



## **INVESTMENT POLICY**

### **1. Introduction**

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.

The investment policies and practices of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are based upon state law and prudent money management. All funds will be invested in accordance with the SANDAG Investment Policy and the California Government Code. The investment of bond proceeds will be further governed by the provisions of relevant bond documents.

### **2. Scope**

It is intended that this policy cover all funds and investment activities, with the exception of bond proceeds, under the direction or care of SANDAG, including funds of the San Diego County Regional Transportation Commission, SourcePoint, the SANDAG chartered nonprofit corporation, and the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS). Investment of bond proceeds shall be subject to the conditions and restrictions of bond documents and Treasury regulations related to arbitrage restrictions on tax-exempt bonds.

### **3. Prudence**

All persons authorized to make investment decisions on behalf of SANDAG 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 the agency, that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiarity with those matters would use in the conduct of funds of a like character and with like aims, to safeguard the principal and maintain the liquidity needs of the agency."

Investment officers acting in accordance with written procedures and the investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility 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.

#### 4. Objectives

- 4.1 *Safety.* Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of SANDAG shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure preservation of capital in the portfolio.
- 4.2 *Liquidity.* The investment portfolio of SANDAG will remain sufficiently liquid to enable SANDAG to meet its cash flow requirements.
- 4.3 *Return on Investment.* The investment portfolio of SANDAG shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return on its investments consistent with the constraints imposed by its safety objective and cash flow considerations.

#### 5. Delegation of Authority

- 5.1. The Board of Directors delegates the authority to invest or to reinvest funds, or to sell or exchange securities so purchased, to the Chief Executive Officer for a one-year period. The Chief Executive Officer is charged with the responsibility for carrying out the policies of the Board of Directors and shall assume full responsibility for investment transactions until the delegation of authority is revoked or expires. In accordance with the SANDAG established system for internal control, all financial transactions of SANDAG require the signature of at least two individuals authorized by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 5.2. For the purposes of carrying out this investment policy, any two of the following individuals, unless delegated per Section 5.5, are hereby authorized to make investment decisions, in strict accordance with this investment policy, on behalf of **SANDAG**:
  - Chief Executive Officer
  - Chief Deputy Executive Director
  - Chief Financial Officer
  - Finance Manager
  - *TransNet* Department Director
  - Such other individuals authorized, in writing, by the Chief Executive Director
- 5.3. All accounts established for the purpose of investing SANDAG funds shall require the written authorization of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 5.4. No single individual, acting alone, may engage in an investment activity, except for an authorized investment advisor/manager with discretionary authority delegated per Section 5.5.
- 5.5. The Chief Executive Officer may delegate investment management and decision authority, via written agreement, to one or more professional investment advisors/managers who are duly qualified and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. All agents engaged in this capacity shall make all investment decisions and transactions in strict accordance with state law and this investment policy.

5.6. The daily management responsibility for the investment program is assigned to the Chief Financial Officer, who shall monitor and review all investments for consistency with this investment policy.

**6. Ethics (Conflict of Interest)**

Officers, employees and agents thereof involved in the investment process shall comply with state law and refrain from personal business activities that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial decisions.

**7. Selection of Financial Institutions and Broker/Dealers**

7.1. SANDAG shall transact business only with banks, savings and loan associations, and registered investment securities dealers. The purchase by SANDAG of any investment other than those purchased directly from the issuer shall be either from an institution licensed by the State as a broker/dealer, as defined in Section 25004 of the Corporation Code, who is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or a member of a federally regulated securities exchange, a National or State-Chartered Bank, a Federal or State Association (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), or a brokerage firm designated as a Primary Government Dealer by the Federal Reserve Bank. The Chief Financial Officer shall investigate all institutions that wish to do business with SANDAG, in order to determine if they are adequately capitalized, make markets in securities appropriate to the needs of SANDAG, and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the SANDAG Investment Policy.

7.2. The Chief Financial Officer shall maintain a list of authorized broker/dealers and financial institutions which are approved for investment purposes, and it shall be the policy of SANDAG to purchase securities only from those authorized institutions and firms. If SANDAG has contracted investment advisors/managers, the Chief Financial Officer may approve and use a list of authorized broker/dealers provided by the investment advisor/manager.

**8. Permitted Investment Instruments**

The portfolio shall be diversified by security type and institution to avoid incurring unreasonable and avoidable risks regarding specific security types or individual financial institutions. Government Code §53601 states that when there is a percentage limitation for a particular category of investment, that percentage is applicable only at the date of purchase. To promote diversification, no more than 5% of the portfolio may be invested in the securities of any one issuer, regardless of security type; with the exception of U.S. Treasuries, federal agencies, supranationals, and pooled investments such as LAIF, the County pool, CAMP, and money market funds. Credit requirements listed in the investment policy apply at the time of purchase. In the event a security held by SANDAG is subject to a credit rating change that brings it below the minimum credit ratings specified for purchase, the Chief Financial Officer shall review the security. The course of action to be followed will then be decided by the Chief Financial Officer and either the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Deputy Executive Director on a case-by-case basis, considering such factors as the reason for the change, prognosis for recovery or further rate drops, and the market price of the security. Any credit rating changes below the minimum credit ratings specified for purchase will be reported to the Board of Directors with the next Quarterly Investment Report, along with the findings and any actions taken.

- 8.1. **Treasury Obligations:** notes, bonds, bills, or certificates of indebtedness, or those for which the full faith and credit of the United States are pledged for the payment of principal and interest.
- 8.2. **Federal Agencies and U.S. Government Sponsored Enterprises:** 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.
- 8.3. **State Municipal Obligations:** Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the 50 United States, including bonds payable solely out of 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 states. Such obligations must be rated A-1 or its equivalent or better short-term; or in a rating category of AA or its equivalent or better long-term by at least one of the nationally recognized statistical-rating organizations.
- 8.4. **Local Agency Obligations:** Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness issued by any local agency within the State, 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. Such obligations must be rated A-1 or its equivalent or better short-term; or in a rating category of AA or its equivalent or better long-term by one of the nationally recognized statistical-rating organizations.
- 8.5. **Repurchase Agreements:** Repurchase Agreements used solely as short-term investments not to exceed 90 days.
- 8.5.1 The following collateral restrictions will be observed: Only U.S. Treasury securities or Federal Agency securities will be acceptable collateral. All securities underlying Repurchase Agreements must be delivered to SANDAG's custodian bank or handled under a properly executed tri-party repurchase agreement. The total of all collateral for each Repurchase Agreement must equal or exceed, on the basis of market value plus accrued interest, 102 percent of the total dollar value of the money invested by SANDAG for the term of the investment. Since the market value of the underlying securities is subject to daily fluctuation, the investments in repurchase agreements shall be in compliance if the value of the underlying securities is brought back up to 102 percent no later than the next business day.
- 8.5.2 Market value must be calculated each time there is a substitution of collateral.
- 8.5.3 SANDAG or its trustee shall have a perfected first security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code in all securities subject to Repurchase Agreement.
- 8.5.4 SANDAG may enter into Repurchase Agreements with (1) primary dealers in U.S. Government securities who are eligible to transact business with, and who report to, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and (2) California and non-

California banking institutions having assets in excess of \$1 billion and in the highest short-term rating category, as provided by one of the nationally recognized statistical-rating organizations.

8.5.5 SANDAG will have properly executed a Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (**SIFMA**) agreement with each firm with which it enters into Repurchase Agreements.

8.6. **Bankers' Acceptances:** Bankers' Acceptances issued by domestic banks or domestic branches of foreign banks, which are eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve System, the short-term paper of which is rated in the highest rating category by one of the nationally recognized statistical-rating organizations. Purchases of Bankers' Acceptances may not exceed 180 days maturity or 40 percent of SANDAG surplus money.

8.7. **Commercial Paper:** 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. The entity that issues the commercial paper shall meet all of the following conditions in either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b):

- a) The entity meets the following criteria: (i) Is organized and operating in the United States as a general corporation. (ii) Has total assets in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000). (iii) Has debt other than commercial paper, if any, that is rated in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or higher by a nationally recognized statistical-rating organization.
- b) The entity meets the following criteria: (i) is organized within the United States as a special purpose corporation, trust, or limited liability company. (ii) Has program wide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, over collateralization, letters of credit, or surety bond. (iii) Has commercial paper that is rated "A-1" or higher, or the equivalent, by a nationally recognized statistical-rating organization.

Purchases of eligible commercial paper may not exceed 270 days maturity nor exceed 40 percent of SANDAG surplus money which may be invested. If the SANDAG's surplus moneys fall under \$100 million then the amount invested in commercial paper shall not exceed 25% of SANDAG surplus moneys which may be invested.

**Medium-Term Notes:** Medium-term notes, defined as all corporate and depository institution securities with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, issued by corporations organized and operating within the United States or depository institutions licensed by the United States or any state and operating within the United States. Medium-term notes shall be rated in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or better by a nationally recognized statistical-rating organization.

Purchase of medium-term corporate notes may not exceed 30 percent of SANDAG surplus money.

- 8.8. **Certificates of Deposit:** The maximum term for certificates of deposit shall be five years. The combined amount invested in negotiable certificates of deposit and certificates of deposit shall not exceed 30 percent of SANDAG surplus money.
- 8.8.1 **Negotiable Certificates of Deposit:** Negotiable certificates of deposit 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 or by a federally licensed branch of a foreign bank; provided that the senior debt obligations of the issuing institution are rated in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or better by one of the nationally recognized statistical-rating organizations.
- 8.8.2 **Nonnegotiable Certificates of Deposit:** Nonnegotiable certificates of deposit shall meet the conditions in either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b):
- (a) Certificates of deposit shall meet the requirements for deposit under Government Code Section 53635 et. seq. To be eligible to receive SANDAG deposits, the financial institution must have received a minimum overall satisfactory rating for meeting the credit needs of California Communities in its most recent evaluation, as provided in Government Code Section 53635.2. Deposits are required to be collateralized as specified under Government Code Section 53630 et. seq. The Chief Financial Officer, at his or her discretion, may waive the collateralization requirements for any portion that is covered by federal deposit insurance. SANDAG shall have a signed agreement with the depository per Government Code Section 53649.
- (b) Certificates of deposit placed through a deposit placement service shall meet the requirements of Government Code Section 53601.8. The full amount of the principal and the interest that may be accrued during the maximum term of each certificate of deposit shall at all times be insured by federal deposit insurance.
- 8.9. **State of California's Local Agency Investment Fund:** State of California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) may be invested in for the benefit of local agencies up to the current limit set by LAIF for regular accounts. For ongoing due diligence, the Chief Financial Officer shall maintain on file a copy of LAIF's current investment policy and its requirements for participation, including limitations on deposits or withdrawals.
- 8.10. **San Diego County Treasurer's Pooled Investment Fund:** Deposits in the County pooled investment fund shall be limited to the dollar maximums of the State LAIF. For ongoing due diligence, the Chief Financial Officer shall maintain on file a copy of the County pool's current investment policy and its requirements for participation, including limitations on deposits or withdrawals.

- 8.11. **Savings/Money Market Accounts:** Savings/Money Market Accounts deposits placed with commercial banks and savings and loans in California. The amount on deposit shall not exceed the shareholder's equity in the financial institution. To be eligible to receive SANDAG deposits, the financial institution must have received a minimum overall satisfactory rating for meeting the credit needs of California Communities in its most recent evaluation, as provided in Government Code Section 53635.2. Deposits are required to be collateralized as specified under Government Code Section 53630 et. seq. The Chief Financial Officer, at his or her discretion, may waive the collateralization requirements for any portion that is covered by federal insurance. SANDAG shall have a signed agreement with the depository per Government Code Section 53649.
- 8.12. **California Asset Management Program:** Shares in a portfolio of the California Asset Management Program, so long as the portfolio is rated among the top two rating categories by one of the nationally recognized statistical-rating organizations. For ongoing due diligence, the Chief Financial Officer shall maintain on file a copy of the Program's current information statement to include its requirements for participation, including limitations on deposits or withdrawals.
- 8.13. **Money Market Funds:** Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies that are money market funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Sec. 80a-1 et seq.). To be eligible for investment pursuant to this subdivision, these companies shall either:  
(1) attain the highest ranking letter or numerical rating provided by not less than two of the three largest nationally-recognized statistical-rating organizations, or (2) have an investment advisor registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission with not less than five years experience managing money market mutual funds with assets under management in excess of \$500,000,000.
- The purchase price of shares shall not include any commission that the companies may charge. The purchase of shares may not exceed 20 percent of SANDAG surplus money. For ongoing due diligence, the Chief Financial Officer shall maintain on file a copy of the money market fund's current information statement to include its requirements for participation, including limitations on deposits or withdrawals.
- 8.14. **Mortgage and Asset-Backed Obligations:** Any mortgage pass-through security collateralized mortgage obligation, mortgage-backed or other pay-through bond, equipment lease-backed certificate, consumer receivable-pass-through certificate, or consumer receivable-backed bond of a maximum of five years maturity. Securities eligible for investment under this subdivision shall be issued by an issuer rated in a rating category of "A" or its equivalent or higher rating for the issuer's debt as provided by an NRSRO and rated in a rating category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO. Purchases of securities authorized by this section may not exceed 20 percent of SANDAG surplus funds that may be invested pursuant to this section.
- 8.15. **Supranationals:** United States dollar denominated senior unsecured unsubordinated obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, or Inter-American Development Bank, with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, and

eligible for purchase and sale within the United States. Investments under this subdivision shall be rated in a rating category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO and shall not exceed 30 percent of the SANDAG funds that may be invested pursuant to this section.

8.16. **Ineligible Investments:** Security types which are thereby prohibited include, but are not restricted to:

- (a) Reverse repurchase agreements.
- (b) "Complex" derivative securities such as range notes, dual index notes, inverse floating-rate notes, leveraged or deleveraged floating-rate notes, or any other complex variable-rate or structured note.
- (c) Interest-only strips that are derived from a pool of mortgages, or any security that could result in zero interest accrual if held to maturity, except as allowed by Government Code Section 53601.6.
- (d) Securities lending.

In the event that SANDAG possesses ineligible investments purchased prior to the adoption of this policy, SANDAG may hold these investments to their maturity dates. The limitation in this section shall not apply to SANDAG investments in shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

## 9. Maximum Maturity

- 9.1. Investment maturities shall be based upon a review of cash flow forecasts. Maturities will be scheduled so as to permit SANDAG to meet all projected obligations.
- 9.2. Where the investment policy does not specify a maximum remaining maturity at the time of the investment, no investment shall be made in any security, other than a security underlying a repurchase agreement, that at the time of the investment has a term remaining to maturity in excess of five years, unless the Board has granted express authority to make that investment either specifically or as a part of an investment program approved by the Board no less than three months prior to the investment. The Board authorizes the investment of endowment funds in securities exceeding five (5) years, as long as the investment has been approved by the Chief Financial Officer and either the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Deputy Executive Director, and the maturity of such investments does not exceed the expected use of funds.

## 10. Performance Standards

The investment performance of the SANDAG portfolio shall be evaluated and compared to appropriate indices in order to assess the success of the investment program. The comparable benchmarks should be consistent with the SANDAG portfolio in terms of maturity and composition, which includes credit quality and security type.



## **11. Reporting Requirements**

- 11.1. The Chief Financial Officer shall submit to the Board annually a statement of investment policy, which the Board shall consider at a public meeting. Any change in the investment policy shall also be considered by the Board at a public meeting.
- 11.2. A monthly report of all investment transactions shall be submitted to the Board Members.
- 11.3. A quarterly investment report shall be submitted to the Board Members. The reports should include information in accordance with Section 53646(b) of the California Government Code.

## **12. Safekeeping and Custody**

- 12.1. All security transactions, including collateral for repurchase agreements, entered into by SANDAG shall be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment (DVP) basis. Securities shall be held by a third-party custodian and evidenced by safekeeping receipts.
- 12.2. The only exception to the foregoing shall be securities purchases made with: (i) LAIF, (ii) San Diego County Treasurer's Investment Pool, (iii) CAMP pool, (iv) Nonnegotiable Certificates of Deposit, (v) bank deposits, and, (vi) money market mutual funds, since the purchased securities are not deliverable. The Chief Financial Officer shall keep a record of any funds in any of these investments.

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