



SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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Policy

Number:	P200-14-1	Type of Policy:	Finance
Title:	Investments		
Description:	Establishes guidelines for investment of the District's surplus cash, reserves, trust funds and restricted monies.		
Original Adoption:	02/13/14	Reviewed:	04/13/24
Review Cycle:	3 years	Resolution No.:	01-20

The Scotts Valley Water District invests its surplus cash, reserves, trust funds and restricted monies in a manner that will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting the cash flow demands of the District and conforming to all provisions of California Government Code Section 53600, et seq.

1. **PRUDENCE:** Scotts Valley Water District funds will be invested under the "prudent investor standard" in California Government Code Section 53600.3.
2. **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:** Authority to manage the Scotts Valley Water District investment program is derived from the California Government Code Section 53600, et seq. The authority to invest public funds is expressly delegated to the Board of Directors for the subsequent re-delegation to the District General Manager. The District General Manager will establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program consistent with this investment policy. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the District General Manager.
3. **OBJECTIVES:** The primary objectives of the Scotts Valley Water District's investment activities in priority order will be as follows:
 - A. **SAFETY** - Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. The District's investment portfolio will be designed and undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of the principal invested.
 - B. **LIQUIDITY** - The District's investment portfolio will be designed to remain sufficiently liquid to enable the District to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.
 - C. **RETURN ON INVESTMENTS** - The District's investment portfolio will be designed with the objective of attaining a benchmark rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, commensurate with the District's investment risk constraints and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio.

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4. **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:** The Scotts Valley Water District's investment strategy is passive. Given this strategy, the basis used by the General Manager to determine whether market yields are being achieved will be the 6-month U.S. Treasury Bill and the Federal Funds rate. These indices are considered benchmarks for low risk investment transactions and therefore comprise a minimum standard for the portfolio's rate of return.
 5. **AUTHORIZED AND ACCEPTABLE INVESTMENTS:** Investments will only be made as allowable by law with specific reference to California Government Code Section 53600, et seq., and any other applicable provisions of law. District funds will only be invested in the following investment instruments and within any limits indicated.
 - A. **LAIF – The Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)** was created by California Government Code Section 16429.1 through 16429.3. LAIF is an investment pool established and controlled by the State of California to afford smaller agencies the benefits of a large investment portfolio such as higher interest rates and greater diversification. Funds are completely liquid except for a limitation of ten (10) transactions per month.
 - B. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOLS –** Established by public agencies in California for the purpose of pooling and investing local agency funds, qualified joint investment pools are authorized by California statute and organized as a Joint Powers Authority where all investments comply with the limits and restrictions placed on local investments by the applicable California statutes.
 - C. **CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT –** These are receipts for funds deposited in a bank, savings and loan or credit union for a specific term and rate of interest. The total principal and accrued interest per account and institution will not exceed the account or institution maximum statutory limits for full insurance coverage by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Further, the financial institution must be a nationally or state chartered commercial bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, or credit union.
 - D. **PASSBOOK SAVINGS ACCOUNTS –** This is a regular liquid savings account at a bank, savings and loan or credit union. The total principal and accrued interest per account and institution will not exceed the account or institution maximum statutory limits for full insurance coverage by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) or meet the collateralization requirements for Public Funds accounts. Further, the financial institution must have a branch located in the United States.
 - E. **U.S. TREASURY AND AGENCY SECURITIES –** Government securities and debt obligations issued by the U.S. Government or its agencies which are secured by the full faith and credit of the federal government. Among these are Treasury Bills and Notes; Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae); Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae); Federal Land Bank (FLB) and Federal Farm Credit Banks (FFCB). Securities will be held by third party custodial agreement in an acceptable safekeeping account in the District's name. All confirmation and safekeeping receipts are to be mailed or transmitted directly to the District General Manager for audit.

- F. Any other investment not specifically specified here but which is allowable by all applicable provisions of the law, meets every objective and criteria of this policy and is duly approved by the District Board of Directors.
6. **DIVERSIFICATION:** The purpose of diversification is to reduce overall portfolio risk while attaining market or benchmark yields. The District will make an effort to diversify its investments by security type and institution, especially when there is no decrease in yield. With the exception of U.S. Treasury/Agency/FDIC insured securities and authorized pools, no more than 50% of the District's total investment portfolio will be invested in any single security type. The purchases of certificates of deposit will not, in total, exceed 30 percent of the agency's funds that may be invested for this purpose (California Government Code Section 53601.1).
7. **MATURITY OF INVESTMENTS:** In order to minimize the impact of market risk, to the maximum extent possible, all investments will be held until maturity. Projected cash flow requirements are the primary factor to be used in determining investment maturity terms. After cash flow needs, have been met, yield considerations will be the next factor in determining maturity terms, with the expectations that longer maturity periods will generally yield greater returns on investments. Investments may be sold before maturity if required for cash flow or appreciation purposes.

The maximum maturity term of any investment will not exceed five (5) years, unless prior expressed authority has been granted by the Board of Directors. The District will diversify its investments by maturity date in order to avoid over concentration in any one specific maturity sector. Investments will be made so that the maturity date is compatible with cash flow needs.

8. **REPORTING:** The District's Board of Directors will receive investment reports at least quarterly. The District General Manager will provide to the Board of Directors investment reports which provide a clear picture of the status of the current investment portfolio as required by law (California Government Code Section 53646).

Elements of the report will include the following:

- A. Listing of investments held at the end of the reporting period by authorized investment category to include investment type, issuer names, "days to" maturity, par value amounts, dollar amounts, and market values including the source of valuation.
- B. A listing and description of funds or programs that are under the management of contracted parties.
- C. Percentage of the portfolio represented by each investment category.
- D. Current yield on each investment.
- E. A statement of compliance with the investment policy or an explanation for non-compliance.
- F. A statement of the ability or inability to meet expenditure requirements for six months.

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9. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Officers and employees involved in the District's investment process will refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Officers, employees and investment officials involved in the District's investment process will disclose to the District General Manager any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business within the jurisdiction of the Scotts Valley Water District, and they will further disclose any large personal/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the District's investment portfolio. Additionally, the District's officers and employees will annually file the applicable financial disclosures as required by the Fair Political Practices Commission.
 10. INVESTMENT POLICY ADOPTION: The District's investment policy will be adopted by resolution of the Scotts Valley Water District's Board of Directors and reviewed no less frequently than every three years.