

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Excellent and responsive fiscal leadership.

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Board of Supervisors  
County of Marin  
Civic Center  
San Rafael. CA 94903

December 8, 2015

**Subject: 2015/2016 Annual Statement of Investment Policy**

Dear Board Members:

**Recommendation:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 53646, the attached annual Statement of Investment Policy for funds managed by the treasurer's office for the County, schools, college, and special districts is submitted for your review and approval.

**Summary:** The policy has been reviewed and monitored by the County Treasury Oversight Committee. The committee's membership is listed below. The authority for the committee and their responsibilities are contained in Government Codes sections 27130-27137.

Additionally, the County Treasurer's investment pool is reviewed and monitored monthly by Fitch Ratings, an independent rating agency. Their report is attached. We continue with a rating of AAA/V1. The County's AAA rating has been maintained since 1994.

The rating received is reflective of the outstanding work of the Treasury staff. Please call any one of us should you have any questions.

**Alternative Recommendation: N/A**

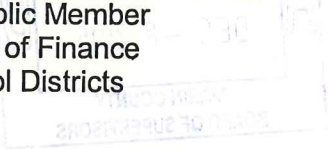
**Reviewed by:**  Finance Department  N/A  
 County Counsel  N/A  
 Administrator  N/A

Respectfully submitted,

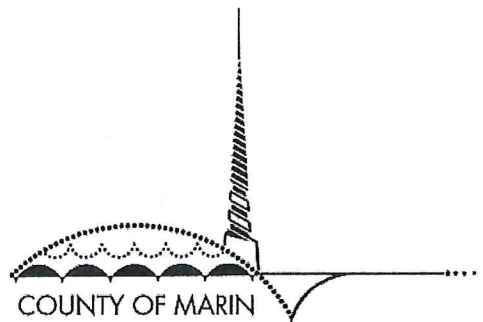
Roy Given  
Director of Finance

cc: Treasury Oversight Committee:  
Matthew Hymel, County Administrator

Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools  
Dan Hom, Special Districts Representative  
Thomas Lohwasser, School Districts Superintendent Representative  
Jean Bonander, Public Member  
Roy Given, Director of Finance  
Marin County School Districts  
Special Districts  
MCERA



***COUNTY OF MARIN***  
***STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT***  
***POLICY***



***FY 2015-2016***

***DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE***  
***ROY GIVEN, DIRECTOR***

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# **COUNTY OF MARIN**

## **STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY**

Under the authority delegated to the Director of Finance by the Board of Supervisors and in accordance with the California Government Code, the following sets forth the investment policy of the County of Marin:

### **I. OBJECTIVES:**

All funds on deposit in the County Treasury shall be invested in accordance with the California Government Code Sections 53600 et sec. and Sections 53639 et sec. to ensure:

- (a) **Preservation of capital** through high quality investments and by continually evaluating the credit of financial institutions approved for investment transactions, and securities considered and held in safekeeping;
- (b) Maintenance of sufficient **liquidity** to enable the participants and other depositors to meet their operating requirements;
- (c) A **rate of return** consistent with the above objectives.

### **2. PARTICIPANTS**

Participants in the Marin County Pool are defined as Marin County, Marin Public School Agencies, Marin Community College, Marin County Office of Education, districts under the control of the County Board of Supervisors, autonomous/independent districts whose treasurer is the Director of Finance and any other district or agency approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Finance using the County of Marin as their fiscal agent.

- (a) **Statutory participants** are those government agencies within the County of Marin for which the Marin County Treasurer is statutorily designated as the Custodian of Funds.
- (b) **Voluntary participants** are other local agencies that may participate in the Pooled Investment Fund, such as special districts and cities for which the Marin County Treasurer is not statutorily designated as the Custodian of Funds. Participation is subject to approval by the Director of Finance, and in accordance with California Government Code Section 53684.

### **3. AUTHORIZED PERSONS**

Authorized persons for investment purposes include principal staff as designated by the Director of Finance on the Authorized Investor List. Designated Principal Staff shall make all investment decisions. To minimize the risk of disrupting the day to day business activities, Principal Staff shall use separate means of travel to attend training and conferences.

All investment decisions shall be made with the care, skill, prudence and diligence, under the circumstances then prevailing, that a prudent person acting, as a trustee, in a like capacity and familiarity 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 participants.

**4. BIDS & PURCHASE OF SECURITIES**

Prior to the purchase of an investment pursuant to this policy the persons authorized to make investments shall assess the market and market prices using information obtained from available sources including investment services, broker/dealers, and the media. Bids for various investments shall be evaluated considering preservation of capital as the most important factor, liquidity as the second most important factor and lastly, yield. Investments in commercial paper, bankers acceptances and certificates of deposit for each issuer shall be limited to five percent (5%) of Treasury assets, determined using the Treasury balance at the time of purchase, except that investments in overnight commercial paper shall be limited to seven percent (7%) of Treasury assets for any one issuer. The investment selected for purchase shall be that investment which in the opinion of the purchaser most clearly meets these objectives. All security transactions shall be documented at the time the transaction is consummated.

**5. TERM**

Maturities of investments in the Marin County Treasury Pool shall be selected based upon liquidity requirements. The maximum remaining term to maturity for an investment shall be three (3) years; except that, subject to the limitations set forth in Sections 53601 et seq. and 53635 et seq. of the California Government Code, the Director of Finance may authorize investments in U.S. Treasury obligations and/or U.S. and local agency obligations with a maximum remaining term to maturity that shall not exceed five (5) years. The weighted average maturity of the investment pool, to be determined at the time of purchase, shall not exceed 540 days to final maturity/call.

Capital Funds, Construction Funds, or money obtained through the sale of agency surplus property, may be invested by the Director of Finance in specific investments outside of the Pool provided the Director of Finance obtains written approval from the governing board of the County, School District or Special District. No investment shall have a remaining maturity in excess of five (5) years.

Proceeds of Debt Issues set aside for repayment of any County, School District, or Special District financings shall not be invested for a term that exceeds the term set forth in the financing documents.

6. **ALLOWED INVESTMENTS**

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 53601 et seq. & 53635 et seq., the County Director of Finance may invest in the following subject to the limitations as set forth:

- (a) **United States Treasury obligations.**
- (b) **United States Agency obligations.**
- (c) **Securities of U.S. Government Agencies & Instrumentalities**
- (d) **State of California Bonds and Registered Warrants.**
- (e) **Bonds, Notes, Warrants** or other evidence of indebtedness of a **local agency** within the State of California.
- (f) **Bankers acceptances** not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days to maturity or at the time of purchase thirty percent (30%) of the treasury fund balance.
- (g) **Commercial paper** of "prime" quality of the highest letter and numerical rating as provided for by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or Standard and Poor's Corporation, to be chosen from among corporations organized and operating within the United States with assets in excess of \$500,000,000.00 and having an "A" or higher rating for the issuer's debt, other than commercial paper, as provided for by Moody's Investors Service or Standard and Poor's Corporation. Purchases of eligible commercial paper may not exceed two hundred seventy (270) days in maturity and may not exceed forty percent (40%) of the treasury fund balance.
- (h) **Negotiable certificates of deposit** issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a state or federal association or by a state-licensed branch of a foreign bank selected on the basis of financial stability and credit rating criteria employed by the County Director of Finance . Negotiable certificates of deposit may not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the treasury fund balance.

i) **Non-negotiable certificates of deposit (Time Deposits)** with a nationally or state-chartered bank or a state or federal association selected on the basis of financial stability, credit rating and reputation using criteria employed by the County Director of Finance fully collateralized at one hundred ten percent (110%) of market value with U.S. Government Securities, high-grade Municipal Bonds, instruments of federal agencies, including mortgage backed securities at one hundred fifty percent (150%) of market value with promissory notes secured by first deeds of trust upon improved residential real property as provided by the Government Code.

(j) **Medium-term Notes** rated "A" or better, to be chosen from among corporations with assets in excess of \$500,000,000.00 with a maturity not to exceed two years from the date of purchase. Purchase of eligible medium-term notes may not exceed thirty percent (30%) of the treasury fund balance.

(k) **Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies**, which are money market funds investing in securities and obligations as authorized by this investment policy. To be eligible for investment these companies shall attain the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating provided by no less than two nationally recognized statistical rating organizations and have assets under management in excess of \$500,000,000.00. The purchase price may not include any commissions that these companies may charge, and the purchase of shares in any one mutual fund may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the treasury balance and the total invested may not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the treasury balance. Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies may include shares in investment trusts established under provisions of the California Joint Exercise of Powers Act.

(l) **Repurchase agreements** on any investment authorized by this investment policy where the term of the agreement does not exceed one year. The market value of securities that underlay a repurchase agreement shall be valued at one hundred two percent (102%) or greater of the funds borrowed against those securities, and the value shall be adjusted daily. The County Director of Finance or designee must approve any collateral substitution by the seller, and any new collateral should be reasonably identical to the original collateral in terms of maturity, yield, quality and liquidity.

(m) **California State Local Agency Investment Pool (LAIF)** operated by the State Treasurer's office.



(n) **Financial Institution Investment Accounts** - All funds on deposit with the County shall be managed by the County Director of Finance. The Director of Finance may, at his option, at the time of placement, place not more than five percent (5%) of the Treasury assets at the time of investment with a financial institution for the purpose of managing such funds. Securities eligible for purchase by the financial institution are limited to United States Treasury and Agency obligations with a "AAA" credit quality rating, must be held in the County's name in a third party custody account, may not have a remaining maturity in excess of three (3) years, and the account shall have an average maturity of 1.5 years or less. All security transactions shall be supervised and approved by designated staff on the Authorized Investor List.

Where a percentage limitation is specified for a particular category of investments, that percentage is applicable only at the time of purchase.

7. ***PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS***

(a) The County Director of Finance **shall not invest** in any **Derivatives** such as inverse floaters, range notes, or interest only strips that are derived from a pool of mortgages or any security bearing a rate of interest which is not known at the time of purchase.

(b) The County Director of Finance shall not invest any funds in any security that could result in **zero interest accrual** if held to maturity or where there is a risk of loss of principal when held to maturity.

(c) **Reverse repurchase agreements**, securities lending agreements and all other investments that are not specifically allowed by this investment policy are prohibited.

(d) In accordance with Marin County's Nuclear Freeze Ordinance Measure "A" (Exhibit 1) as approved by the voters on November 4, 1986, the County is prohibited from investing in securities or other obligations of any corporation or business entity which is a **nuclear weapons contractor**.

Furthermore, said corporations or business entities that the County Director of Finance does invest in must file an affidavit as required by Measure "A" Section VI. B certifying that neither it, nor its parent company, affiliates or subsidiaries are nuclear weapons contractors. A copy of each affidavit received shall be sent to the Peace Commission.

8. *BROKERS*

Broker/dealers shall be selected by the Director of Finance upon recommendation by the Investment Officer or designated principal staff on the Authorized Investor List. Selection of broker/dealers shall be based upon the following criteria: the reputation and financial strength of the company or financial institution and the reputation and expertise of the individuals employed. The Director of Finance shall be prohibited from selecting any broker, brokerage firm, dealer, or securities firm that has, within any 48 consecutive month period following January 1, 1996, made a political contribution in an amount exceeding the limitations contained in Rule G-37 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, any member of the Board of Supervisors, any member of the governing board of a local agency having funds held in the County Treasury, or any candidate for those offices. The broker/dealers shall be provided with and acknowledge receipt of the County Investment Policy.

9. *WITHDRAWALS*

No withdrawals from the Marin County Pool shall be made for the purpose of investing and or depositing those funds outside the pool without the prior approval of the Marin County Director of Finance. The Director of Finance shall evaluate each proposed withdrawal to assess the effect the withdrawal will have upon the stability and predictability of the investments in the County Treasury. Approval shall be given unless the withdrawal will adversely affect the interests of the other depositors. Requests for withdrawals for the purpose of investing or depositing funds outside the pool shall be made in writing at least ten (10) business days in advance of the proposed withdrawal date. Notice in writing of at least five (5) business days shall be required for withdrawals in excess of \$250,000.00 for loan repayments, capital expenditures and any expenditure not in the ordinary course of operations.

10. *SWAPS*

Securities can be swapped for other approved securities with similar maturity schedules to gain higher rates of return. When a swap involves a change in liquidity, future cash needs shall be conservatively estimated.

**11. LOSSES**

Losses are acceptable on a sale before maturity, and may be taken if the reinvestment proceeds will earn an income flow with a present value higher than the present value of the income flow that would have been generated by the original investment, considering any investment loss or foregoing interest on the original investment.

**12. DELIVERY & SAFEKEEPING**

Delivery of all securities shall be through a third party custodian. Non-negotiable certificates of deposit and notes of local agencies may be held in the Director of Finance's safe. The County's safekeeping agent shall hold all other securities. No security shall be held in safekeeping by the broker/dealer from whom it was purchased. Settlement payment in a securities transaction will be against delivery only, and a Due Bill or other substitution will not be acceptable. Persons authorized under section three (3) who did not originate the investment transaction shall review all confirmations for conformity with the original transaction. Confirmations resulting from securities purchased under a repurchase agreement shall state the exact and complete nomenclature of the underlying securities purchased.

**13. APPORTIONMENT OF INTEREST & COSTS**

Interest shall be apportioned to all pool participants quarterly based upon the ratio of the average daily balance of each individual fund to the average daily balance of all funds in the investment pool. The amount of interest apportioned shall be determined using the cash method of accounting whereby interest will be apportioned for the quarter in which it was actually received. The Director of Finance shall deduct from the gross interest received those actual administrative costs relating to the management of the treasury including salaries and other compensation, banking costs, equipment purchased, supplies, costs of information services, audits and any other costs as provided by Section 27013 of the Government Code.

**14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

A member of the county treasury oversight committee, the County Director of Finance or County employees working in the Treasurer's office shall not accept honoraria, gifts, and gratuities from advisors, brokers, dealers, bankers, or other person with whom the county treasury conducts business, that are in violation of *state* law.

**15. AUDITS**

The County of Marin investment portfolio shall be subject to a process of independent review by the County's external auditors. The County's external auditors shall review the investment portfolio in connection with the annual county audit for compliance with the statement of investment policy pursuant to Government Code Section 27134. The results of the audit shall be reported annually to the Director of Finance and the Marin County Treasury Oversight Committee.

**15.1 Compliance Audit: Government Code Section 27134**

The Treasury Oversight Committee shall cause an annual audit to be conducted to determine the County Treasury's compliance with Article 6 of the Government Code. This audit may include issues relating to the structure of the investment portfolio and risk

**16. REVIEW**

The Director of Finance and designated staff will perform a monthly review of the investment function.

**17. REPORTS**

The Director of Finance shall prepare a monthly report listing all investments in the County Pool as of the last day of the month and a report of the average days to maturity and yield of investments in the County Pool. The Director of Finance shall also prepare a monthly report for all non-pooled investments. These reports shall be distributed to the Marin County Board of Supervisors, Superintendent of Schools, Marin Public School Agencies, Special Districts, non-pooled investors, the County's investment oversight committee, and any other participant upon request.

**18. INVESTMENT POLICY**

The County Director of Finance shall prepare and submit an annual statement of investment policy to the Board of Supervisors.

19. *TREASURY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE*

Consistent with State law the County has established a Treasury Oversight Committee. The Committee includes representatives from the County of Marin, Superintendent of Schools' Office, School Districts and Special Districts. The Committee shall review and monitor the Investment Policy as contained in California Government Code Sections 27130 – 27137.

20. *DISASTER/BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN*

The County of Marin's banking and investment functions are mission critical and as such, the office must have a business continuity plan.

The goal of a disaster/business recovery plan is to protect and account for all funds on deposit with the county treasury and to be able to continue our banking and investment functions for all participants in the event of an occurrence (Earthquake, Fire, Pandemic or other event) which disrupt normal operations. Our plan provides for the ability to perform our banking and investment function at an off-site location under less than optimal conditions and, if needed, even outside our county.

In the event of an occurrence which precludes staff from being able to operate from our office, the attached plan (exhibit 2) will be activated. The plan includes:

- Scope
- Chain of Command
- Continuity Procedure
- Functions and Tasks to be performed
- Equipment and Emergency Packets
- Disaster Assignment
- Off-site locations

Normal processes may be modified in response to an occurrence. However, the county's investment policy shall be strictly followed.

Dated: July 1, 2015

Roy Given  
Director of Finance

Reviewed and monitored by Marin Treasury Oversight  
Committee on November 2, 2015

Approved by Marin County Board of Supervisors on  
December XX, 2015

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 Marin County Nuclear Freeze Ordinance

Exhibit 2 Disaster/Business Continuity Plan

Exhibit 3 Authorized Investor List