

# SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY

Approved: March 9, 2016

### POLICY

This Investment Policy (the “Policy”) of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (the “District”) provides delegation and guidelines for the investment of the District’s surplus cash and reserves that are not required for near-term operational needs of the District. The District will invest these funds in such a manner as to comply with applicable state laws, including California Government Code Sections 53600, et seq. and Sections 53630 – 53686.

No investment shall be made unless authorized California Government Code Sections 53600, et seq. and Sections 53630 – 53686. The District shall utilize conservative investment vehicles consistent with its objectives and investment strategies identified and listed in this document.

#### 1. SCOPE

The Investment Policy applies to all surplus cash and reserves that are not required for near-term operational needs of the District and all investment activities of the District except for the investment of bond proceeds, which are governed by the appropriate bond documents, and any pension, other post-employment benefit funds, or any other funds held in a trust that has a separate Investment Policy.

#### 2. PRUDENCE

The standard of prudence to be used by those authorized to invest on behalf of the District will be the “prudent investor” standard and will be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. The “prudent investor” standard states 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.”*

#### 3. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives, in priority order, of the investment activities of the District are:

1. Safety—Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure preservation of capital in the portfolio.
2. Liquidity—The investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the District to meet its cash flow requirements.
3. Return on Investment—The investment portfolio will be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into consideration the investment risk constraints of safety and liquidity needs.

#### **4. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

In accordance with Government Code Section §53607, the Board of Directors hereby delegates investment management responsibility for the investment program to the General Manager, for a one-year period. Subject to review, the Board of Directors may renew the delegation of authority pursuant to this section each year. The General Manager, and the General Manager's designees, will monitor and review all investments for consistency with this Investment Policy. The General Manager may delegate day-to-day investment decision making and execution authority to an Investment Advisor. Eligible Investment Advisors must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. The Advisor will follow the Policy and such other written instructions as are provided.

Investments shall be limited to investments listed in this Policy or investments added to California Government Code with the approval of the Board. Further, any significant changes in investment strategy will be brought forth by the General Manager and/or Investment Advisor for consideration at a meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (the "Committee"). If it is deemed necessary by the Committee, such changes in investment strategy may also be taken to the Board of Directors for approval.

#### **5. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Officers and employees involved in the investment process will refrain from personal business activities that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial decisions. Employees and investment officials will disclose to the General Manager any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business within their jurisdiction, and they will further disclose any large personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the District's portfolio.

#### **6. AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL DEALERS AND INSTITUTIONS**

The General Manager, or his/her designee, will maintain a list of financial dealers and institutions qualified and authorized to transact business with the District.

The purchase by the District of any investment other than those purchased directly from the issuer, will be purchased either from an institution licensed by the State as a broker-dealer, as defined in Section 25004 of the Corporations Code, who is a member of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), or a member of a Federally-regulated securities exchange, a National- or State-Chartered Bank, a Federal or State Association (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), or a brokerage firm designated as a Primary Government Dealer by the Federal Reserve Bank.

The General Manager, or his/her designee, will investigate all institutions that wish to do business with the District, in order to determine if they are adequately capitalized, make markets in securities appropriate to the District's needs, and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the District's Investment Policy and any other guidelines that may be provided. This will be done annually by requiring the financial institutions to submit in writing that they have read and will abide by the District's Investment Policy and submit its most recent Audited Financial Statement within 120 days of the institution's fiscal year-end.

If the District has retained the services of an Investment Advisor, the Investment Advisor may use its own list of authorized broker/dealers to conduct transactions on behalf of the District.

Purchase and sale of securities will be made on the basis of competitive bids and offers with a minimum of three quotes being obtained, whenever possible.

## 8. AUTHORIZED AND SUITABLE INVESTMENTS

The District will limit investments in any one issuer, except for U.S. Treasuries, federal agencies, U.S. instrumentalities, and pooled funds (i.e., money market funds, local government investment pools, and LAIF), to no more than 5% regardless of security type.

Where this section specifies a percentage limitation for a particular security type, that percentage is applicable only at the date of purchase. Credit criteria listed in this section refers to the credit rating category (inclusive of modifiers) at the time the security is purchased. If an investment's credit rating falls below the minimum rating required at the time of purchase, the General Manager, or his/her designee, will perform a timely review and decide whether to sell or hold the investment. If the District has retained the services of an Investment Advisor, the Investment Advisor will notify the General Manager of such a downgrade and will recommend a plan of action.

The following instruments are hereby authorized for investment by the District. If a type of instrument is not specifically authorized by this Policy, it is not a permitted investment.

1. **U.S. Treasuries.** United States Treasury notes, bonds, bills, or certificates of indebtedness, or those for which the full faith and credit of the United States are pledged for the payment of principal and interest.
2. **U.S. Federal Agency Obligations.** 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.
3. **California State and Local Agency Obligations.** Obligations of the State of California or any local agency within the state, including bonds payable solely out of revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled or operated by the state or any local agency or by a department, board, agency or authority of the state or any local agency. Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities in excess of one year must be rated "A," its equivalent, or better by two Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations ("NRSROs"). Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities under one year must be rated at least "A-1," its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO. No more than 30% of the District's portfolio may be invested in municipal obligations (combined with other state obligations, as described in section 8.4).
4. **Other State Obligations.** Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49 United States in addition to California, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by a state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of any of the other 49 United States, in addition to California. Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities in excess of one year must be rated "A," its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO. Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities under one year must be rated at least "A-1," its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO. No more than 30% of the District's portfolio may be invested in municipal obligations (combined with California state and local agency obligations, described in section 8.3).

5. **Bankers' Acceptances.** Purchases of bankers' acceptances will have a maximum maturity of 180 days. No more than 30% of the District's portfolio may be invested in bankers' acceptances. Eligible bankers' acceptances must be rated at least "A-1," its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO.
6. **Commercial Paper.** Commercial paper of "prime" quality of the highest ranking or of the highest letter and number rating as provided for by two NRSROs. The entity that issues the commercial paper will meet all of the following conditions in either paragraph a or paragraph b:
  - a. The entity meets the following criteria: (i) Is organized and operating in the United States as a general corporation. (ii) Has total assets in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000). (iii) Has debt other than commercial paper, if any, that is rated "A" or higher by an NRSRO.
  - b. The entity meets the following criteria: (i) Is organized within the United States as a special purpose corporation, trust, or limited liability company. (ii) Has program wide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, over collateralization, letters of credit, or surety bond. (iii) Has commercial paper that is rated "A-1" or higher, or the equivalent, by an NRSRO.

Eligible commercial paper will have a maximum maturity of 270 days or less. No more than 25% of the District's portfolio may be invested in commercial paper. The City may purchase no more than 10% of the outstanding commercial paper of any single issuer.

7. **Medium-Term Notes.** Medium-term notes, defined as all corporate and depository institution debt securities with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, issued by corporations organized and operating within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by the U.S. or any state, and operating within the U.S. medium-term notes must be rated "A," its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO. No more than 30% of the District's portfolio may be invested in medium-term notes.
8. **Bank Deposits.** Funds may be deposited in federally-insured or collateralized bank deposits to include, but not limited to, demand deposit accounts, savings accounts, market rate accounts, and time deposits. To be eligible to receive District deposits, the financial institution must be located in California and comply with the requirements listed in Government Code Section 53630 et. seq. The General Manager, at his/her discretion, may waive the collateralization requirements for any portion that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by the National Credit Union Administration. The District shall have a signed agreement with any depository accepting District funds per Government Code Section 53649. The final maturity of time deposits may not exceed five years. There is no limit on the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in bank deposits. However, a maximum of 50 percent of the portfolio may be invested in time deposits.
9. **Deposit Placement Services.** The District may invest a portion of its portfolio in deposits at a commercial bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, or credit union in the State of California (the selected depository) that uses a private sector entity that assists in the placement of deposits in the United States. The full amount of each deposit placed and the interest that may accrue on each such deposit will at all times be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Additional required criteria for this investment type can be found in California Government Code Section 53601.8.

If the District also uses negotiable certificates of deposit (“CDs”) (described in section 8.10), the 30% limit applies to the combined total invested in negotiable CDs and with deposit placement services. The maximum maturity of these instruments may not exceed five years.

The District will monitor the financial institutions selected by deposit placement services to ensure that the District does not deposit more than the amount eligible for FDIC insurance in a single financial institution through non-negotiable CDs and deposit placement services. California Government Code Section 53601.8 expires January 1, 2021 unless legislation is enacted to extend the expiration date.

10. **Negotiable Certificates of Deposit.** Negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a nationally- or state-chartered bank, a savings association or a federal association (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), a state or federal credit union, or by a federally- or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank. Eligible negotiable CDs with maturities in excess of one year must be rated “A,” its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO. Eligible negotiable CDs with maturities under one year must be rated at least “A-1,” its equivalent, or better by an NRSRO. No more than 30% of the District's investment portfolio may be invested in negotiable CDs. If the District also uses a deposit placement service (described in section 8.9), the 30% limit applies to the combined total invested in negotiable CDs and with deposit placement services.
11. **State of California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).** The State Treasurer established LAIF for the benefit of local agencies. The District can invest up to the maximum amount permitted by the State Treasurer.
12. **Money Market Funds.** Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies that are money market funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a-1, et seq.). To be eligible for investment pursuant to this subdivision these companies will either:
  - a. Attain the highest ranking letter or numerical rating provided by not less than two of the three largest NRSROs or
  - b. Have an Investment Advisor registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with not less than five years experience managing money market mutual funds and with assets under management in excess of \$500,000,000.

No more than 20% of the District's portfolio may be invested in money market funds.

13. **Local Government Investment Pools (LGIPs).** Shares of beneficial interest issued by a joint powers authority organized pursuant to Government Code Section 6509.7 that invests in the securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (q), inclusive, of Government Code Section 53601. Each share will represent an equal proportional interest in the underlying pool of securities owned by the joint powers authority. To be eligible under this section, the joint powers authority issuing the shares will have retained an investment adviser that meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. The adviser is registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
  - b. The adviser has not less than five years of experience investing in the securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (q), inclusive of California Government Code Section 53601.

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

14. **U.S. Instrumentalities.** 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), with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, and eligible for purchase and sale within the United States. Investments under this subdivision must be rated at least "AA" by an NRSRO. No more than 30% of the District's portfolio may be invested in these obligations.
15. **Asset-Backed Securities (ABS).** A mortgage pass-through security, collateralized mortgage obligation, mortgage-backed or other pay-through bond, equipment lease-back certificate, consumer receivable pass-through certificate, or consumer receivable-backed bond of a maximum of five years maturity. Securities eligible for investment under this subdivision shall be issued by an issuer having an "A" or higher rating for the issuer's debt as provided by an NRSRO and rated in a rating category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO. No more than 20% of the District's portfolio may be invested in ABS.

## 9. PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS

Investments not described herein, including but not limited to stocks, inverse floaters, range notes, mortgage-derived, interest-only strips, or any security that could result in zero interest accrual if held to maturity are prohibited for purchased by the District. The District will not leverage or borrow money for the purpose of investing.

## 10. INVESTMENT POOLS

The District will complete due diligence for any pooled investments the District invests in. The General Manager will collect and evaluate the following information for each pool/fund:

- Permitted investments and objectives
- Description of interest calculations
- Method/frequency of interest distribution
- Treatment of gains and losses
- Method/frequency of audits
- Description of eligible investors
- Limits/minimum account sizes, type of assets, transaction sizes, and number of transactions
- Limits on withdrawals
- Frequency of statements and reporting of underlying investments
- Reserves or retained earnings
- Fee schedules

## 11. COLLATERALIZATION

Collateralization is required for deposits. Deposits must be collateralized as specified under Government Code Section 53630, et seq. The District, at its discretion, may waive the collateralization requirements for any portion that is covered by federal deposit insurance. Funds may be deposited in active or inactive accounts, but may not exceed the total paid-up capital and surplus in any depository.

## **12. SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY**

All deliverable securities owned by the District will be kept in safekeeping/custody by a third-party bank's trust department. All trades of marketable securities will be executed (cleared and settled) on a delivery vs. payment (DVP) basis to ensure that securities are deposited in the District's safekeeping/custody bank prior to the release of funds.

## **13. MAXIMUM MATURITIES**

Maturities will be based on a review of cash flow forecasts. Maturities will be scheduled to permit the District to meet all projected obligations.

The District may not invest in a security that exceeds five years from the date of purchase unless the Board of Directors has provided at least 90 days prior approval for a specific purpose.

## **14. INTERNAL CONTROLS**

The General Manager will establish an annual process of independent review by an external auditor. This review will provide internal control by assuring compliance with policies and procedures.

## **15. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

The District will establish a performance benchmark consistent with its investment strategy and supportive of its investment objectives.

## **16. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The General Manager shall submit a monthly report of investment transactions, if any, that is in accordance with California Government Code §53607. In addition, on a regular basis, the General Manager may provide the Board of Directors with a report that shall disclose, at a minimum, the following information about the risk characteristics of District's portfolio: A listing of District assets showing par value, cost, and market value of each security, type of investment, issuer name, credit quality, coupon rate, and yield to maturity at cost. This report may also include a statement of compliance with the Investment Policy, including a schedule of any transactions or holdings which do not comply with this Policy or with the California Government Code, if any, including a justification for their presence in the portfolio and a timetable for resolution, and a statement that the District has adequate funds to meet its cash flow requirements for the next six months.

These reports shall also contain any additional information as is requested by the Board of Directors.

## **17. INVESTMENT POLICY ADOPTION AND REVIEW**

The District's Investment Policy is hereby adopted by the District's Board of Directors. This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors and any modifications made thereto must be approved by the Board of Directors.

**18. GLOSSARY**

See attached **Appendix A.**



## APPENDIX A GLOSSARY

**AGENCIES:** Federal agency securities and/or Government-sponsored enterprises.

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

**BROKER:** A broker brings buyers and sellers together for a commission.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD):** A deposit with a specific maturity evidenced by a Certificate. Large-denomination CDs are typically negotiable.

**COLLATERAL:** Securities, evidence of deposit or other property, which a borrower pledges to secure repayment of a loan. Also refers to securities pledged by a bank to secure deposits of public monies. California Government Code Sections 53630 – 53686 et seq. mandate the collateral requirements for public funds in the state of California.

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

**DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT:** There are two methods of delivery of securities: delivery versus payment and delivery versus receipt. Delivery versus payment is delivery of securities with an exchange of money for the securities. Delivery versus receipt is delivery of securities with an exchange of a signed receipt for the securities.

**FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC):** A federal agency that insures bank deposits, currently up to \$250,000 per entity.

**LIQUIDITY:** A liquid asset is one that can be converted easily and rapidly into cash without a substantial loss of value. In the money market, a security is said to be liquid if the spread between bid and asked prices is narrow and reasonable size can be done at those quotes.

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

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

**PORTFOLIO:** Collection of securities held by an investor.

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

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

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

**SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION:** Agency created by Congress to protect investors in securities transactions by administering securities legislation.

## APPENDIX A

**SEC RULE 15(C)3-1:** See Uniform Net Capital Rule.

**UNIFORM NET CAPITAL RULE:** Securities and Exchange Commission requirement that member firms as well as nonmember broker-dealers in securities maintain a maximum ratio of indebtedness to liquid capital of 15 to 1; also called net capital rule and net capital ratio. Indebtedness covers all money owed to a firm, including margin loans and commitments to purchase securities, one reason new public issues are spread among members of underwriting syndicates. Liquid capital includes cash and assets easily converted into cash.