

Exhibit A

SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY INVESTMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to identify various policies and procedures that enhance opportunities for a prudent and systematic investment process and to organize and formalize investment-related activities. 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. The goal is to enhance the economic status of the Authority while protecting its invested cash.

The investment policies and practices of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority are based on state law and prudent money management. All funds will be invested in accordance with the Authority's Investment Policy and the authority governing investments for local governments as set forth in the California Government Code, Sections 53601 through 53686. The provisions of relevant bond documents restrict the investments of bond proceeds.

OBJECTIVE

The Authority has a fiduciary responsibility to maximize the productive use of all the assets entrusted to its care and to invest and wisely and prudently manage those public funds. As such, the Authority shall strive to maintain the level of investment of all idle funds as near 100% as possible through daily and projected cash flow determinations, investing in those investment vehicles deemed prudent and allowable under current legislation of the State of California and the ordinances and resolutions of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority.

SCOPE

It is intended that this policy cover all funds and investment activities of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. This investment policy applies to all Authority transactions involving the financial assets and related activity of all funds. Any additional funds that may be created from time to time shall also be administered with the provisions of this policy and comply with current State Government Code.

The Authority will consolidate cash and reserve balances from all funds to maximize investment earnings and to increase efficiencies regarding 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.

AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Directors has delegated investment authority to the Finance Manager/Treasurer. This delegation is further authorized by Section 53600, et seq. of the Government Code of the State of California, which specifies the various permissible investment vehicles, collateralization levels, portfolio limits, and reporting requirements.

GUIDELINES

Government Code Section 53600.5 states: "When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, and managing public funds, the primary objective of the trustee shall be to safeguard the principal of funds under its control. The secondary objective shall be to meet the liquidity needs of the depositor. The third objective shall be to achieve a return on the funds under its control."

Simply stated, *safety of principal* is the foremost objective, followed by *liquidity* and *return on investment* (known as yield). Each investment transaction shall seek to first ensure that capital losses are avoided, whether they are from market erosion or security defaults.

1. Government Code Section 53601 authorizes the following investment vehicles:

<u>Permitted Investments/Deposits</u>	<u>Maximum Percentages of Portfolio</u>	<u>Maximum Maturity</u>	<u>Minimum Quality Requirements</u>
U.S. Treasury Obligations	Unlimited	5 Years*	None
U.S. Agencies Obligations ^(a)	Unlimited	5 Years*	None
Non-Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	Unlimited	5 Years*	None
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	30%	5 Years*	None
Bankers Acceptances	40% ^(b)	180 Days	None
Commercial Paper	25% ^(c)	270 Days	A-1/P-1/F-1
L.A.I.F.	\$75 Million ^(d)	N/A	None
CalTRUST Investment Pool ^(e)	Unlimited	N/A	None
Repurchase Agreements	Unlimited	1 Year	None
Reverse Repurchase Agreements	20%	92 Days	None
Mutual Funds and Money Market Mutual Funds	20%	N/A	Multiple ^(f,g)
Medium Term Notes ^(h)	30%	5 Years*	"A" rating

* Maximum term unless expressly authorized by Governing Body and within the prescribed time frame for said approval

a) Includes U.S. Government Sponsored Enterprise Obligations

b) No more than 30 percent of the agency's money may be in Bankers' Acceptances of any one commercial bank.

c) 10 percent of the outstanding commercial paper of any single corporate issuer.

d) Limit set by LAIF Governing Board, not the Government Code.

e) Investment Trust of California dba CalTRUST

- f) A mutual fund must receive the highest ranking by not less than two nationally recognized rating agencies or the fund must retain an investment advisor who is registered with the SEC (or exempt from registration), has assets under management in excess of \$500 million, and has at least five years of experience investing in instruments authorized by Government Code sections 53601 and 53635.
- g) A money market mutual fund must receive the highest ranking by not less than two nationally recognized statistical rating organizations or retain an investment advisor registered with the SEC or exempt from registration and who has not less than five years of experience investing in money market instruments with assets under management in excess of \$500 million.
- h) "Medium-term notes" are defined in Government Code Section 53601 as "all corporate and depository institution debt securities with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less, issued by corporations organized and operating with the U.S. or by depository institutions licensed by the U.S. or any state and operating within the U.S."

2. Criteria for selecting investments, and the order of priority, are:

A. Safety

The safety and risk associated with an investment refers to the potential loss of principal, interest, or a combination of these amounts. Investments of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. To attain this objective, diversification is required in order that potential losses on individual securities do not exceed the income generated from the remainder of the portfolio. The Authority only invests in those instruments that are considered very safe.

B. Liquidity

This refers to the ability to "cash in" at any moment with a minimal chance of losing some portion of principal or interest. Liquidity is an important investment quality especially when the unexpected need for funds occurs. The Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the Authority to meet all operating requirements, which might be reasonably anticipated. It is the Authority's full intent, at the time of purchase, to hold all investments until maturity to ensure the return of all invested principal dollars.

C. Yield

Yield is the potential dollar earnings an investment can provide, and sometimes is described as the rate of return. The Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, considering the Authority's investment risk constraints and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio.

- 3. An amount of money deemed sufficient to meet one payroll and two weeks claims shall be maintained in highly liquid investment vehicles such as the State Local Agency Investment Fund, or other similar investment instrument.

4. The Authority will attempt to obtain the highest yield obtainable when selecting investments, provided that criteria for safety and liquidity are met. Ordinarily, through a positive yield curve, (i.e., longer term investment rates are higher than those of shorter maturities), the Authority attempts to ladder its maturities to meet anticipated cash maturities that carry a higher rate than is available in the extremely short market of 30 days or less.
5. Most investments are highly liquid, except for certificates of deposit held by banks and savings and loans. Investments in Certificate of Deposit shall be fully insured or collateralized. When insurance is pledged, it shall be through the FDIC. Collateralization shall be in the amount of 110% of principal when government securities are pledged or 150% of principal when backed by first deeds of trust. Maturities are selected to anticipate cash needs, thereby obviating the need for forced liquidation.
6. When investing in Bankers Acceptances, Treasury Bills and Notes, Government Agency Securities and Commercial Paper, securities for these investments shall be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment basis. Securities are held by a third-party custodian designated by the Treasurer and evidenced by safekeeping receipts when such delivery directly to the Authority would be impractical.
7. Except for Treasury Notes and other government Agency Issues, the maturity of any given investment shall not exceed 1 year.
8. Bond Proceeds shall include any notes, bonds or other instruments issued on behalf of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority for which the members of the Board of Directors serve as the governing body. Should the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority elect to issue bonds for any purpose, the Indenture of Trust shall be the governing document specifying allowable investments for the proceeds of the issue as prescribed by law.
9. Investment income shall be shared by all funds on a proportionate ratio of each funds balance to total pooled cash with investment income distributed accordingly on a quarterly basis.
10. Investments in any other vehicle like Repurchase and Reverse Repurchase Agreements shall not be authorized unless the investment is made through the pooled money portfolio of the Local Agency Investment Fund.
11. The Treasurer shall annually render to the Board of Directors for consideration at a public meeting, a statement of investment policy. The Treasurer will also render an investment report to the Board of Directors at the first regular Board Meeting occurring after the end of each calendar quarter. The quarterly report shall include type of investment, issuer, date of maturity, par and dollar amount invested on all securities, investments and monies held by the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. The report shall state compliance with the investment policy or way the portfolio is not in compliance. It shall also include a statement denoting the ability to meet the Authority's expenditure requirement for the next six months or provide an explanation as to why sufficient money shall, or may, not be available.

12. Any State of California legislative action, that further restricts allowable maturities, investment type or percentage allocations, will be incorporated into the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority Investment Policy and supersede all previous language.
13. Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activities that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions.

The basic premises underlying the Authority's investment philosophy are, and will continue to be, to safeguard principal, to meet the liquidity needs of the organization and to return an acceptable yield.