
MONO COUNTY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY



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COUNTY OF MONO
INVESTMENT POLICY

I. Introduction

The intent of the Investment Policy of the County of Mono is to define the parameters within which funds are to be managed. In methods, procedures, and practices, the policy formalizes the framework for the County's investment activities that must be exercised to ensure effective and judicious fiscal and investment management of the County's funds. The guidelines are intended to be broad enough to allow the Director of Finance to function properly within the parameters of responsibility and authority, yet specific enough to adequately safeguard the investment assets.

II. Governing Authority

The investment program shall be operated in conformance with Government Code §53601, et seq. which provides legal authorization for the investment and deposit of funds of local agencies.

III. Scope

The policy applies to activities of the County with regard to investing the financial assets of all funds. In addition, funds held by trustees or fiscal agents are excluded from these rules; however, all funds are subject to regulations established by the State of California.

Note that any excluded funds such as the Other Post Employment Benefit Trust Fund are covered by separate policies.

Except for funds in certain restricted and special funds, the County commingles its funds to maximize investment earnings and to increase efficiencies with regard to investment pricing, safekeeping and administration. Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based on their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

IV. General Objectives

The primary objectives, in priority order, of investment activities shall be:

1. **Safety** – Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The goal will be to mitigate the credit risk and interest rate risk.
2. **Liquidity** – The investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated.
3. **Yield** – The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints of safety and liquidity needs.

V. Standards of Care

1. **Prudence** – The standard to be used by the Director of Finance/Investment Officer shall be the “prudent person” standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. The Finance Director acting in accordance with written procedures and this investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal liability for an individual security’s credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

The “prudent person” standard states that,

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

2. **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest** – Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal 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. Employees and investment officials shall disclose any material interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business. Disclosure shall be made to the governing body. They shall further disclose any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Employees and officers shall refrain from undertaking any personal investment transactions with the same individual with whom business is conducted on behalf of the County.

3. **Delegation of Authority and Responsibilities**

Governing Body – The Board of Supervisors (Board) will retain ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the portfolio. The Board will receive monthly and quarterly reports, designate investment officers and annually review the investment policy making any necessary changes by adoption.

Delegation of Authority – Pursuant to Government Code §53607, authority to invest or reinvest, or to sell or exchange securities so purchased, may be delegated for a one year period; thereafter, the County Finance Director shall assume full responsibility for those transactions until the delegation of authority is revoked or expires.

Responsibility for the operation of the investment program is hereby delegated to the Finance Director who shall act in accordance with established written procedures and internal controls for the operation of the investment program consistent with this Investment Policy.

All participants in the investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust.

Treasury Oversight Committee – A County Treasury Oversight Committee has been established in accordance with §27130 et seq. of the Government

Code to promote public interest by involving depositors in the management of their funds. The Treasury Oversight Committee shall:

- A. Review and monitor the Investment Policy,
- B. Annually review the investments made by the County Treasury,
- C. Cause an annual audit to be conducted to determine the County Treasury's compliance with Government Code §27130 et seq., and
- D. Meet on other matters as necessary.

By statute, the County Treasury Oversight Committee has no authority to direct individual investment decisions, select individual investment advisors, brokers, or dealers, or to impinge on the day-to-day operations of the County Treasury.

Committee members may not accept any honoraria, gifts or gratuities from advisors, brokers, dealers, bankers, or other persons with whom the County Treasury conducts business, which are in excess of the limits imposed by State Law, or by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Investment Advisor – The County may engage the services of one or more external investment managers to assist in the management of the entity's investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the entity's objectives. Such external managers may be granted discretion to purchase and sell investment securities in accordance with this Investment Policy. Such managers must be registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

VI. Authorized Financial Institutions, Depositories and Broker/Dealers

1. Financial institutions and depositories authorized to provide investment services and security broker/dealers will be 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 both Government Code §53601.5 and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15C3-1 (uniform net capital rule).
2. All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified for investment transactions shall meet the requirements of Government Code §53601.5 and, in addition, must supply the following as deemed appropriate by the Finance Director.
 - A. Audited financial statements demonstrating compliance with the state and federal capital adequacy guidelines.
 - B. Proof of Financial Industry Regulation Authority (FINRA) certification (not applicable to Certificate of Deposit counterparties).
 - C. Proof of California state registration.
 - D. Certification of having read and understood and agreeing to comply with the County's investment policy.
 - E. Evidence of adequate insurance coverage meeting any applicable requirements of State law and otherwise deemed adequate by the Finance Director.

3. An annual review of the financial condition and registration of all qualified financial institutions and broker/dealers will be conducted by the Finance Director.

VII. **Safekeeping and Custody**

1. **Delivery vs. Payment** – All trades, where applicable, 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.
2. **Safekeeping** – Pursuant to Government Code §53608, , the Board delegates to the Finance Director its authority to deposit securities for safekeeping. Securities will be held by a third-party custodian meeting the requirements of Government Code §53608 or other applicable law and selected by the Finance Director. The safekeeping institution shall annually provide a copy of their most recent report on internal controls (Statement of Auditing Standards No. 70)
3. **Internal Controls** – The Finance Director is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the County are protected from loss, theft or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that the cost of the control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and that the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management. The internal controls shall address the following points at a minimum:
 - A. Control of collusion,
 - B. Separation of transaction authority from accounting and recordkeeping,
 - C. Custodial safekeeping,
 - D. Avoidance of physical delivery securities,
 - E. Clear delegation of authority to subordinate staff members,
 - F. Written confirmation of transactions for investments and wire transfers,
 - G. Dual authorization of wire transfers,
 - H. Development of a wire transfer agreement with the lead bank and third-party custodian,
 - I. Staff training, and
 - J. Review, maintenance and monitoring of security procedures both manual and automated.

VIII. **Authorized Investments**

1. **Investment Types** – All investments shall be made in accordance with §53600 et seq. of the California Government Code and as described within this Investment Policy and summarized in Appendix A. Permitted investments under this policy shall include:

- 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. §53601(b)
- There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that can be invested in this category.*
- B. **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 §53601(f) such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
- There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that can be invested in this category.*
- C. **State of California Notes & Bonds** registered state warrants or treasury notes 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.
- There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that can be invested in this category.*
- D. **Notes and Bonds of Other 49 States** registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49 states, 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 that state.
- There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that can be invested in this category.*
- E. **Negotiable Certificates of Deposit (NCDs)** issued by a nationally or state chartered bank or a state or federal savings and loan association or by a state-licensed branch of a foreign bank.
- No more than 30% of the portfolio may be invested in NCDs*
- F. **Banker's acceptances**, otherwise known as bills of exchange or time drafts that are drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank.
- May not exceed 180 days to maturity or be more than 40% of the market value of the portfolio and no more than 30% of the County's moneys may be invested in banker's acceptances in the same bank.*
- G. **Commercial paper** of "prime" quality of the highest ranking or of the highest letter and number rating as provided for by a nationally recognized statistical-rating organization (NRSRO) such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's.
- Must have a maximum maturity of 270 days or less, no more than 25% of the portfolio may be invested in eligible commercial paper and no more than 10% may be invested in any one issuer's commercial paper.*
- H. **Medium-term notes** include 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 United States or any state and operating within the United States and rated "A" or better by an NRSRO.

May not exceed 30% of the portfolio may be invested in medium-term notes.

- I. **Reverse repurchase agreements** whose underlying purchased securities consist of the aforementioned instruments, subject to all the conditions set forth in Government Code §53601(j)(3).

May not exceed 20% of the base value of the portfolio and no agreement may exceed 92 days.

- J. **Money market mutual 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. §80a-1 et sec.

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

- K. **Local Agency Investment Fund** – established by the State Treasurer for the benefit of local agencies.

No more than \$50 million may be invested in LAIF (LAIF rules)

- L. **California Asset Management Program (CAMP)**. Shares in a California common law trust established pursuant to Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5 of the Government Code of the State of California which invests exclusively in investments permitted by §53601 of the Government Code as it may be amended.

No more than \$15 million may be invested (10% of the CAMP Pool - \$150 million as of 8/5/2014)

- M. **Commercial or Savings Bank, Savings and Loan or Credit Union** may be used to invest surplus funds up to 30% of the portfolio pursuant to §§56301.8 and 53635.8 of the Government Code.

No more than 10% can be invested in any one institution.

- N. **Bonds, notes, warrants or other evidences of indebtedness** of a local agency within the State of California, including local agencies formed within Mono County.

May not exceed 5 years to maturity. All investments with local agencies formed within Mono County must be pre-approved by the Board of Supervisors.

- 2. **Collateralization** – Where allowed by state law, full collateralization will be required on all demand deposit accounts, including checking accounts and non-negotiable certificates of deposit. Repurchase agreements will be collateralized at 102 percent.

IX. Investment Parameters

- 1. **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 County shall mitigate credit risk by adopting the following:

- a. **Diversification** – The investments will be diversified by
 - i. Limiting investments to avoid overconcentration in securities from a specific issuer or business sector (excluding U.S. Treasury securities),
 - ii. Limiting investment in securities that have higher credit risks,
 - iii. Investing in securities with varying maturities, and
 - iv. Continuously investing a portion of the portfolio in readily available funds such as local government investment pools, money market funds or overnight repurchase agreements to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained in order to meet ongoing obligations.

Due to fluctuations in the aggregate surplus funds balance, maximum percentages for a particular issuer or investment type may be exceeded at a point in time subsequent to the purchase of a particular issuer or investment type. Securities need not be liquidated to realign the portfolio; however, consideration should be given to this matter when future purchases are made to ensure that appropriate diversification is maintained.

- b. **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 County recognizes that, over time, longer-term/core portfolios have the potential to achieve higher returns. On the other hand, longer-term portfolios have higher volatility of return. The County shall 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 County further recognizes that certain types of securities, including variable rate securities, securities with principal pay downs prior to maturity, and securities with embedded options, will affect the market risk profile of the portfolio differently in different interest rate environments. The County, therefore, adopts the following strategies to control and mitigate market risk:
 - i. The County shall maintain a minimum of three months of budgeted operating expenditures in short term investments to provide sufficient liquidity for expected disbursements,
 - ii. The maximum percent of callable securities in the portfolio shall be 15%,
 - iii. The maximum stated final maturity of individual securities in the portfolio shall be five years, except as otherwise stated in this policy,
 - iv. Liquidity funds will be held in LAIF, CAMP or money market instruments maturing one year and shorter,

- v. Longer term/Core funds will be defined as the funds in excess of liquidity requirements. The investments in this portion of the portfolio will have maturities between 1 day and 5 years and will be only invested in higher quality and liquid securities.

X. Reporting

1. The Finance Director shall provide quarterly investment reports to the Board of Supervisors and The Treasury Oversight Committee within 30 days following the end of the quarter covered by the report. These reports shall include the following investment information as required by Government Code §53646(b):
 - a. The type of investment, issuer, date of maturity, par and dollar amount invested in all securities, investments and moneys held in the County Treasury,
 - b. Market value as of the date of the report and the source of this valuation,
 - c. The weighted average maturity of the investments within the Treasury,
 - d. Distribution by type of investment,
 - e. A description of all the County's funds and investments that are under the management of contracted parties,
 - f. A statement of compliance of the portfolio to this Statement of Investment Policy or manner in which the portfolio is not in compliance, and
 - g. A statement denoting the ability of the County to meet its pool's expenditure requirements for the next six months, or provide an explanation as to why sufficient money shall, or may, not be available.
2. The Treasury Oversight committee shall cause an annual audit to be conducted to determine the county treasury's compliance with Chapter 5, Article 6 (§27130-§27137) of the Government Code and this Statement of Investment Policy.

XI. Investment Pool Costs and Earnings Distribution

Costs directly related to the operation and management of the investment pool shall be deducted quarterly directly from net interest earnings prior to the distribution of interest earnings for the quarter. Pool costs include, but are not limited to, staff time, investment tracking costs, brokerage costs, and treasury pool audit costs.

Interest earnings shall be allocated quarterly according to each fund's average daily cash balances as a percentage of the total investment pool. Earnings shall be the net of received interest, amortized premiums, accreted discounts and profit or loss on the sale of trade of a security attributable to the quarter being apportioned, plus adjustments from prior quarters. The interest shall be apportioned as of the last day of the quarter and added to each participating fund's balance in the pooled investment fund.

XII. Withdrawal Requests

Any entity that seeks to withdraw funds for the purpose of investing or depositing those funds outside the county treasury pool, shall first submit the request for withdrawal to the Finance Director who shall evaluate the effect of the proposed withdrawal on the stability and predictability of the investments in the county treasury. Prior to approval, the Finance Director shall find that the proposed withdrawal will not adversely affect the interests of the other depositors in the pool (GC§27136). If it is necessary to liquidate securities, all losses occurring from the sale of a security prior to its maturity shall be borne by the entity wishing to withdraw funds.

XIII. Terms and Conditions for Outside Investors

Outside local agencies, where the County Finance Director does not serve as the agency's treasurer, may invest in Mono County's Investment Pool as permitted by Government Code Section 53684. Deposits are subject to the consent of the County Finance Director. The local agency legislative body must approve the county investment pool as an authorized investment. If the County Finance Director deems appropriate, the deposits may be returned at any time.

XIV. Policy Review

This investment policy shall be reviewed at least annually to ensure its consistency with the overall objectives of preservation of principal liquidity, rate of return and its relevance to current law and financial and economic trends.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

Investment Type	Government Code Reference	Limit ¹ Per Investment Type(s)	Limit ¹ Per Institution	Minimum ² Ratings	Maxium ² Allowable Maturity
United States Treasuries	§53601 (b & f)	None	None	None	5 years
United States Federal Agencies & Government-Sponsored Enterprises	§53601 (b & f)	None	None	None	5 years
State of California Notes & Bonds	§53601 (c) & 53601 (e)	None	None	None	5 years
Notes & Bonds of Other 49 States	§53601 (e)	None	None	None	5 years
California Local Agency Debt	§53601 (a), (c) & (e)	None	None	None	5 years
Medium-Term Notes	§53601 (k)	30%	None	A	5 years
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	§53601 (i)	30%	None	N/A	5 years
Bankers Acceptances	§53601 (g)	40%	30%	A-1	180 days
Commercial Paper	§53601 (h) & 53635 (a)	25%	10%	A-1 (short) A (long)	270 days
Reverse Repurchase Agreements	§53601 (j)	20%	None	Primary Dealer	92 days
Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)	§16429.1 & 53601(p)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
California Asset Management Program (CAMP)	§16429.1 & 53601(p)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Money Market Mutual Funds	§53601 (k)&(p), & 6509.7	20%	10%	AAA	N/A
Commercial or Savings Bank, Savings and Loan or Credit Union	§53601.8 & 53635.8	30%	10%	N/A	N/A

¹ Based on total of surplus funds at the time the investment decision is made.

² At the time of purchase.

GLOSSARY

Accreted Discount – The increase in the value of a discounted instrument as time passes and it approaches maturity. The value of the instrument will accrete (grow) at the interest rate implied by the discounted issuance price, the value at maturity and the term to maturity.

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

Amortization – The reduction of debt through regular payment of principal scheduled to complete repayment by maturity. Usually the payment of interest is incorporated to compensate the lender over the life of the debt.

Bankers' Acceptance – A time bill of exchange drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank to finance the exchange of goods. When a bank “accepts” such a bill, the time draft becomes, in effect, a predated, certified check payable to the bearer at some future specified date. Little risk is involved for the investor because the commercial bank assumes primary liability once the draft is accepted.

Basis point – One basis point is equal to 1/100 of 1%. For example, if interest rates increase from 4.25% to 4.5%, the difference is referred to as a 25-basis-point increase.

Book Value – The value of a security as carried in the records of an investor. Generally, this is the initial outlay for the investment and may be net or gross of expenses such as trading costs, services charges, etc.

Bond – A debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity (corporate or governmental) that borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a fixed interest rate. Bonds are used by companies, municipalities, states and U.S. and foreign governments to finance a variety of projects and activities.

Broker/Dealer – Any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities in this state for the account of others or for his/her own account. Broker/Dealer also includes a person engaged in the regular business of issuing or guaranteeing options with regard to securities not of his/her own issue.

Commercial Paper – Short-term, unsecured promissory note issued in either registered or bearer form and usually backed by a line of credit with a bank. Maturities do not exceed 270 days and generally average 30 – 45 days.

Coupon Rate – The interest rate stated on a bond when it is issued. The coupon is typically paid semi-annually.

Current Yield – The annual income (interest or dividends) divided by the current price of the security. 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.

CUSIP Numbers – An acronym for Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures, CUSIP numbers are identification numbers assigned to each maturity of

a security issue and usually printed on the face of each individual security in the issue. The CUSIP numbers are intended to facilitate identification and clearance of securities.

Debt Instrument – An instrument or promissory note which evidences and documents the terms of the loaning of funds from one party to another. Typically, the instrument contains the loan date, the maturity date, the repayment provisions, and the interest rate of the borrowing.

Default – The failure to pay debt obligations as agreed in the terms of the debt

Discount – The condition of the price of a bond that is lower than par. The discount equals the difference between the price paid for a security and the security's par value.

Earnings Apportionment – The quarterly interest distribution to the Pool participants.

Fair Value – The amount at which an investment could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than a forced or liquidation sale.

Fannie Mae (FNMA, Federal National Mortgage Association) – A government-sponsored enterprise (GSE) that was created in 1938 to expand the flow of mortgage money by creating a secondary mortgage market. Fannie Mae is a publicly traded company which operates under a congressional charter that directs Fannie Mae to channel its efforts into increasing the availability and affordability of homeownership for low-, moderate-, and middle-income Americans.

Federal Government Agency – Debt issued by government sponsored entities (GSE) to facilitate various types of lending. For example, the Federal Farm Credit Bank provides funds to farmers and FNMA provides funds to the real estate mortgage markets.

Freddie Mac (FHLMC, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.) – A stockholder owned government sponsored enterprise (GSE) chartered by Congress in 1970 to keep money flowing to mortgage lenders in support of homeownership and rental housing for middle-income Americans. The FHLMC purchases, guarantees and securitizes mortgages to form mortgage-backed securities. The mortgage-backed securities that it issues tend to be very liquid and carry a credit rating close to that of U.S. Treasuries.

Government-Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) – Privately held corporations with public purposes created by the U.S. Congress to reduce the cost of capital for the certain borrowing sectors of the economy. Members of these sectors include students, farmers and homeowners.

Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) – The State of California investment pool in which money of local agencies is pooled as a method for managing and investing local funds.

Market Value – The price at which a security is trading and could presumably be purchased or sold.

Maturity – The date upon which the principal of a security becomes due and payable to the holder.

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

Par Value – The face value of a bond. Par value is important for a bond or fixed-income instrument because it determines its maturity value as well as the dollar value of coupon payments.

Premium – The condition of the price of a bond that is higher than par. The premium equals the difference between the price paid for a security and the security's par value.

Principal – The face amount of a security not taking into account discounts or premiums. The amount borrowed or the amount still owed on a loan, separate from interest.

Repurchase Agreement (Repo) – A form of short-term borrowing for dealers in government securities. The dealer sells the government securities to investors, usually on an overnight basis, and buys them back the following day. For the party selling the security (and agreeing to repurchase it in the future) it is a repo; for the party on the other end of the transaction, (buying the security and agreeing to sell in the future) it is a reverse repurchase agreement.

Reverse Repurchase Agreement – The purchase of securities with the agreement to sell them at a higher price at a specific future date.

Registered Warrants – A “promise to pay” with interest, that is issued by the State of California when there is not enough cash to meet all of the State's payment obligations.

Settlement Date – The date on which the purchase or sale of securities is executed. For example, in a purchase transaction, the day the securities are physically delivered or wired to the buyer in exchange for cash is the settlement date.

Trade Date – The date and time corresponding to an investor's commitment to buy or sell a security.

U.S. Treasury Obligation – Direct obligations of the United States Treasury whose payment is guaranteed by the United States of America.

Weighted Average Maturity (WAM) - The weighted average of the time until all securities in a portfolio mature.