

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Investment Policy

INTRODUCTION

The Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority (CSJVRMA) has a fiduciary responsibility to maximize the productive use of its liquid assets entrusted to its care and to manage those public funds wisely and prudently.

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. Related activities which comprise good cash management include accurate cash projections, the expeditious collection of revenue, the control of disbursements, cost-effective banking relations, and short-term borrowing program which coordinates working capital requirements and investment opportunity. In concert with these requirements are the many facets of an appropriate and secure short-term investment program.

SCOPE

It is intended that this policy cover all funds and investment activities under the direct authority of the CSJVRMA. This policy does not cover any funds held by the fiscal agent in connection with the issuance of any bonds by the CSJVRMA. Such funds shall be invested in accordance with the applicable trust indenture.

OBJECTIVES

Safety. It is the primary duty and responsibility of the Treasurer to protect, preserve and maintain cash and investments placed in his trust on behalf of the CSJVRMA.

Liquidity. An adequate percentage of the portfolio should 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, investments in securities with active secondary or resale markets is highly recommended. Emphasis should be on marketable securities with low sensitivity to market risk.

Yield. Yield should become a consideration only after the basic requirements of safety and liquidity have been met. The investment portfolio shall be designed to attain a market-average rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the CSJVRMA's risk constraints, the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio, and State and Local laws, ordinances or resolutions that restrict investments.

Diversification. The investment portfolio will be diversified by the type of investment, issuer, and maturity dates in order to avoid incurring unreasonable and avoidable risks including changes in the market.

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Prudence. The CSJVRMA adheres to the guidance provided by the “prudent investor standard,” as set forth in Government Code section 53600.3, which specifically addresses public investing, as follows:

“Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 27000.3, all governing bodies of local agencies or persons authorized to make investment decisions on behalf of those local agencies investing public funds pursuant to this chapter are trustees and therefore fiduciaries subject to the prudent investor standard. 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 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”.

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 investment return, provided that adequate diversification has been implemented.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Treasurer is authorized by resolution of the CSJVRMA Board of Directors to manage the investment needs of the CSJVRMA. The Treasurer may delegate his/her investment decision making and execution authority to an investment advisor. The advisor shall follow the investment policy, herein stated, and such other written instructions as are provided.

REPORTING

The Treasurer shall submit an investment report on a regular basis that is in compliance with the Government Code to the governing body. This report shall also contain any additional information as is requested by the governing body.

ELIGIBLE SECURITIES AND CRITERIA

Security purchases and holdings must be maintained within statutory limits imposed by the California Government Code, section 53600 et seq, subject to any additional limitations imposed by the CSJVRMA. A competitive process, when practical, will be used for all purchases and sales of investments.

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SECURITIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PURCHASE

CSJVRMA funds may not be invested in Municipal securities of member agencies. CSJVRMA funds may not be invested in reverse repurchase agreements (reverse repos).

TARGET DURATION

That part of the portfolio required to pay claims shall be invested in a portfolio known as the Claims Payment Portfolio to achieve a modified duration approximately equal to the modified duration of the Authority's actuarially projected claims.

Funds in the investment portfolio not required to pay future claims shall be invested in a portfolio known as the Reserve for Long Term Growth Portfolio in order to provide for long term growth of the fund.

MAXIMUM MATURITY

Since funds invested in the Reserve for Long Term Growth Portfolio are invested for the specific purpose of providing for long term growth, and since the cash flow requirements of the Authority are met through other investments, the Board of Directors hereby grants authority for the purchase of securities with maturities in excess of five years. Such purchases shall be of U.S. Treasury and federal agency securities only (including mortgage-backed securities), and shall only be made in the Reserve for Long Term Growth Portfolio. The maximum maturity of individual securities is limited to ten years.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The performance benchmark for the portfolio shall be an index of government securities with a modified duration approximately equal to the target modified duration of the portfolio. The Claims Payment Portfolio and the Reserve for Long Term Growth Portfolio may have separate benchmarks.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

A system of internal control shall be established to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation of third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by employees and officers of the CSJVRMA.

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ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Employees and officials involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activities that create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or impairs their ability to make impartial investment decisions.

SAFEKEEPING OF SECURITIES

1. To protect against potential losses by collapse of individual securities dealers, and to enhance access to securities, interest payments and maturity proceeds, all securities owned by the Authority shall be held in safekeeping by a third party bank trust department, acting as agent for the Authority under the terms of a custody agreement executed by the bank and by the Authority.
2. All investment transactions of the Authority shall be conducted using standard delivery-vs.-payment procedures.

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY

The Statement of Investment Policy shall be reviewed and submitted annually to the Governing Body.

DATE APPROVED

November 30, 1989
Reviewed: June 2020
Last Amended: March 2018

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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 and are payable upon order to the bearer or initial depositor (investor).

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.

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