# City of Santa Fe Springs

Investment Policy June 30, 2024

# 1. Policy

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

The City will invest its funds in such a manner as to comply with applicable state laws (California Government Code Section 53600, et seq. and 53630, et seq.), ensure prudent money management, provide for daily cash flow needs, and meet the City's investment objectives.

# 2. Scope

The Investment Policy applies to all funds and investment activities of the City except for the investment of bond proceeds, which are governed by the appropriate bond documents, and any pension or other post-employment benefit funds held in a trust that has a separate investment policy.

Except for funds in certain restricted and special funds, the City commingles its funds to maximize investment earnings and to increase efficiencies with regard to investment pricing, safekeeping and administration.

#### 3. Prudence

The standard of prudence to be used by those authorized to invest on behalf of the City will be the "prudent investor" standard and will be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. The "prudent investor" standard states that:

"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."

## 4. Objectives

The primary objectives, in priority order, of the investment activities of the City are:

- 1. Safety Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure preservation of capital in the portfolio.
- 2. Liquidity The investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the City to meet its cash flow requirements.
- 3. Return on Investment The investment portfolio will be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into consideration with the investment risk constraints of safety and liquidity needs.

# 5. Delegation of Authority

The City Council's management responsibility for the investment program is hereby delegated for a one-year period to the City Treasurer. Subject to review, the City Council may renew the delegation of authority pursuant to this section each year. The City Treasurer, and the Treasurer's designees, will monitor and review all investments for consistency with this Investment Policy. The City Treasurer may delegate day-to-day investment decision making and execution authority to an investment advisor. Eligible investment advisors must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. The advisor will follow the Policy and such other written instructions as are provided.

#### 6. Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Officers and employees involved in the investment process will 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. Employees and investment officials will disclose to the City Manager any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business within their jurisdiction, and they will further disclose any large personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the City's portfolio.

#### 7. Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions

The City Treasurer will maintain a list of financial dealers and institutions qualified and authorized to transact business with the City.

The purchase by the City of any investment other than those purchased directly from the issuer, will be purchased either from an institution licensed by the State as a broker-dealer, as defined in Section 25004 of the Corporations Code, who is a member of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), 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 City Treasurer will investigate all institutions that wish to do business with the City, in order to determine if they are adequately capitalized, make markets in securities appropriate to the City's needs, and agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the City's Investment Policy and any other guidelines that may be provided. This

will be done annually by having the financial institutions submit in writing that they have read and will abide by the City's Investment Policy and submit its most recent audited Financial Statement within 120 days of the institution's fiscal year end.

If the City has an investment advisor, the investment advisor may use its own list of authorized broker/dealers to conduct transactions on behalf of the City.

Purchase and sale of securities will be made on the basis of competitive bids and offers with a minimum of three quotes being obtained, whenever possible.

#### 8. Authorized and Suitable Investment

The City will limit investments in any one issuer, except U.S. Treasuries, Federal Agencies, supranationals, and pooled funds (i.e., money market funds, local government investment pools, and LAIF), to no more than 5% regardless of security type. An investment's term to maturity at purchase is measured from the investment's settlement date to its final maturity.

Where this section specifies a percentage limitation for a particular security type, that percentage is applicable only at the date of purchase. Credit criteria listed in this section refers to the credit rating category (inclusive of modifiers) at the time the security is purchased. If an investment's credit rating falls below the minimum rating required at the time of purchase, the City Treasurer will perform a timely review and decide whether to sell or hold the investment.

- 1. **U.S. Treasuries.** United States Treasury 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.
- 2. **U.S. Agency Obligations.** 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.
- 3. California State and Local Agency Obligations. Obligations of the State of California or any local agency within the state, including bonds payable solely out of revenues from a revenue producing property owned, controlled or operated by the state or any local agency or by a department, board, agency or authority of the state or any local agency. Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities in excess of one year must be rated in a rating category of "A," its equivalent, or better by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO). Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities under one year must be rated in a rating category of "A-1," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO. No more than 30% of the City's portfolio may be invested in municipal obligations (includes 4. Other State Obligations).
- 4. Other State Obligations. Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49 United 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 United States, in addition to California. Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities in excess of one year must be rated in a rating category of "A," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO. Obligations eligible for investment under this subdivision with maturities under one year

must be rated in a rating category "A-1," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO. No more than 30% of the City's portfolio may be invested in municipal obligations (includes 3. California State and Local Agency Obligations).

- 5. **Bankers' Acceptances**. Purchases of bankers' acceptances will have a maximum maturity of 180 days. No more than 40% of the City's portfolio may be invested in bankers' acceptances. Eligible bankers' acceptances must be rated in a rating category of "A-1," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO.
- 6. **Commercial Paper**. Commercial paper of "prime" quality of the highest ranking or of the highest letter and number rating as provided for by a NRSRO. The entity that issues the commercial paper will 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," its equivalent or higher by a NRSRO.
  - 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 in a rating category of "A-1," its equivalent or higher, or the equivalent, by a NRSRO.

Eligible commercial paper will have a maximum maturity of 270 days or less. No more than 25% of the City's portfolio may be invested in commercial paper.

- 7. **Medium-Term Notes.** Medium-term notes, defined as all 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 U.S. or any state, and operating within the U.S. Medium-term notes must be rated in a rating category of "A," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO. No more than 30% of the City's portfolio may be invested in medium-term notes.
- 8. **Bank Deposits.** FDIC-insured or fully collateralized demand deposit accounts, savings accounts, market rate accounts, time certificates of deposits ("TCDs") and other types of bank deposits in a state or national bank, savings association or federal association, federal or state credit union in California. The amount on deposit in any financial institution shall not exceed the shareholder's equity. In accordance with California Government Code Section 53635.2, to be eligible to receive City deposits, a financial institution will 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. The City will have a signed agreement with any depository accepting City funds per Government Code Section 53649.

The maturity of TCDs may not exceed three years. No more than 30% of the City's portfolio may be invested in TCDs.

9. **Deposit Placement Services.** The City may invest a portion of its portfolio in deposits at a commercial bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, or credit union in the State of California (the selected depository) that uses a private sector entity that assists in the placement of deposits in the United States. The full amount of each deposit placed and the interest that may accrue on each such deposit will at all times be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Administration. Additional required criteria for this investment type can be found in California Government Code Section 53601.8.

No more than 30% of the City's investment portfolio may be invested in deposit placement service deposits. No more than 10% of the City's portfolio may be invested with any one selected depository for placement services.

The City will monitor the financial institutions selected by deposit placement services to ensure that the City does not deposit more than the amount eligible for FDIC insurance in a single financial institution through non-negotiable CDs and deposit placement services.

- 10. **Negotiable Certificates of Deposit.** Negotiable certificates of deposit issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a savings association or a federal association (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), a state or federal credit union, or by a federally- or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank. Eligible negotiable CDs with maturities in excess of one year must be rated in a rating category of "A," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO. Eligible negotiable CDs with maturities under one year must be rated in a rating category of "A-1," its equivalent, or better by a NRSRO. No more than 30% of the City's investment portfolio may be invested in negotiable CDs.
- 11. **State of California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).** The State Treasurer established LAIF for the benefit of local agencies. The City can invest up to the maximum amount permitted by the State Treasurer.
- 12. **Los Angeles County Pooled Fund.** The Los Angeles County Treasurer manages a Pooled Fund, in which the City can invest funds that are needed for short-term liquidity.
- 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, etseq.). To be eligible for investment pursuant to this subdivision these companies willeither:
  - a. Attain the highest-ranking letter or numerical rating provided by not less than two of the three largest NRSRO or
  - b. 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 and with assets under management in excess of \$500,000,000.

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

- 14. **Local Government Investment Pools (LGIPs).** Shares of beneficial interest issued by a joint powers authority organized pursuant to Government Code Section 6509.7 that invests in the securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (q) of Government Code Section 53601, inclusive. Each share will represent an equal proportional interest in the underlying pool of securities owned by the joint powers authority. To be eligible under this section, the joint powers authority issuing the shares will have retained an investment adviser that meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. The adviser is registered or exempt from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
  - b. The adviser has not less than five years of experience investing in the securities and obligations authorized in subdivisions (a) to (q) California GovernmentCode Section 53601, inclusive.
  - c. The adviser has assets under management in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).
- 15. **Supranationals.** United States dollar denominated senior unsecured unsubordinated obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), or Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, and eligible for purchase and sale within the United States. Investments under this subdivision must be rated in a rating category of "AA," its equivalent or better by a NRSRO. No more than 30% of the City's portfolio may be invested in supranationals.
- 16. **Asset-Backed Securities (ABS).** Any mortgage pass-through security, collateralized mortgage obligation, mortgage-backed or other pay-through bond, equipment lease-back certificate, consumer receivable pass-through certificate, or consumer receivable-backed bond. For securities eligible for investment under this subdivision not issued or guaranteed by an agency or issuer identified in subdivisions (1) or (2) above, the following limitations apply:
  - a. The security shall be rated in a rating category of "AA" or its equivalent or better by an NRSRO and have a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less.
  - b. No more than 20% of the City's portfolio may be invested in ABS.

#### 9. Prohibited Investments

Investments not described herein, including but not limited to stocks, inverse floaters, range notes, mortgage-derived, interest-only strips, or any security that could result in zero interest accrual if held to maturity are prohibited for purchased by the City, except as authorized by California Government Code Section 53601.6. The City will not leverage or borrow money for the purpose of investing.

#### 10. Local Investment

The City will strive to make investments that benefit the local area. Placing monies in local commercial banks is one method of promoting this goal. Deposits may be placed

City of Santa Fe Springs with local commercial banks up to the amount insured by the FDIC.

#### 11. Non-Discrimination

The City has an obligation to be aware of the social and political impacts of its investments and to act responsibly in making its investment decisions. The City will not knowingly make any investments in any institution, company, corporation, subsidiary or affiliate that practices or supports directly or indirectly through its actions, discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual preference, or physical disability.

#### 12. Review of Investment Portfolio

California Government Code requires compliance be measured only at the time of purchase. Balance fluctuations can cause sector and issuer percentages to rise above the limits described above and changes in the financial environment can cause ratings to fall below minimum requirements. While these situations do not constitute non-compliance, the City Treasurer will monitor for these situations and decide whether they warrant making changes to the portfolio. Instances of non-compliance will be reported to the City Council at least quarterly, if any arise.

#### 13. Investment Pools

The City will complete due diligence for any pooled investments the City invests in. The City Treasurer will collect and evaluate the following information for each pool/fund:

- Permitted investments and objectives
- Description of interest calculations
- Method/frequency of interest distribution
- Treatment of gains and losses
- Method/frequency of audits
- Description of eligible investors
- Limits/minimum account sizes, type of assets, transaction sizes, and number of transactions
- Limits on withdrawals
- Frequency of statements and reporting of underlying investments
- Reserves or retained earnings
- Fee schedules

#### 14. Collateralization

Collateralization is required for deposits. Deposits must be collateralized as specified under Government Code Section 53630, et seq. The City, at its discretion, may waive the collateralization requirements for any portion that is covered by federal deposit insurance. Funds may be deposited in active or inactive accounts, but may not exceed the total paid-up capital and surplus in any depository.

# 15. Safekeeping and Custody

All deliverable securities owned by the City, will be kept in safekeeping/custody by a third-party bank's trust department. All trades of marketable securities will be executed (cleared and settled) on a delivery vs. payment (DVP) basis to ensure that securities are deposited in the City's safekeeping/custody bank prior to the release of funds.

#### 16. Maximum Maturities

Maturities will be based on a review of cash flow forecasts. Maturities will be scheduled to permit the City to meet all projected obligations.

The City may not invest in a security that exceeds five years from the date of purchase unless the City Council has provided at least 90 days prior approval for a specific purpose.

#### 17. Internal Controls

The City Treasurer will establish an annual process of independent review by an external auditor. This review will provide internal control by assuring compliance with policies and procedures.

## 18. Performance Standards

The City Treasurer will establish a performance benchmark consistent with the City's investment strategy and supportive of the City's investment objectives.

# 19. Reporting Requirements

The City Treasurer will render a quarterly report to the City Council and City Manager within 45 days following the end of the quarter covered. The report will include at least:

- List of all investments owned by the City
- List transactions as required by California Government Code 53607 when City Council has delegated authority
- Investment type
- Issuer
- Maturity date
- Total par and dollar amount invested
- Description of any funds, investments, or programs managed by an advisor or other outside party
- Market value of the investment portfolio as of the date of the report, and the source of this valuation
- Statement as to whether the City's investments comply with the Investment Policy, and if not, why not
- Statement denoting the ability of the City to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months

# 20. Investment Policy Adoption

The City's Investment Policy will be adopted by resolution of the City Council. The Policy will be reviewed annually by the City Council and any modifications made thereto must be approved by the Council.

# 21. Glossary

See attached Appendix A.

# APPENDIX A GLOSSARY

**AGENCIES**: Federal agency securities and/or Government-sponsored enterprises.

**BENCHMARK**: A comparative base for measuring the performance or risk tolerance of the investment portfolio. A benchmark should represent a close correlation to the level of risk and the average duration of the portfolio's investments.

**BROKER**: A broker brings buyers and sellers together for a commission.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD)**: A deposit with a specific maturity evidenced by a Certificate. Large-denomination CDs are typically negotiable.

**COLLATERAL**: Securities, evidence of deposit or other property, which a borrower pledges to secure repayment of a loan. Also refers to securities pledged by a bank to secure deposits of public monies.

**ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR):** The official annual report of the City. It includes five combined statements for each individual fund and account group prepared in conformity with GAAP. It also includes supporting schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, extensive introductory material, and a detailed Statistical Section.

**DEALER**: A dealer, as opposed to a broker, acts as a principal in all transactions, buying and selling for his own account.

**DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT**: There are two methods of delivery of securities: delivery versus payment and delivery versus receipt. Delivery versus payment is delivery of securities with an exchange of money for the securities. Delivery versus receipt is delivery of securities with an exchange of a signed receipt for the securities.

**DIVERSIFICATION**: Dividing investment funds among a variety of securities offering independent returns.

**DURATION**: A measure of the sensitivity of the price (the value of principal) of a fixed-income investment to a change in interest rates. Duration is expressed as a number of years. Rising interest rates mean falling bond prices, while declining interest rates mean rising bond prices.

**FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC):** A federal agency that insures bank deposits, currently up to \$250,000 per entity.

**LIQUIDITY:** A liquid asset is one that can be converted easily and rapidly into cash without a substantial loss of value. In the money market, a security is said to be liquid if the spread between bid and asked prices is narrow and reasonable size can be done at those quotes.

**MATURITY**: The date upon which the principal or stated value of an investment becomes due and payable.

**MONEY MARKET:** The market in which short-term debt instruments (bills, commercial paper, bankers' acceptances, etc.) are issued and traded.

**PORTFOLIO**: Collection of securities held by an investor.

#### APPENDIX A

**PRIMARY DEALER**: A group of government securities dealers who submit daily reports of market activity and positions and monthly financial statements to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and are subject to its informal oversight. Primary dealers include Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)-registered securities broker-dealers, banks, and a few unregulated firms.

**RATE OF RETURN**: The yield obtainable on a security based on its purchase price or its current market price. This may be the amortized yield to maturity on a bond the current income return.

**SAFEKEEPING**: A service to customers rendered by banks for a fee whereby securities and valuables of all types and descriptions are held in the bank's vaults for protection.

**SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION**: Agency created by Congress to protect investors in securities transactions by administering securities legislation.

SEC RULE 15(C)3-1: See Uniform Net Capital Rule.

**UNIFORM NET CAPITAL RULE**: Securities and Exchange Commission requirement that member firms as well as nonmember broker-dealers in securities maintain a maximum ratio of indebtedness to liquid capital of 15 to 1; also called net capital rule and net capital ratio. Indebtedness covers all money owed to a firm, including margin loans and commitments to purchase securities, one reason new public issues are spread among members of underwriting syndicates. Liquid capital includes cash and assets easily converted into cash.