKER.** A broker brings buyers and sellers together for a transaction for which the broker receives a commission. A broker does not sell securities from his own position.

**CALLABLE.** A callable security gives the issuer the option to call it from the investor prior to its maturity. The main cause of a call is a decline in interest rates. If interest rates decline since an issuer issues securities, it will likely call its current securities and reissue them at a lower rate of interest. Callable securities have reinvestment risk as the investor may receive its principal back when interest rates are lower than when the investment was initially made.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD).** A time deposit with a specific maturity evidenced by a certificate. Large denomination CDs may be marketable.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT REGISTRY SYSTEM (CDARS).** A private placement service that allows local agencies to purchase more than \$250,000 in CDs from a single financial institution (must be a participating institution of CDARS) while still maintaining FDIC insurance coverage. CDARS is currently the only entity providing this service. CDARS facilitates the trading of deposits between the California institution and other participating institutions in amounts that are less than \$250,000 each, so that FDIC coverage is maintained.

**COLLATERAL.** Securities or cash pledged by a borrower to secure repayment of a loan or repurchase agreement. Also, securities pledged by a financial institution to secure deposits of public monies.

**COLLATERALIZED MORTGAGE OBLIGATIONS (CMO).** Classes of bonds that redistribute the cash flows of mortgage securities (and whole loans) to create securities that have different levels of prepayment risk, as compared to the underlying mortgage securities.

**COMMERCIAL PAPER.** The short-term unsecured debt of corporations.

**COST YIELD.** The annual income from an investment divided by the purchase cost. Because it does not give effect to premiums and discounts which may have been included in the purchase cost, it is an incomplete measure of return.

**COUPON.** The rate of return at which interest is paid on a bond.

**CREDIT RISK.** The risk that principal and/or interest on an investment will not be paid in a timely manner due to changes in the condition of the issuer.

**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.

**DEALER.** A dealer acts as a principal in security transactions, selling securities from and buying securities for his own position.

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

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

**DERIVATIVE.** Any security that has principal and/or interest payments which are subject to uncertainty (but not for reasons of default or credit risk) as to timing and/or amount, or any security which represents a component of another security which has been separated from other components (“Stripped” coupons and principal). A derivative is also defined as a financial instrument the value of which is totally or partially derived from the value of another instrument, interest rate, or index.

**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 T-bills and banker's 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.

**DIVERSIFICATION.** Dividing investment funds among a variety of investments to avoid excessive exposure to any one source of risk.

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

**FEDERAL FUNDS RATE.** The rate of interest charged by banks for short-term loans to other banks. The Federal Reserve Bank through open-market operations establishes it.

**FEDERAL OPEN MARKET COMMITTEE.** A committee of the Federal Reserve Board that establishes monetary policy and executes it through temporary and permanent changes to the supply of bank reserves.

**LEVERAGE.** Borrowing funds in order to invest in securities that have the potential to pay earnings at a rate higher than the cost of borrowing.

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

**LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND (LAIF).** A voluntary investment fund open to government entities and certain non-profit organizations in California that is managed by the State Treasurer's Office.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL.** Investment pools that range from the State Treasurer's Office Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) to county pools, to Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs). These funds are not subject to the same SEC rules applicable to money market mutual funds.

**MAKE WHOLE CALL.** A type of call provision on a bond that allows the issuer to pay off the remaining debt early. Unlike a call option, with a make whole call provision, the issuer makes a lump sum payment that equals the net present value (NPV) of future coupon payments that will not be paid because of the call. With this type of call, an investor is compensated, or "made whole."

**MARGIN.** The difference between the market value of a security and the loan a broker makes using that security as collateral.

**MARKET RISK.** The risk that the value of securities will fluctuate with changes in overall market conditions or interest rates.

**MARKET VALUE.** The price at which a security can be traded.

**MARKING TO MARKET.** The process of posting current market values for securities in a portfolio.

**MATURITY.** The final date upon which the principal of a security becomes due and payable.

**MEDIUM TERM NOTES.** Unsecured, investment-grade senior debt securities of major corporations which are sold in relatively small amounts on either a continuous or an intermittent basis. MTNs are highly flexible debt instruments that can be structured to respond to market opportunities or to investor preferences.

**MODIFIED DURATION.** The percent change in price for a 100 basis point change in yields. Modified duration is the best single measure of a portfolio's or security's exposure to market risk.

**MONEY MARKET.** The market in which short-term debt instruments (T-bills, discount notes, commercial paper, and banker's acceptances) are issued and traded.

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

**MUNICIPAL SECURITIES.** Securities issued by state and local agencies to finance capital and operating expenses.

**MUTUAL FUND.** An entity which pools the funds of investors and invests those funds in a set of securities which is specifically defined in the fund's prospectus. Mutual funds can be invested in various types of domestic and/or international stocks, bonds, and money market instruments, as set forth in the individual fund's prospectus. For most large, institutional investors, the costs associated with investing in mutual funds are higher than the investor can obtain through an individually managed portfolio.

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STATISTICAL RATING ORGANIZATION (NRSRO).**

A credit rating agency that the Securities and Exchange Commission in the United States uses for regulatory purposes. Credit rating agencies provide assessments of an investment's risk.

The issuers of investments, especially debt securities, pay credit rating agencies to provide them with ratings. The three most prominent NRSROs are Fitch, S&P, and Moody's.

**NEGOTIABLE CD.** A short-term debt instrument that pays interest and is issued by a bank, savings or federal association, state or federal credit union, or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank. Negotiable CDs are traded in a secondary market.

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

**PREPAYMENT SPEED.** A measure of how quickly principal is repaid to investors in mortgage securities.

**PREPAYMENT WINDOW.** The time period over which principal repayments will be received on mortgage securities at a specified prepayment speed.

**PRIMARY DEALER.** A financial institution (1) that is a trading counterparty with the Federal Reserve in its execution of market operations to carry out U.S. monetary policy, and (2) that participates for statistical reporting purposes in compiling data on activity in the U.S. Government securities market.

**PRUDENT PERSON (PRUDENT INVESTOR) RULE.** A standard of responsibility which applies to fiduciaries. In California, the rule is stated as "Investments shall be managed with the care, skill, prudence and diligence, under the circumstances then prevailing, that a prudent person, acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters, would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims to accomplish similar purposes."

**REALIZED YIELD.** The change in value of the portfolio due to interest received and interest earned and realized gains and losses. It does not give effect to changes in market value on securities, which have not been sold from the portfolio.

**REGIONAL DEALER.** A financial intermediary that buys and sells securities for the benefit of its customers without maintaining substantial inventories of securities and that is not a primary dealer.

**REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.** Short-term purchases of securities with a simultaneous agreement to sell the securities back at a higher price. From the seller's point of view, the same transaction is a reverse repurchase agreement.

**SAFEKEEPING.** A service to bank customers whereby securities are held by the bank in the customer's name.

**STRUCTURED NOTE.** A complex, fixed income instrument, which pays interest, based on a formula tied to other interest rates, commodities or indices. Examples include inverse floating rate notes which have coupons that increase when other interest rates are falling, and which fall when other interest rates are rising, and "dual index floaters," which pay interest based on the relationship between two other interest rates - for example, the yield on the ten-year Treasury note minus the Libor rate. Issuers of such notes lock in a reduced cost of borrowing by purchasing interest rate swap agreements.

**SUPRANATIONAL.** A Supranational is a multi-national organization whereby member states transcend national boundaries or interests to share in the decision making to promote economic development in the member countries.

**TOTAL RATE OF RETURN.** A measure of a portfolio's performance over time. It is the internal rate of return, which equates the beginning value of the portfolio with the ending value; it includes interest earnings, realized and unrealized gains, and losses in the portfolio.

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

**TREASURY BILLS.** All securities issued with initial maturities of one year or less are issued as discounted instruments, and are called Treasury bills. The Treasury currently issues three- and six-month T-bills at regular weekly auctions. It also issues "cash management" bills as needed to smooth out cash flows.

**TREASURY NOTES.** All securities issued with initial maturities of two to ten years are called Treasury notes, and pay interest semi-annually.

**TREASURY BONDS.** All securities issued with initial maturities greater than ten years are called Treasury bonds. Like Treasury notes, they pay interest semi-annually.

**VOLATILITY.** The rate at which security prices change with changes in general economic conditions or the general level of interest rates.

**YIELD TO MATURITY.** The annualized internal rate of return on an investment which equates the expected cash flows from the investment to its cost.