

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

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Policy Title : Investment Policy
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REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY INVESTMENT POLICY

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Investment Policy (Policy) is to establish cash management and investment guidelines for the Treasurer, who is responsible for investing and safeguarding the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) surplus funds. Each transaction and the entire portfolio must comply with California Government Code (the "Code") Sections 53600 through 53610 (Investment of Surplus), Sections 53630 through 53686 (Deposit of Funds), and this Policy.

2.0 Scope

This Policy applies to all surplus financial funds of RWA that may be invested because they are not needed for immediate payment of expenses. These funds are accounted for in RWA's audited annual financial report and include:

1. Enterprise Funds
2. Trust and Agency Funds
3. Any new fund created by the legislative body, unless specifically exempted.

Except for cash in certain restricted and special funds, RWA will consolidate cash balances from all funds to maximize investment earnings. Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based on their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, the costs of managing the investment portfolio, including but not limited to the costs of investment management, custody of assets, managing and accounting for banking, and oversight controls, will be charged to investment earnings based upon actual hours of labor devoted to managing each of the funds.

3.0 General Objectives

In accordance with the Code, the primary objectives, in priority order, of investment activities will be safety, liquidity, and yield:

1. Safety. Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of principal in the overall portfolio. Each investment transaction will be entered into with consideration for the quality of the issuer and of the underlying security and collateral.

2. Liquidity. The investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated. Liquidity will be accomplished by structuring the portfolio so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands whenever feasible. A portion or the entire portfolio also may be placed in money market mutual funds or local government investment pools which offer same-day liquidity for short-term funds.

3. Yield. 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 and liquidity needs.

4.0 Standards of Care

1. Prudent Investor Standard. In accordance with Section 53600.3, the RWA Board and Treasurer are trustees and fiduciaries subject to the "Prudent Investor Standard." The Prudent Investor Standard requires the Board and Treasurer, when investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, or managing the RWA's funds, to 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 RWA, 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 RWA. This standard will be applied in all investment decisions, including those related to hedging interest rate risks associated with debt financing. This standard will be applied in all investment decisions.

2. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest. The Treasurer and any other officers and employees involved in the investment process will refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Such officers and employees will disclose to the Board of Directors any material interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business. They will further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Affected officers and employees will refrain from undertaking personal investment transactions with the same individual with whom business is conducted on behalf of RWA. All such

officers and employees are prohibited from accepting honoraria, gifts and from financial dealers and financial institutions.

3. Delegation of Authority. Under Section 53607 of the Code, authority to manage RWA's investment portfolio is expressly delegated to the Board of Directors, which may delegate its authority to the Treasurer. In accordance with Section 53607, the Board hereby delegates its responsibility for the operation of the investment program to the Treasurer, who will act in accordance with established written procedures and internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this Policy.

5.0 Safekeeping and Custody

1. Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions. The Treasurer will maintain a list of financial institutions authorized to provide investment services and a list of approved security broker/dealers selected by creditworthiness (e.g., a minimum capital requirement of \$10,000,000 and at least five years of operation). These may include primary dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15C3-1 (uniform net capital rule).

RWA will only deposit funds in a depository that is established and operated in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified to conduct investment transactions for RWA must supply the following to the Treasurer as requested:

- Audited financial statements
- Proof of National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) certification
- Trading resolution
- Proof of state registration
- Completed broker/dealer questionnaire
- Certification signed by an authorized officer that he or she has read and understood and that the institution agrees to comply with this Policy.

The Treasurer will conduct an annual review of the financial condition and registration of qualified financial institutions and broker/dealers. A current audited financial statement is required to be on file for each financial institution and broker/dealer in or through which RWA invests. No broker, dealer, or securities firm will be eligible to provide services to RWA within 24 months of making a campaign contribution to any RWA Board member, if the contribution exceeds the limits contained in Rule G-37 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

2. Delivery vs. Payment. Where applicable, all trades will be executed by delivery vs. payment (DVP) to ensure that securities are deposited in an eligible financial institution prior to the release of funds. Securities will be held by a third-party custodian as evidenced by safekeeping receipts.

6.0 Suitable and Authorized Investments

The Treasurer is authorized to make investments in accordance with the general categories and limitations established by Sections 53601, 53601.6, 53601.8, 53635, 53635.2, 53638 and 53684 of the Code. Authorized investments also will include investment into the Local Agency Investment Fund ("LAIF") in accordance with Section 16429.1 of the Code. See Appendix A, which summarizes the categories of permitted investments.

1. U.S. Government, Agencies, State and Local Government Sponsored Enterprises

- a. 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.
- b. Registered state warrants or treasury notes or bonds of California, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the state.
- c. Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49 states in addition to California, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by a state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of any of the other 49 states, in addition to California.
- d. Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness of a local agency 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; provided, however, that any bond or certificate of participation investments in member agencies require prior Board approval.
- e. 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.
- f. These investments have a maximum maturity of five years.

2. Bankers Acceptance Notes

- a. Investments in prime bankers' acceptances may not exceed 40 percent of the portfolio in effect on the date of purchase of any such investment.
- b. No more than 30 percent of this category of investments may be invested in any one commercial bank's acceptances.
- c. The maximum maturity shall be limited to 180 days.

3. Commercial Paper

- a. Only commercial paper of prime quality of the highest ranking or of the highest letter and numerical rating, at the time of purchase, as provided by Moody's Investors Services or Standard & Poor's Corporation may be purchased.
- b. Investments in commercial paper shall not exceed 25 percent of the portfolio in effect on the date of purchase of any such investment.
- c. Each investment shall not exceed 270 days maturity.
- d. No more than 10 percent of the outstanding commercial paper of an issuing corporation may be purchased.
- e. The issuer is either: (1) organized and operating in the United States as a general corporation and has total assets in excess of \$500 million. If the entity has debt other than commercial paper, it is rated "A", "A-2" or higher by a nationally recognized rating agency; or (2) is organized within the United States as a special purpose corporation, trust or limited liability company. Has program-wide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, over-collateralization, letters of credit or surety bond. Has commercial paper that is rated "A-1", "A+" or higher by a nationally recognized rating agency.

4. Negotiable Certificates of Deposit

- a. A negotiable certificate of deposit must be issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a state or federal savings and loan association or savings bank, a state or federal credit union, or by a federally-licensed or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank and be rated "A" or better by at least one nationally recognized rating agency.
- b. Investments in negotiable certificates of deposit may not exceed 30 percent of the total portfolio in effect on the date of purchase of any such investment.
- c. The investment will not exceed the total of the net worth of any depository savings and loan association, except that investments up to a total of \$500,000 may be made to a savings and loan

association without regard to the net worth of that depository, if such investments are insured or secured as required by law..

- d. The investment shall not exceed the shareholders' equity of any depository bank. For the purpose of this constraint, shareholders' equity shall be deemed to include capital notes and debentures.
- e. The RWA Board and the Treasurer or other official of the RWA having legal custody of the moneys are prohibited from investing RWA funds, or funds in the custody of the RWA, in negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a state or federal credit union if a member of the RWA's Board, or a person with investment decision making authority at the RWA also serves on the board of directors, or any committee appointed by the board of directors, or the credit committee or the supervisory committee of the state or federal credit union issuing the negotiable certificates of deposit.
- f. The maximum maturity is limited to five years.

5. Medium-term notes

- a. Investment in medium-term notes are limited to corporations organized and operating within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by the United States or any state and operating within the United States.
- b. Purchases of medium-term notes will be limited to a maximum maturity of five years.
- c. Purchases of medium-term notes may not exceed 30 percent of the portfolio.
- d. Notes eligible for investment shall be rated in a rating category of at least "A" or its equivalent or better by a nationally recognized rating service.

6. Shares of Beneficial Interest (Money Market Funds)

- a. Investment in shares of beneficial interest issued by eligible diversified management companies that invest in securities that comply with Section 53601 and 53635 of the Code or are money market funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- b. These eligible companies must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Attain the highest ranking of the highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two nationally recognized rating agencies
 - ii. Retain an investment adviser registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with not less than five years' experience managing money market funds with assets under management in excess of \$500 million.

- c. The purchase price of the shares will not include any commission that the companies may charge and will not exceed 20 percent of the portfolio.
- d. No more than 10 percent of portfolio may be invested in one mutual fund.

7. Collateralized Bank Deposits

- a. Maximum maturity is limited to five years.
- b. Collateralization must be consistent with the requirements of Sections 53651 through 53652 of the Code.

8. Time Deposits

- a. For purposes of this Policy, collateralized time deposits will be considered investments.
- b. The financial institution used must have been in existence for at least five years.
- c. The financial institution must have received an overall rating of not less than “satisfactory” in its most recent evaluation by the appropriate federal financial supervisory agency of its record of meeting the credit needs of California’s communities.
- d. Eligibility for deposits will be limited to those financial institutions that have a branch in the State of California and maintain a rating equivalent to Thompson BankWatch Service of “B” or better.
- e. Credit requirements may be waived for a \$100,000 time deposit that is federally insured.
- f. The deposit will not exceed the shareholders’ equity of any depository bank. For the purpose of this constraint, shareholders’ equity will be deemed to include capital notes and debentures.
- g. The deposit will not exceed the total of the net worth of any depository savings and loan association, except that deposits not exceeding a total of \$500,000 may be made to a savings and loan association without regard to the net worth of that depository, if such deposits are insured or secured as required by law.
- h. Deposits must be insured up to the FDIC’s current limit. For uninsured deposits, the financial institution will maintain in the collateral pool securities having a market value of at least 10 percent in excess of the total amount deposited. RWA, at its discretion, may waive the collateralization requirements for any portion that is covered by federal deposit insurance. RWA shall have a signed agreement with any depository accepting RWA funds. Promissory notes secured by real estate mortgages or deeds of trust are not acceptable as collateral.
- i. When other factors are equal, appropriate consideration will be given to a financial institution that either individually or as a member

of a syndicate bids on or makes a substantial investment in the RWA's securities, contributes service to the RWA, and offers significant assistance to the RWA, so as to provide for distribution of total deposits among eligible financial institutions.

- j. Purchased time deposits will be limited to a maximum maturity of five years.

9. Local Agency Investment Fund

- a. Deposits for the purpose of investment in the Local Agency Investment Fund of the State of California may be made up to the maximum amount permitted by State Treasury policy.

7.0 Reporting

1. Required Periodic Reports. The Treasurer shall prepare an investment report at least quarterly, including a management summary that provides an analysis of the status of the current investment portfolio and transactions made over the last quarter. This management summary will be prepared in a manner which will allow the members of the RWA Board of Directors and Executive Director to ascertain whether investment activities during the reporting period have conformed to this Policy. The report shall be provided to the Board of Directors and the Executive Director. If applicable, the investment report will include the following:

- o Listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period by investment category.
- o Average life and final maturity of all investments listed
- o Coupon, discount, or earnings rate
- o Par value, amortized book value and market value
- o Percentage of portfolio represented by the investment category

2. LAIF Reporting. If the surplus funds are solely invested in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), the monthly LAIF statement shall be sufficient for reporting purposes.

8.0 Policy Considerations

1. Amendments. This Policy will be reviewed by the Treasurer on an annual basis. Any changes to this Policy recommended by the Treasurer must be approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, after review and comment by the individual(s) charged with maintaining internal controls.

2. Administration. The Treasurer may at any time further restrict the securities approved for investment as deemed prudent. From time to time, the established portfolio limitations may be exceeded due to irregular cash

flows or in certain economic conditions. In such cases, the Treasurer will inform the Executive Committee and Executive Director and take action consistent with the prudent investor standard to ensure that no category of investments exceeds the statutory limitations provided in the Code.

3. Performance Review. The Treasurer will conduct an annual appraisal of RWA's investment portfolio to evaluate its effectiveness and conformance with this Policy. To the extent necessary or appropriate, the Treasurer will make recommendations to the Executive Committee concerning the improvement and/or restructuring of the portfolio.

4. Existing Investments. Any investment held by RWA at the time this Policy is first adopted or revised to conform to changes in law or this Policy will not be sold because of a failure to conform to this Policy, unless the Treasurer deems sale of the investment to be prudent or required by law.

5. Conflict With Statute. In the event that any provision of this Policy conflicts with the Code or any other applicable state or federal statute, the provisions of any such statute will govern.

APPENDIX A

PERMITTED INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS PER GOVERNMENT CODE (AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012) ¹

Investment Type	Maximum Maturity	Maximum Specified % of Portfolio	Minimum Quality Requirement
Local Agency Bonds	5 years	100	None
U.S. Treasury Obligations	5 years	100	None
State Obligations—CA And Others	5 years	100	None
CA Local Agency Obligations	5 years	100	None
U.S Agency Obligations	5 years	100	None
Bankers' Acceptances	180 days	40%	None
Commercial Paper—Select Agencies	270 days	25% of the agency's money	"A-1" if the issuer has issued long-term debt it must be rated "A" without regard to modifiers
Commercial Paper—Other Agencies	270 days	40% of the agency's money	"A-1" if the issuer has issued long-term debt it must be rated "A" without regard to modifiers
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit and CD Placement Service	5 years	30%	None
Medium-Term Notes	5 years	30%	"A" Rating
Mutual Funds And Money Market Mutual Funds	N/A	20%	Multiple
Collateralized Bank Deposits	5 years	100	None
Bank/Time Deposits	5 years	100	None
County Pooled Investment Funds	N/A	100	None
Joint Powers Authority Pool	N/A	100	Multiple
Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)	N/A	100	None

¹ See Article 6 of the Policy for a more complete description of each permitted investment and related limitations.