



RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED DEBT, FISCAL, INVESTMENT, PROCUREMENT, AND TRAVEL, CONFERENCE, TRAINING AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

WHEREAS, The Transportation Authority develops and implements policies and procedures to organize and formalize agency activities, and to ensure compliance with current statutes and Transportation Authority objectives; and

WHEREAS, It is Transportation Authority direction to review its Debt Policy annually, to maintain prudent debt management principles and to maximize the Transportation Authority's debt capacity, and its Investment Policy annually, to ensure policy language remains consistent with its governing code, while continuing to meet the primary investment objectives of safety of principal, liquidity, and a return on investment consistent with both the risk and cash flow characteristics of the Transportation Authority's portfolio; and

WHEREAS, While the Transportation Authority is not required to annually review its Fiscal, Procurement, and Travel, Conference, Training and Business Expense Reimbursement Policies, it is good management practice to do so on a regular basis, and

WHEREAS, The Debt Policy's purpose is to organize and formalize debt issuance-related policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Policy guides decisions pertaining to internal fiscal management, including day-to-day operations, annual budget development and sales tax revenue allocation requirements; and

WHEREAS, The Investment Policy sets out policies and procedures that enhance opportunities for a prudent and systematic investment policy and to organize and formalize investment-related activities.; and



WHEREAS, The Procurement Policy is designed to guide decisions pertaining to procurement, including the modes, methods and procedures for acquiring the materials, equipment and services necessary to carry out the operations of the Transportation Authority; and

WHEREAS, The Travel, Conference, Training and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy establishes a set of policies relating to travel, conference, training and business expenses, and establishes procedures for reimbursement of commissioners and employees; and

WHEREAS, With assistance and guidance from the Transportation Authority's financial advisors, bond counsel, disclosure counsel, and legal counsel, staff are updating the policies to conform to applicable law and keep consistent with state and local government codes; and

WHEREAS, At its June 28, 2017 meeting, the Citizens Advisory Committee considered the subject request and unanimously adopted a motion of support for the staff recommendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby adopts the Debt Policy as presented in Attachment 1; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby adopts the Fiscal Policy as presented in Attachment 2; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby adopts the Investment Policy as presented in Attachment 3; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby adopts the Procurement Policy as presented in Attachment 4; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby adopts the Travel, Conference, Training and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy as presented in Attachment 5; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Director is hereby authorized to communicate the policies to all relevant parties



Attachments (5):

1. Proposed Debt Policy
2. Proposed Fiscal Policy
3. Proposed Investment Policy
4. Proposed Procurement Policy
5. Proposed Travel, Conference, Training and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy

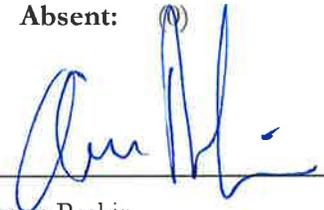


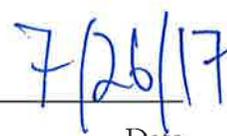
The foregoing Resolution was approved and adopted by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof, this 25th day of July, 2017, by the following votes:

**Ayes:** Commissioners Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Tang and Yee (11)

**Nays:** (0)

**Absent:** (0)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Peskin  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tilly Chang  
Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## DEBT POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Policy is to organize and formalize debt issuance-related policies and procedures for the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) and to establish a systematic debt policy (Debt Policy). The Debt Policy is, in every case, subject to and limited by applicable provisions of state and federal law and to prudent debt management principles.

### II. DEBT POLICY OBJECTIVE

The primary objectives of the Transportation Authority's debt and financing related activities are to

- Maintain cost-effective access to the capital markets through prudent yet flexible policies;
- Moderate debt principal and debt service payments through effective planning and project cash management in coordination with Transportation Authority project sponsors; and
- Achieve the highest practical credit ratings that also allow the Transportation Authority to meet its objectives.

### III. SCOPE AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

This Debt Policy shall govern, except as otherwise covered by the Transportation Authority's adopted Investment Policy and the Transportation Authority's adopted Fiscal Policy, the issuance and management of all debt funded through the capital markets, including the selection and management of related financial and advisory services and products.

This Policy shall be reviewed and updated at least annually and more frequently as required. Any changes to the policy are subject to approval by the Transportation Authority Board of Commissioners (Board) at a legally noticed and conducted public meeting. Overall policy direction of this Debt Policy shall be provided by the Board. Responsibility for implementation of the Debt Policy, and day-to-day responsibility and authority for structuring, implementing, and managing the Transportation Authority's debt and finance program shall lie with the Executive Director. The Board's adoption of the Annual Budget does not constitute authorization for debt issuance for any capital projects. This Debt Policy requires that the Board specifically authorize each debt financing. Each financing shall be presented to the Board in the context of and consistent with the Annual Budget.

While adherence to this Policy is required in applicable circumstances, the Transportation Authority recognizes that changes in the capital markets, agency programs and other unforeseen circumstances may from time to time produce situations that are not covered by the Policy and require modifications or exceptions to achieve policy goals. In these cases, management flexibility is appropriate, provided specific authorization from the Board is obtained.

### IV. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Officers, employees or agents of the Transportation Authority involved in the debt management program will not engage in any personal business activities or investments that would conflict with proper and lawful execution of the debt management program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial decisions.



## V. STRATEGIC PLAN INTEGRATION

The Transportation Authority's multi-year Strategic Plan, which programs the Proposition K Sales Tax (Prop K) Expenditure Plan (Expenditure Plan), shall be used in combination with this Debt Policy and the Fiscal Policy to ensure proper allocation and financing of Prop K eligible projects. The Strategic Plan sets priorities and strategies for allocating Prop K funds under its guiding principles, while the Debt Policy provides policy direction and limitations for proposed financing and the Fiscal Policy provides guidance on decisions pertaining to internal fiscal management. Debt issuance for capital projects shall not be recommended for Board approval unless such issuance has been incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

## VI. STANDARDS FOR USE OF DEBT FINANCING

The Transportation Authority's debt management program will promote debt issuance only in those cases where public policy, equity and economic efficiency favor debt over cash (pay-as-you-go) financing.

### A. Credit Quality.

Credit quality is an important consideration and will be balanced with the Transportation Authority's objectives and the associated size, structure and frequency of issuances of debt. All Transportation Authority debt management activities for new debt issuances will be conducted in a manner conducive to receiving the highest credit ratings possible consistent with the Transportation Authority's debt management objectives, and to maintaining or improving the current credit ratings assigned to the Transportation Authority's outstanding debt by the major credit rating agencies.

### B. Long-Term Capital Projects.

The Transportation Authority will issue long-term debt only to finance and refinance long-term capital projects. When the Transportation Authority finances capital projects by issuing bonds, the average principal amortization should not exceed 120% of the weighted average useful life of the project being financed if the bonds are intended to be federally tax-exempt and the debt repayment period should not exceed the earliest of the following: (1) the sunset date of the current Expenditure Plan or (2) forty (40) years from the date of issuance. Inherent in its long-term debt policies, the Transportation Authority recognizes that future taxpayers will benefit from the capital investment and that it is appropriate that they pay a share of the asset cost. Long-term debt financing shall not be used to fund operating costs unless such costs qualify as capital expenditures under federal tax principles.

### C. Debt Financing Mechanism.

The Transportation Authority will evaluate the use of available financial alternatives including, but not limited to, tax-exempt and taxable debt, long-term debt (both fixed and variable rate), short-term debt, commercial paper, lines of credit, sales tax revenue and grant anticipation notes, private placement and inter-fund borrowing. The Transportation Authority will utilize the most advantageous financing alternative that effectively balances the cost of the financing with the risk of the financing structure to the Transportation Authority.

### D. Ongoing Debt Administration and Internal Controls.

The Transportation Authority shall maintain all debt-related records for a period for no less than the term of the debt plus three years. At a minimum, this repository will include all official statements, bid documents, ordinances, indentures, trustee reports, continuing disclosure reports,



material events notices, tax certificates, information regarding the investment of and project costs paid with bond proceeds, underwriter and other agreements, etc. for all Transportation Authority debt. To the extent that official transcripts incorporate these documents, possession of a transcript will suffice (transcripts may be hard copy or stored on CD-ROM). The Transportation Authority will develop a standard procedure for archiving transcripts for any new debt. The Transportation Authority will establish internal controls to ensure compliance with the Debt Policy, all debt covenants and any applicable requirements of applicable law.

E. Tax Law Compliance, Rebate Policy and System.

Debt issued by the Transportation Authority, the interest on which is intended to be federally tax-exempt, is subject to requirements and limitations in order that such debt initially qualify for tax-exemption and on an ongoing basis until such debt is fully repaid in order that such debt remain tax-exempt. Failure to comply with such requirements and limitations could cause an issue of the Transportation Authority's debt to be determined to fail to qualify for tax-exemption, retroactive to the date of issuance. The Transportation Authority designates the Executive Director, and his or her designee, to periodically undertake procedures to confirm compliance with such requirements and limitations. In furtherance thereof, the Executive Director, and his or her designee, will consult with the Transportation Authority's bond counsel or others as deemed necessary regarding such periodic procedures or in the event that it is discovered that noncompliance has or may have occurred.

In addition, in furtherance of the above, the Transportation Authority will accurately account for all interest earnings in debt-related funds. These records will be designed to ensure that the Transportation Authority is in compliance with all debt covenants, and with applicable laws. The Transportation Authority will maximize the interest earnings on all funds within the investment parameters set forth in each respective indenture, consistent with consideration of applicable yield limits and arbitrage requirements and as permitted by the Investment Policy. The Transportation Authority will develop a system of reporting interest earnings that relates to and complies with any tax certificates relating to its outstanding debt and Internal Revenue Code rebate, yield limits and arbitrage, and making any required filings with State and Federal agencies. The Transportation Authority will retain records as required by its tax certificates. The Transportation Authority shall have the authority to retain the services of an Arbitrage Rebate Consultant.

VII. FINANCING CRITERIA

A. Purpose of Debt.

When the Transportation Authority determines the use of debt is appropriate, the following criteria will be utilized to evaluate the type of debt to be issued.

**1. NEW MONEY FINANCING.**

New money issues are financings that generate funding for capital projects. Eligible capital projects for allocation of Transportation Authority funds include the acquisition, construction or major rehabilitation of capital assets. In accordance with the philosophy of the Debt Policy, long-term debt proceeds generally may not be used for operating expenses. Capital project funding requirements are outlined in the annual budget, the Strategic Plan and the Expenditure Plan.



## 2. REFUNDING FINANCING.

Refunding debt is issued to retire all or a portion of an outstanding bond issue or other debt. Refunding issuances can be used to achieve present-value savings on debt service, to modify interest rate risk, or to restructure the payment schedule, type of debt instrument used, or covenants of existing debt. The Transportation Authority must analyze each refunding issue on a present-value basis to identify economic effects before approval. Policies on the administration of refunding financings are detailed further in Section X: Refinancing Outstanding Debt.

### B. Types of Debt.

When the Transportation Authority determines that the use of debt is appropriate, the following criteria will be utilized to evaluate the type of debt to be issued.

#### 1. LONG-TERM DEBT.

The Transportation Authority may issue long-term debt (e.g. fixed or variable rate revenue bonds) when funding allocations cannot be financed from current revenues. The proceeds derived from long-term borrowing will not be used to finance current operations or normal maintenance. Long-term debt will be structured such that average principal amortization do not exceed 120% of the weighted average useful life of the project being financed if the bonds are intended to be federally tax-exempt and the debt repayment period does not exceed the earliest of the following: (a) the sunset date of the current Expenditure Plan or (b) forty (40) years from the date of issuance.

##### **Fixed Rate**

- a) *Current Coupon Bonds* are bonds that pay interest periodically and principal at maturity. They may be used for both new money and refunding transactions. Bond features may be adjusted to accommodate the market conditions at the time of sale, including changing dollar amounts for principal maturities, offering discount and premium bond pricing, modifying call provisions, utilizing bond insurance, and determining how to fund the debt service reserve fund and costs of issuance.
- b) *Zero Coupon and Capital Appreciation Bonds* pay interest that is compounded and paid only when principal matures. Interest continues to accrue on the unpaid interest, and these types of bonds typically bear interest at rates that are higher than those on current-coupon bonds, therefore representing a more expensive funding option. In the case of zero-coupon bonds, principal paid at maturity is discounted back to the initial investment amount received at issuance. In the case of capital appreciation bonds, interest on the bond accretes until maturity.
- c) *Special Government Obligations (both tax-exempt and taxable)*, such as the Build America Bond program authorized for calendar years 2009 and 2010 or any other type of new municipal security, structure or tax credit authorized by the Federal Government to assist local governments in accessing the capital markets. So long as the new program's requirements allow the Transportation Authority to adhere to its Debt Policy, the Transportation Authority will evaluate it along with traditional financing structures in order to determine which is the most appropriate for a particular issuance.



### **Variable Rate**

- a) *Variable Rate Demand Bonds (VRDBs)* are long-term bonds with a fixed principal amortization, but the interest rate resets at certain established periods such as daily, weekly, monthly, or such other period as the Transportation Authority deems advisable, given current market conditions. VRDBs often require credit enhancement and third party liquidity in the forms of Letters or Lines of Credit and/or bond insurance. VRDBs generally allow bondholders to “put” their bonds back to the Transportation Authority on any rate reset date, given certain notice. The Transportation Authority will need to retain an investment bank to remarket bonds that are “put.”
- b) *Indexed Notes* are forms of variable rate debt that do not require Letters or Lines of Credit. These forms of variable rate debt have a fixed spread to a certain identified index such as SIFMA. The rate will reset either on a weekly, monthly, or other basis.

## **2. SHORT-TERM DEBT.**

Short-term borrowing may be utilized for the temporary funding of operational cash flow deficits or anticipated revenues, where anticipated revenues are defined as an assured revenue source with the anticipated amount based on conservative estimates. In the case of the Transportation Authority’s revolving credit facility or any future commercial paper program, short-term borrowings may also be utilized for funding of the Transportation Authority’s capital projects. The Transportation Authority will determine and utilize the least costly method for short-term borrowing. The Transportation Authority may issue short-term debt when there is a defined repayment source or amortization of principal, subject to the following policies:

- a) *Commercial Paper Notes* may be issued as an alternative to fixed rate debt, particularly when the timing of funding requirements is uncertain. The Transportation Authority may maintain an ongoing commercial paper program to ensure flexibility and immediate access to capital funding when needed.
- b) *Grant Anticipation Notes (GANs)* are short-term notes that are repaid with the proceeds of State or Federal grants of any type. The Transportation Authority shall generally issue GANs only when there is no other viable source of funding for the project.
- c) *Sales Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes* shall be issued only to meet sales tax revenue cash flow needs consistent with a finding by bond counsel that that the sizing of the issue fully conforms to Federal tax requirements and limitations for tax-exempt borrowings.
- d) *Letters or Lines of Credit* shall be considered as an alternative to or credit support for other short-term borrowing options. In 2015, the Transportation Authority replaced its prior commercial paper program with a \$140 million revolving credit facility. Amounts can be repaid and reborrowed without further Board action. The average amortization of amounts drawn under the revolving credit facility may not exceed 120% of the weighted average useful life of the project being financed if the borrowing is intended to be federally tax-exempt and the borrowing must be fully repaid by the earliest of the following: (a) the sunset date of the current Expenditure Plan or (b) forty (40) years from the date of issuance. The repayment of loans under a revolving credit facility is often facilitated by the issuance of long-term bonds or the repaying of principal from cash on hand. If proceeds of long-term bonds are used to repay loans under the revolving credit facility, the



amortization and the repayment of the long-term bonds must satisfy the limits set forth above.

- e) *Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan* is a loan provided by the United States Department of Transportation for certain transportation projects of regional importance. The Transportation Authority may elect to apply for a TIFIA loan if it is determined that it is the most cost effective debt financing option available.
- f) *Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Financing (GARVEE)* are bonds issued by the State and enable entities to fund transportation projects that are secured by certain federal grants. The Transportation Authority may consider the issuance of GARVEEs to meet cash flow shortfalls of grant revenues.

### 3. VARIABLE RATE DEBT.

To maintain a predictable debt service burden, the Transportation Authority may give preference to debt that carries a fixed interest rate. An alternative to the use of fixed rate debt is floating or variable rate debt. It may be appropriate to issue short-term or long-term variable rate debt to diversify the Transportation Authority's debt portfolio, reduce interest costs, provide interim funding for capital projects and improve the match of assets to liabilities. Variable rate debt typically has a lower initial cost of borrowing than fixed rate financing and shorter maturities but carries both interest rate and liquidity risk. Under no circumstances will the Transportation Authority issue variable rate debt solely for the purpose of earning arbitrage. The Transportation Authority, however, may consider variable rate debt in certain instances.

- a) *Variable Rate Debt Capacity.* Except for the existing \$140 million revolving credit facility (to which the following requirements of variable rate debt do not apply), the Transportation Authority will maintain a conservative level of outstanding variable rate debt in consideration of general rating agency guidelines recommending a maximum of a 20-30% variable rate exposure, in addition to maintaining adequate safeguards against risk and managing the variable revenue stream both as described below:
  - (1) *Adequate Safeguards Against Risk.* Financing structure and budgetary safeguards are in place to prevent adverse impacts from interest rate shifts; such structures could include, but are not limited to, interest rate swaps, interest rate caps and the matching of assets and liabilities.
  - (2) *Variable Revenue Stream.* The revenue stream for repayment is variable, and is anticipated to move in the same direction as market-generated variable interest rates, or the dedication of revenues allows capacity for variability.
  - (3) *As a Component to Synthetic Fixed Rate Debt.* Variable rate bonds may be used in conjunction with a financial strategy, which results in synthetic fixed rate debt, subject to other provisions of the Debt Policy regarding Financial Derivative Products.

### 4. FINANCIAL DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS.

Financial Derivative Products such as interest rate swaps will be considered appropriate in the issuance or management of debt only in instances where it has been demonstrated that the derivative product will either provide a hedge that reduces the risk of fluctuations in expense or revenue, or alternatively where the derivative product will significantly reduce total project cost. Financial Derivative Products shall be considered only: (1) after a thorough evaluation of risks associated therewith, including counterparty credit risk, basis risk, tax risk, termination



risk and liquidity risk, (2) after consideration of the potential impact on the Transportation Authority's ability to refinance bonds at a future date and (3) after the Board has adopted separate policy guidelines for the use of interest rate swaps and other Financial Derivative Products. Derivative products will only be utilized with prior approval from the Board.

#### VIII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF BONDS

The Transportation Authority shall establish all terms and conditions relating to the issuance of bonds, and will control, manage, and invest all bond proceeds. Unless otherwise authorized by the Transportation Authority, the following shall serve as bond requirements:

A. Term.

All capital improvements financed through the issuance of debt will be financed for a period such that average principal amortization of the debt does not exceed 120% of the weighted average useful life of the project being financed, if the bonds are intended to be federally tax-exempt and the debt repayment period does not exceed the earliest of the following: (a) the sunset date of the current Expenditure Plan or (b) forty (40) years from the date of issuance.

B. Capitalized Interest.

The nature of the Transportation Authority's revenue stream is such that funds are generally continuously available and the use of capitalized interest should not normally be necessary. However, certain types of financings may require the use of capitalized interest from the issuance date until the project sponsor has constructive use of the financed project. Unless otherwise required, including as may be required by statute with respect to the deposit of original issue premium, the Transportation Authority will avoid the use of capitalized interest to obviate unnecessarily increasing the bond issuance size. Interest shall not be funded (capitalized) beyond three (3) years or a shorter period if further restricted by statute. The Transportation Authority may require that capitalized interest on the initial series of bonds be funded from the proceeds of the bonds. Interest earnings may, at the Transportation Authority's discretion and, if permitted under applicable federal tax law, be applied to extend the term of capitalized interest but in no event beyond the authorized term.

C. Lien Levels.

Senior and Junior Liens for each revenue source will be utilized in a manner that will maximize the most critical constraint, typically either cost or capacity, thus allowing for the most beneficial use of the revenue source securing the bond.

D. Additional Bonds Test.

Any new senior lien debt issuance must not cause the Transportation Authority's debt service, net of any Federal subsidy or credit, to be expected to exceed the level at which the incoming revenues are less than one and a half times (1.5x) the maximum annual principal, interest, and debt service for the aggregate outstanding senior lien bonds including the debt service for the new issuance.

E. Debt Service Structure.

Debt issuance shall be planned to achieve relatively rapid repayment of debt while still matching debt service to the useful life of facilities. The Transportation Authority will amortize its debt within each lien to achieve overall level debt service (though principal may be deferred in the early



years of a bond issue to maximize the availability of pay-as-you-go dollars during that time) or may utilize more accelerated repayment schedules after giving consideration to bonding capacity constraints. The Transportation Authority shall avoid the use of bullet or balloon maturities except in those instances where these maturities serve to level existing debt service.

F. Call Provisions.

In general, the Transportation Authority's securities will include a call feature, based on market conventions, which is typically no later than ten and one-half (10.5) years from the date of delivery of tax-exempt bonds. The Transportation Authority may determine that no call feature or a different call feature is appropriate in some circumstances.

G. Original Issue Discount.

An original issue discount or original issue premium will be permitted only if the Transportation Authority determines that such discount or premium results in a lower true interest cost on the bonds and that the use of an original issue discount or original issue premium will not adversely affect the project identified by the bond documents.

H. Deep Discount Bonds.

Deep discount bonds may provide a lower cost of borrowing in certain markets though they may also limit opportunities to refinance at lower rates in the future. The Transportation Authority will carefully consider their value and the effect on any future refinancings as a result of the lower-than-market coupon.

I. Derivative Products.

The Transportation Authority will consider the use of derivative products only in instances where it has been demonstrated that the derivative product will either provide a hedge that reduces risk of fluctuations in expense or revenue, or alternatively, where the derivative product will reduce the total project cost. If interest rate swaps are considered, the Transportation Authority shall develop and maintain an Interest Rate Swap Policy governing the use and terms of these derivative products. For derivatives other than interest rate swaps, the Transportation Authority will undertake an analysis of early termination costs and other conditional terms given certain financing and marketing assumptions. Such analysis will document the risks and benefits associated with the use of a particular derivative product. Derivative products will only be utilized with prior approval from the Board.

J. Multiple Series.

In instances where multiple series of bonds are to be issued, the Transportation Authority shall make a final determination as to which allocations are of the highest priority. Projects chosen for priority financing, based on funding availability and proposed timing, will generally be subject to the earliest or most senior of the bond series.

IX. CREDIT ENHANCEMENTS

The Transportation Authority will consider the use of credit enhancement on a case-by-case basis, evaluating the economic benefit versus cost for each case. Only when a clearly demonstrable savings or positive impact on overall debt capacity can be shown shall enhancement be considered. The



Transportation Authority will consider each of the following enhancements as alternatives by evaluating the cost and benefit of such enhancement.

A. Bond Insurance.

The Transportation Authority shall have the authority to purchase bond insurance when such purchase is deemed prudent and advantageous. The predominant determination shall be based on such insurance being less costly than the present value of the difference in the interest expense on insured bonds versus uninsured bonds.

B. Debt Service Reserves.

When required, a reserve fund equal to not more than the lesser of ten percent (10%) of the original principal amount of the bonds, maximum annual debt service or one-hundred-and-twenty-five (125%) percent of average annual debt service (Reserve Requirement) shall be funded from the proceeds of each series of bonds, subject to federal tax regulations and in accordance with the requirements of credit enhancement providers, rating agencies and/or other investors requirements.

The Transportation Authority shall have the authority to purchase reserve equivalents (i.e., the use of a reserve fund surety) when such purchase is deemed prudent and advantageous. Such equivalents shall be evaluated in comparison to cash funding of reserves on a net present value basis.

C. Liquidity Facilities and Letters of Credit.

The Transportation Authority shall have the authority to enter into liquidity facilities and letter-of-credit agreements when such agreements are deemed prudent and advantageous. Only those financial institutions with short-term ratings of not less than VMIG 1/P1, A-1 and F1, by Moody's Investor Services, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings, respectively, and with ratings from at least two of the three aforementioned ratings agencies, may participate in Transportation Authority liquidity facilities and letter of credit agreements.

X. REFINANCING OUTSTANDING DEBT

The Transportation Authority shall have the responsibility to analyze outstanding bond issues for refunding opportunities that may be presented by underwriting and/or financial advisory firms. The Transportation Authority will consider the following issues when analyzing possible refunding opportunities:

A. Debt Service Savings.

The Transportation Authority has established a minimum present value savings threshold goal of three (3) percent of the refunded bond principal amount, unless there are other compelling reasons for undertaking the refunding. Additionally, the Transportation Authority has established a minimum present value savings threshold goal of five (5) percent of the refunded bond principal amount for refinancing involving derivative products such as the issuance of synthetic fixed rate refunding debt service, unless there are other compelling reasons for undertaking the refund. For this purpose, the present value savings will be net of all costs related to the refinancing. The decision to take savings on an upfront or deferred basis must be explicitly approved by the Board.



B. Restructuring.

The Transportation Authority will refund debt when in its best interest to do so. Refundings will include restructuring to meet unanticipated revenue expectations, terminate swaps, achieve cost savings, mitigate irregular debt service payments, release reserve funds or remove unduly restrictive bond covenants.

C. Term of Refunding Issues.

Except for commercial paper and loans under a line of credit (including the current revolving credit facility), the Transportation Authority generally will refund bonds without extending the maturity beyond that of the originally issued debt. However, the Transportation Authority may consider maturity extension, when necessary to achieve a desired outcome, provided that such extension is legally permissible. The Transportation Authority may also consider shortening the term of the originally issued debt to realize greater savings. The remaining useful life of the financed facility and the concept of inter-generational equity should guide this decision.

D. Escrow Structuring.

The Transportation Authority shall utilize the least costly securities available in structuring refunding escrows. The Transportation Authority will examine the viability of an economic versus legal defeasance on a net present value basis. A certificate from a third-party agent, who is not a broker-dealer, is required stating that the securities were procured through an arms-length, competitive bid process (in the case of open market securities), that such securities were more cost effective than State and Local Government Obligations (SLGS), and that the price paid for the securities was reasonable within Federal guidelines. Such certificate shall not be required in the case of SLGs purchased directly from the U.S. Treasury. Under no circumstances shall an underwriter, agent or financial advisor sell escrow securities to the Transportation Authority from its own account.

E. Arbitrage.

The Transportation Authority shall take all necessary steps (permitted under federal tax law when tax-exempt debt is involved) to optimize escrows and to avoid negative arbitrage in its refundings. Any resulting positive arbitrage will be rebated as necessary according to Federal guidelines.

F. Commercial Paper Program, Revolving Credit Facility.

The requirements of this Section X shall not apply to or restrict the issuance of commercial paper notes for the purpose of refunding maturing commercial paper notes, or of borrowing under a revolving credit facility for the purpose of repaying prior loans under the facility or under a prior facility, nor shall this Section X apply to long-term withdrawal of commercial paper or of loans under a revolving credit facility, subject to limitations otherwise contained in this policy.

XI. METHODS OF ISSUANCE

The Transportation Authority will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether to sell its bonds competitively or through negotiation.

A. Competitive Sale

In a competitive sale, the Transportation Authority's bonds shall be awarded to the bidder providing the lowest true interest cost as long as the bid adheres to the requirements set forth in



the official notice of sale. Conditions under which a competitive sale would be preferred are as follows:

- a) Bond prices are stable and/or demand is strong
  - b) Market timing and interest rate sensitivity are not critical to the pricing
  - c) Participation from DBE firms is best effort and not required for winning bid
  - d) There are no complex explanations required during marketing regarding issuer's projects, media coverage, political structure, political support, funding or credit quality
  - e) The bond type and structure are conventional
  - f) Bond insurance is included or pre-qualified (available)
  - g) Manageable transaction size
  - h) Issuer has strong credit rating
  - i) Issuer is well known to investors
- B. Negotiated Sale.

The Transportation Authority recognizes that some securities are best sold through negotiation. Conditions under which a negotiated sale would be preferred are as follows:

- a) Bond prices are volatile
  - b) Demand is weak or supply or competing bonds is high
  - c) Market timing is important, such as for refunds
  - d) Issuer has lower or weakening credit rating
  - e) Issuer is not well known to investors
  - f) Sale and marketing of the bonds will require complex explanations about the issuer's projects, media coverage, political structure, political support, funding, or credit quality
  - g) The bond type and/or structural features are non-standard, such as for a forward delivery bond sale, issuance of variable rate bonds, or where there is the use of derivative products
  - h) Bond insurance is not available or not offered
  - i) Early structuring and market participation by underwriters are desired
  - j) The par amount for the transaction is significantly larger than normal
  - k) Demand for the bonds by retail investors is expected to be high
  - l) Participation from DBE firms is required
- C. Private Placement.

From time to time the Transportation Authority may elect to privately place its debt or borrow directly from a bank or other financial institution. Such placement or borrowing shall only be considered if this method is likely to result in a cost savings to the Transportation Authority relative to other methods of debt issuance on a net present value basis, using the Transportation Authority's investment rate as the appropriate measure of the discount rate.

- D. Issuance Method Analysis.

The Transportation Authority shall evaluate each method of issuance based on the factors set forth above.



E. Investor Outreach.

The Transportation Authority shall participate in informational meetings or conference calls with institutional investors in advance of bond or note sales to the extent such meetings are advantageous to the sale of such bonds or notes.

F. Feasibility Analysis.

Issuance of revenue bonds will be accompanied by a finding that demonstrates the projected revenue stream's ability to meet future debt service payments.

XII. MARKET RELATIONSHIPS

A. Rating Agencies and Investors.

The Executive Director shall be responsible for maintaining the Transportation Authority's relationships with Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings. The Transportation Authority may, from time-to-time, choose to deal with only one or two of these agencies as circumstances dictate. In addition to general communication, the Executive Director shall: (1) meet with credit analysts prior to each sale (competitive or negotiated) to the extent as advantageous, and (2) prior to each competitive or negotiated sale, offer conference calls or meetings with agency analysts in connection with the planned sale.

B. Transportation Authority Communication.

The Executive Director shall include in the annual report to the Board feedback from rating agencies and/or investors regarding the Transportation Authority's financial strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for addressing any weaknesses.

C. Continuing Disclosure.

After entering into a Continuing Disclosure undertaking (i.e., contract), the Transportation Authority shall comply with the terms of such undertaking. Not only must all filings be made in a timely manner, if for any reason there is a failure to make a timely filing, such failure also must be disclosed (and could reflect negatively on the Transportation Authority). The Executive Director will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Transportation Authority files timely annual reports and "listed event" (there are currently 15 such events) notices with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's (MSRB's) Electronic Municipal Market Access system ("EMMA"), and that all such filings are (i) complete and accurate under the law and (ii) clear, concise, and readable for the investing community. To help ensure that the Transportation Authority establishes and maintains a "culture of good disclosure" and Continuing Disclosure undertaking compliance, the Transportation Authority will promote communication among its departments so that disclosure documents/filings are being reviewed by the staff persons who have the knowledge and ability to assess the accuracy and completeness of the document and understand the importance of accurate records retention. The Transportation Authority may also (i) select certain staff members to be the Transportation Authority's "disclosure team" that, with the Executive Director, develops and employs disclosure practices and procedures that are effective, reasonable, and defensible and (ii) engage with an external disclosure counsel to provide additional guidance and training. The Transportation Authority may also, from time to time, evaluate using the services of a dissemination agent, such as the Transportation Authority's Financial Adviser or Digital Assurance Certification, LLC, to assist with compliance.



D. Rebate Reporting.

The use of bond proceeds and their investments must be monitored to ensure compliance with arbitrage restrictions. Existing regulations require that issuers calculate annual rebates related to any bond issues, with rebate paid every five years and as otherwise required by applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations. Therefore, the Executive Director shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that proceeds and investments are tracked in a manner that facilitates accurate, complete calculation, and timely rebates, if necessary.

E. Other Jurisdictions.

From time to time, the Transportation Authority may issue bonds on behalf of other public entities. While the Transportation Authority will make every effort to facilitate the desires of these entities, the Executive Director will take all reasonable steps to ensure that only the highest quality financings are done and that the Transportation Authority is insulated from all risks. The Transportation Authority shall require that all conduit financings achieve a rating at least equal to the Transportation Authority's ratings (including, where necessary, through the use of credit enhancement).

F. Fees.

The Transportation Authority will charge recipients of debt issuance proceeds an administrative fee equal to the recipient's pro rata share of administrative costs incurred by the Transportation Authority by issuing debt.

### XIII. CONSULTANTS

The Transportation Authority shall select its primary consultant(s) by competitive qualifications-based process through Request for Proposals.

A. Selection of Financing Team Members.

The Executive Director will make recommendations for all financing team members, with the Board providing final approval.

B. Financial Advisor.

The Transportation Authority shall utilize a financial advisor to assist in its debt issuance and debt administration processes as prudent. Selection of the Transportation Authority's financial advisor(s) shall be based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- a) Experience in providing consulting services to complex issuers
- b) Knowledge and experience in structuring and analyzing complex issues
- c) Experience and reputation of assigned personnel
- d) Fees and expenses

Financial advisory services provided to the Transportation Authority shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- a) Evaluation of risks and opportunities associated with debt issuance
- b) Monitoring marketing opportunities
- c) Evaluation of proposals submitted to the Transportation Authority by investment banking firms



- d) Structuring and pricing
- e) Preparation of request for proposals for other financial services such as trustee and paying agent services, printing, credit facilities, remarketing agent services, etc.
- f) Advice, assistance and preparation for presentations with rating agencies and investors
- g) Assisting in preparation of official statements

The Transportation Authority also expects that its financial advisor will provide the Transportation Authority with objective advice and analysis, maintain the confidentiality of Transportation Authority financial plans, and be free from any conflicts of interest.

C. Bond Counsel.

Transportation Authority debt will include a written opinion by legal counsel affirming that the Transportation Authority is authorized to issue the proposed debt, that the Transportation Authority has met all constitutional and statutory requirements necessary for issuance, and a determination of the proposed debt's federal income tax status. The approving opinion and other documents relating to the issuance of debt will be prepared by nationally-recognized counsel with extensive experience in public finance and tax issues. Counsel will be selected by the Transportation Authority through its request for proposal process.

The services of bond counsel may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Rendering a legal opinion with respect to authorization and valid issuance of debt obligations including whether the interest paid on the debt is tax exempt under federal and State of California law;
- b) Preparing all necessary legal documents in connection with authorization, sale, issuance and delivery of bonds and other obligations;
- c) Assisting in the preparation of the preliminary and final official statements and commercial paper memorandum;
- d) Participating in discussions with potential investors, insurers and credit rating agencies, if requested; and
- e) Providing continuing advice, as requested, on the proper use and administration of bond proceeds under applicable laws and the indenture, particularly arbitrage tracking and rebate requirements.

D. Disclosure Counsel

For Transportation Authority debt issued and sold through the use of an official statement or offering memorandum, the Transportation Authority shall have the right to select separate, nationally-recognized disclosure counsel with extensive experience in public finance and securities law issues. Disclosure counsel will be selected by the Transportation Authority through its Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

The services of disclosure counsel may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Assisting the internal due diligence process by reviewing financial statements and other available information, including information on the issuer's website, management's responses to auditor's findings, litigation reports, and similar materials;
- b) Preparation and review of disclosure documents necessary for the sale and delivery of securities, including preliminary and final official statements (or offering memoranda) and continuing disclosure agreements, and deliver a negative assurance letter regarding the disclosure document;



- c) Post-issuance: coordination of required periodic filings and event notices preparation and their dissemination to and posting on the MSRB's EMMA system;
- d) Providing notice of, and counsel regarding, any changes to disclosure requirements and the regulatory environment that have or may have an impact on the Transportation Authority and its issuances;
- e) Review and discussion of the Transportation Authority's current disclosure policies and procedures, suggestions for any changes to them, and discussion of how the Transportation Authority can staff a disclosure team and how that team should operate; and
- f) Customize and provide training annually to staff members (and as needed to new staff) related to disclosure counsel topics.

#### XIV. UNDERWRITER SELECTION

##### A. Senior Manager Selection.

The Transportation Authority shall have the right to select a senior manager for a proposed negotiated sale. The criteria shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a) The firm's ability and experience in managing complex transactions
- b) Demonstrated ability to structure debt issues efficiently and effectively
- c) Prior knowledge and experience with the Transportation Authority
- d) The firm's willingness to risk capital and demonstration of such risk
- e) The firm's ability to sell bonds
- f) Quality and experience of personnel assigned to the Transportation Authority's engagement
- g) Financing plan presented

##### B. Co-Manager Selection.

Co-managers will be selected on the same basis as the senior manager. In addition to their qualifications, co-managers appointed to specific transactions will be a function of transaction size and the necessity to ensure maximum distribution of the Transportation Authority's bonds.

##### C. Selling Groups.

The Transportation Authority may establish selling groups in certain transactions. To the extent that selling groups are used, the Transportation Authority may make appointments to selling groups from within the pool of underwriters or from outside the pool, as the transaction dictates.

##### D. Underwriter's Counsel.

In any negotiated sale of Transportation Authority debt, in which legal counsel is required to represent the underwriter, the lead underwriter will make the appointment, subject to Transportation Authority consent.

##### E. Underwriter's Discount.

- a) The Transportation Authority will evaluate the proposed underwriter's discount against comparable issues in the market. If there are multiple underwriters in the transaction, the Transportation Authority will determine the allocation of fees with respect to the management fee. The determination will be based upon participation in the structuring phase of the transaction.



- b) All fees and allocation of the management fee will be determined prior to the sale date; a cap on management fee, expenses and underwriter's counsel will be established and communicated to all parties by the Transportation Authority. The senior manager shall submit an itemized list of expenses charged to members of the underwriting group. Any additional expenses must be substantiated.
- F. Evaluation of Financing Team Performance.
- The Transportation Authority will evaluate each bond sale after its completion to assess the following: costs of issuance, including underwriters' compensation, pricing of the bonds in terms of the overall interest cost and on a maturity-by-maturity basis, and the distribution of bonds and sales credits.
- Following each sale, the Transportation Authority shall provide a post-sale evaluation on the results of the sale to the Board.
- G. Syndicate Policies.
- For each negotiated transaction, the Executive Director will prepare syndicate policies that will describe the designation policies governing the upcoming sale. The Executive Director shall ensure receipt of each member's acknowledgement of the syndicate policies for the upcoming sale prior to the sale date.
- H. Designation Policies.
- To encourage the pre-marketing efforts of each member of the underwriting team, orders for the Transportation Authority's bonds will be net designated, unless otherwise expressly stated. The Transportation Authority shall require the senior manager to:
- a) Equitably allocate bonds to other managers and the selling group
  - b) Comply with MSRB regulations governing the priority of orders and allocations
  - c) Within 10 working days after the sale date, submit to the Executive Director a detail of orders, allocations and other relevant information pertaining to the Transportation Authority's sale.
- I. Disclosure by Financing Team Members.
- All financing team members will be required to provide full and complete disclosure, relative to agreements with other financing team members and outside parties. The extent of disclosure may vary depending on the nature of the transaction. However, under no circumstances will agreements be permitted which could compromise the firm's ability to provide independent advice which is solely in the Transportation Authority's best interests or which could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest.



## GLOSSARY

*Arbitrage.* The difference between the interest paid on an issue of tax exempt debt and the interest earned by investing the debt proceeds in higher-yielding taxable securities. IRS regulations govern arbitrage earned pursuant to the investment of the proceeds of tax-exempt municipal securities.

*Balloon Maturity.* A maturity within an issue of bonds that contains a disproportionately large percentage of the principal amount of the original issue.

*Bullet Maturity.* The maturity of an issue of bonds for which there are no principal fund payments prior to the final stated maturity date.

*Call Provisions.* The terms of the bond contract giving the issuer the right to redeem all or a portion of an outstanding issue of bonds prior to their stated dates of maturity at a specific price, usually at or above par.

*Capitalized Interest.* A portion of the proceeds of an issue that is set aside to pay interest on the securities for a specific period of time. Interest is sometimes capitalized for the construction period of the project.

*Commercial Paper.* Very short-term, unsecured promissory notes issued in either registered or bearer form, and usually backed by a line of credit with a bank that, upon the maturity thereof, successively rolls into other short term promissory notes until the principal thereof is paid by the Transportation Authority.

*Competitive Sale.* A sale of securities by an issuer in which underwriters or syndicates of underwriters submit sealed bids to purchase the securities in contrast to a negotiated sale.

*Continuing Disclosure.* The ongoing disclosure provided by an issuer to comply with a continuing disclosure undertaking. Generally includes annual updates of operating and financial information, audited financial statements, and notice of events specifically identified in the undertaking.

*Credit Enhancement.* Credit support purchased by the issuer to raise the credit rating of the issue. The most common credit enhancements consist of bond insurance, direct or standby letters of credit, and lines of credit.

*DBE.* Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as defined by the Transportation Authority's current DBE policy.

*Debt Service Reserve Fund.* The fund in which moneys are placed which may be used to pay debt service if pledged revenues are insufficient to satisfy the debt service requirements.

*Deep Discount Bonds.* Bonds that are priced for sale at a substantial discount from their face or par value.

*Derivatives.* (1) Financial instruments whose return profile is linked to, or derived from, the movement of one or more underlying index or security, and may include a leveraging factor, or (2) financial contracts based upon notional amounts whose value is derived from an underlying index or security (interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equities or commodities).

*Designation Policies.* Outline as to how an investor's order is filled when a maturity in an underwriting syndicate is oversubscribed. The senior managing underwriter and issuer decide how the bonds will be allocated among the syndicate. There are three primary classifications of orders, which form the designation policy. The highest priority is given to Group Net orders; the next priority is given to Net Designated orders and Member orders are given the lowest priority.

*Escrow.* A fund established to hold moneys pledged and to be used to pay debt service on an outstanding issue.



*Expenses.* Compensates senior managers for out-of-pocket expenses including: underwriters counsel, DTC charges, travel, syndicate expenses, dealer fees, overtime expenses, communication expenses, computer time and postage.

*Grant Anticipation Notes (GANs).* Short-term notes issued by the government unit, usually for capital projects, which are paid from the proceeds of State or Federal grants of any type.

*Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Financing (GARVEE)* are bonds issued by the State and enable entities to fund transportation projects that are secured by certain federal grants.

*Letters of Credit.* A bank credit facility supporting the payment of bonds wherein the bank agrees to lend a specified amount of funds for a limited term.

*Management Fee.* The fixed percentage of the gross spread which is paid to the managing underwriter for the structuring phase of a transaction.

*Members.* Underwriters in a syndicate other than the senior underwriter.

*Negotiated Sale.* A method of sale in which the issuer chooses one underwriter to negotiate terms pursuant to which such underwriter will purchase and market the bonds.

*Original Issue Discount.* The amount by which the original par amount of an issue exceeds its public offering price at the time it is originally offered to an investor.

*Original Issue Premium.* The amount by which the public offering price of an issue exceeds its original par amount at the time it is originally offered to an investor.

*Pay-As-You-Go.* An issuer elects to finance a project with existing cash flow as opposed to issuing debt obligations.

*Present Value.* The current value of a future cash flow.

*Private Placement.* The original placement of an issue with one or a limited number of investors as opposed to being publicly offered or sold.

*Rebate.* A requirement imposed by the Tax Reform Act of 1986 whereby the issuer of the bonds must pay the IRS an amount equal to its profit earned from investment of bond proceeds at a yield above the bond yield calculated pursuant to the IRS code together with all income earned on the accumulated profit pending payment subject to certain exceptions.

*Sales Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANs).* Short-term notes issued by a government unit, usually for operating purposes, which are paid from the proceeds of sales tax or other anticipated revenue sources.

*Selling Groups.* The group of securities dealers who participate in an offering not as underwriters but rather as those who receive securities less the selling concession from the managing underwriter for distribution at the public offering price.

*Syndicate Policies.* The contractual obligations placed on the underwriting group relating to distribution, price limitations and market transactions.

*Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA).* Loans and loan guaranty program provided by the United States Department of Transportation for transportation projects of regional importance.

*Underwriter.* A dealer that purchases new issues of municipal securities from the Issuer and resells them to investors.



*Underwriter's Discount.* The difference between the price at which the Underwriter buys bonds from the Issuer and the price at which they are reoffered to investors.

*Variable Rate Debt.* An interest rate on a security, which changes at intervals according to an index or a formula or other standard of measurement as, stated in the bond contract.



## FISCAL POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Fiscal Policy is designed to guide decisions pertaining to internal fiscal management, including day-to-day operations, annual budget development and sales tax revenue allocation requirements of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority). It is intended to be consistent with the Transportation Authority's adopted Administrative Code, the current Proposition K Sales Tax Expenditure Plan (Expenditure Plan), federal and state regulations, and general prudent accounting and financial management practices.

### II. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

The Fiscal Policy applies only to the operations of the Transportation Authority and is not applicable to the operations of any project sponsoring agencies of the Transportation Authority, unless specifically provided. The Fiscal Policy is separate from, but should be applied in conjunction with, the Transportation Authority's Strategic Plan, adopted Debt Policy, and adopted Investment Policy. Overall policy direction shall be the responsibility of the Transportation Authority Board of Commissioners (Board). Responsibility for implementation of the Policy, and day-to-day responsibility and authority for structuring, implementing, and managing the Transportation Authority's policies, goals, and objectives, shall lie with the Transportation Authority Executive Director (Executive Director). This Policy will be reviewed and updated as required or deemed advisable at least once every three years. Any changes to the policy are subject to approval by the Board at a public meeting.

### III. ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

The Board shall adopt an Annual Budget by the beginning of each fiscal year. The purpose of the Annual Budget is to provide management guidance and control over disbursement of the Transportation Authority's revenues in accordance with the goals and objectives as determined by the Board and as set forth in other policies including, but not limited to, the Transportation Authority's investment, debt, procurement and disadvantaged business enterprise policies. The Transportation Authority's fiscal year extends from July 1 of each calendar year through June 30 of the following calendar year. The sections below further define the process involved in the development of the final budget.

#### A. PREPARATION AND REVIEW OF A DRAFT BUDGET

The Executive Director is charged with responsibility for the preparation of a draft budget for each fiscal year. The draft budget will consist of line items for Revenues, including investment income, Administrative Operating Expenses, Debt Service Expenses as applicable, Program and Operating Reserve, and a single line item for each of the Transportation Authority's capital expenditure programming roles as Proposition K Sales Tax (Prop K) Administrator; San Francisco Congestion Management Agency (CMA); San Francisco Program Manager for the Transportation Fund for Clear Air (TFCA); and Proposition AA Vehicle Registration Fee (Prop AA) Administrator. Supplemental budget documentation shall provide a detailed listing of the capital programs and projects that support the Capital Expenditures line items. The draft budget may also include other functional categories as deemed appropriate.



B. PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT BUDGET

The draft budget shall be presented at a public hearing at a publicly noticed Transportation Authority Board or Committee meeting prior to being approved by the Board. Notice of the time and place of the public meeting shall be published pursuant to Sections 6060 and 6061 of the California Government Code no later than the 15th day prior to the day of the hearing, and the draft budget shall be available for public inspection at least 15 days prior to the hearing.

C. ADOPTION OF A FINAL BUDGET

As established by the Administrative Code, the Transportation Authority Board shall be responsible for review of the proposed overall operating and capital budget of the Transportation Authority. The Board shall set the budget parameters (spending limits) by budget line item as detailed in Section III.A. Preparation and Review of a Draft Budget, and shall recommend adoption of a draft budget to the Board.

The final budget for a given fiscal year shall be approved and adopted by resolution of the Board by June 30 of the prior fiscal year. If the Transportation Authority is unable to adopt a final budget by June 30, it must adopt a resolution to continue services and payment of expenses, including debt service. The continuing resolution shall include a date certain by which the annual budget will be adopted.

D. AMENDMENTS TO THE ADOPTED BUDGET

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the adopted final budget is not subject to further review or reopener after the Board resolution has passed. The adopted final budget may be amended during the fiscal year to reflect actual revenues and expenses incurred to the date of amendment during the fiscal year. Amendments to the budget will be presented at a publicly noticed Transportation Authority Board or Committee meeting prior to being approved by the Board. The Executive Director shall be responsible for proposing amendments to the adopted final budget; the Board shall be responsible for review of the proposed amended adopted final budget, which shall be adopted by Board resolution.

IV. BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATING EXPENSES

Administrative operating expenses include all expenses related to the operations and maintenance of the Transportation Authority, including, among others, staff salaries, staff benefits, office lease costs, equipment rental, supplies, and travel. Specific requirements with respect to certain budgeted expenses are set forth below.

1. SALARIES AND BENEFITS

The Board shall budget annually for the compensation (salaries and benefits) of the Transportation Authority's staff. Pursuant to the Transportation Authority's enabling legislation (Sections 131100 et seq. of the California Public Utilities Code), the Transportation Authority will observe the statutory limit of one percent (1%) of the annual net amount of Prop K revenues for the salaries and benefits of Prop K program administrative personnel, and will follow applicable statutes for all other staff expenses.



## 2. EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES

The Executive Director is authorized to exceed the overall administrative operating expense line items by up to seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000), for the actual cost of emergency expenditures that are made to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the agency or the public, or to repair/restore damaged/destroyed property for the Transportation Authority. The Executive Director shall submit a report to the Board within thirty (30) days of the emergency explaining the necessity of the action, a listing of expenditures, and future recommended actions.

## 3. PETTY CASH

A petty cash revolving account in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may be established and maintained by the Executive Director for the purposes of paying miscellaneous expenses of the Transportation Authority. Individual expenditures may not exceed two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250). Such miscellaneous expenses include outside photocopying expenses, office supplies, meeting and travel expenses, and other practical expenses as determined by the Executive Director to be necessary or convenient for proper administration. The Executive Director is authorized from time to time to seek reimbursement of this account to the maximum balance by allocation from the operating budget.

## B. DEBT SERVICE

Proposed debt service includes debt service of outstanding debt as well as of anticipated financings within the fiscal year. Decisions to fund capital expenditures through debt issuance must adhere to the policies outlined in the Transportation Authority's most current adopted Strategic Plan and Debt Policy.

## C. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Capital Expenditures shall be listed as a single line item for each of the Transportation Authority's capital expenditure programming roles, which currently are Prop K Administrator, Proposition AA Administrator, and CMA and TFCA local administrator. Supplemental budget documentation shall provide a detailed listing of the capital programs and projects that support the Capital Expenditures line items.

## D. PROGRAM AND OPERATING RESERVE

The Transportation Authority shall allocate not less than five percent (5%) and up to fifteen percent (15%) of the estimated net annual sales tax revenue as a hedge against an emergency occurring during the budgeted fiscal year. The adopted final budget, as it may be amended as provided in this Policy, will demonstrate the percentage and amount set aside in the reserve as a separate budget line item.

## E. OTHER FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES

The Executive Director may designate other functional categories as deemed appropriate or necessary.

## V. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ALLOCATIONS

As provided by the Administrative Code, the Board shall be responsible for recommending allocation of funding for those capital expenditure programs and projects in the adopted final



budget. The Board shall also be responsible for allocating project funds by resolution. The Transportation Authority will adopt, maintain and periodically update a multi-year strategic plan that derives from the provisions of the Expenditure Plan and outlines the categories, funding and delivery priority of projects to be funded. The Strategic Plan shall encompass the period remaining on the Expenditure Plan and shall be updated periodically as necessary. The Strategic Plan and its governing policies shall be used in combination with the Fiscal and Debt Policies to ensure the proper allocation of funds for and timely financing of eligible programs and projects. No allocations shall be approved that are inconsistent with the adopted Strategic Plan in force at the time of the allocation.

Changes in the capital expenditure supplemental budget documentation do not constitute a budget revision unless such changes exceed authorization for the respective budget line item. Any changes that exceed the amount of the budget line item will require an amendment to the approved final budget to be adopted by the Board. The total allocated capital funding for each Transportation Authority role should be no greater than the respective Capital Expenditures budget line item for the fiscal year.

For allocations with multi-year cash distributions, the resolution shall spell out the maximum reimbursement level per fiscal year, and only the reimbursement amount authorized in the year of allocation shall count against the Capital Expenditures line item for that budget year. The Capital Expenditures line item for subsequent year annual budgets shall reflect the maximum reimbursement schedule amounts committed through the original and any subsequent allocation actions. The Transportation Authority will not guarantee reimbursement levels higher than those adopted in the original and any subsequent allocation actions.

#### VI. DEBT ISSUANCE

As defined by the Administrative Code and the Debt Policy, the Board shall be responsible for oversight of the debt issuance program for the Transportation Authority. Please refer to the current version of the Debt Policy maintained by the Transportation Authority, for guidelines regarding the issuance and management of debt for financing eligible programs and projects.

#### VII. INVESTMENTS

As defined by the Administrative Code and the Investment Policy, the Board shall be responsible for oversight of the investment program for Transportation Authority funds. Please refer to the current version of the Investment Policy maintained by the Transportation Authority, for the investment program guidelines regarding all funds and investment-related activities of the Transportation Authority.

#### VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Executive Director shall report to the Board at least on a quarterly basis on the Transportation Authority's actual expenditures, budgetary performance, authorized variances that have been implemented pursuant to this Fiscal Policy, the Transportation Authority debt program and the Transportation Authority investment program. The Board shall cause the Transportation Authority's financial transactions and records to be audited by an independent, certified public accountant firm at least annually and a report to be submitted to the Board on the results of the audit.



## IX. PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

It shall be the policy of the Transportation Authority to competitively bid the procurement of goods and services. Procurements in amounts greater than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) shall require a formal bid process including advertising requests for bids and/or proposals in appropriate local newspapers or other media outlets. Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Sections 131285 and 131286, formal procurement of supplies, equipment, and materials in excess of \$75,000 shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after competitive bidding, except in an emergency declared by the vote of two-thirds of the voting membership of the Transportation Authority, or, if after rejecting bids received, the Transportation Authority determines and declares by a two-thirds vote of all of its voting members that, in its opinion the supplies, equipment or materials may be purchased at a lower price in the open market.

Procurements of supplies, equipment, and materials in amounts equal to or less than \$75,000 shall be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder following an informal competitive bid process.

The selection of providers of professional services, such as legal, financial advisory, private architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, environmental, land surveying, or construction project management firms, shall be on the basis of demonstrated competence and on the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required in accordance with the Transportation Authority's Procurement Policy.

All procurement transactions, regardless of dollar value and regardless of whether by sealed bid, informal quote, or by negotiation, shall be conducted in a manner that promotes free and open competition.

### A. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE REQUIREMENT

Any procurement whether formal or informal shall comply with the Transportation Authority's applicable non-discrimination, minority/local/women-owned business and other applicable contracting policies in place at the time of procurement.

### B. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No employee, officer or agent of the Transportation Authority shall participate in the selection or in the award or administration of a contract if such participation would result in a conflict of interest, real or apparent, as defined by state statute and applicable case law. No employee, officer, or agent shall solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors or parties to sub-agreements.

### C. CONTRACTS

Approval of the Board is required prior to the execution of any contract for the procurement of goods or professional services that authorizes payments that in the aggregate exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in a fiscal year. The Executive Director is authorized to approve and execute all such contracts that authorize payments not in excess of \$75,000 per fiscal year, provided that the amounts are consistent with the adopted final budget, as amended in accordance with this Policy for the current fiscal year or, in the event that the contract was not completed in a single fiscal year, the contiguous fiscal year(s). The Executive Director is authorized to amend contracts to extend time, to add or delete tasks of similar scope and nature, and to increase or reduce the total amount of the contract. The Executive Director may execute such amendments



without prior Board approval, if the amount of the amendment does not exceed \$75,000 and so long as the amendment is consistent with the adopted final budget.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the Executive Director is authorized to execute, without prior Board approval, all standard grant agreements based upon a grant award to a sponsoring agency for programs and projects defined in the adopted final budget supplemental documentation, or as approved by specific Board action.

No contractual obligations, administrative or capital, shall be assumed by the Transportation Authority in excess of its ability to pay, as defined by the adopted final budget and the Strategic Plan. All expenditures shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutory and other legal restrictions placed on the use of said funds.

The Transportation Authority shall establish contracts for banking, investment and standard accounting services. Said contracts shall include provisions for the receipt, maintenance, investment and disbursement of funds, payroll functions, and ongoing financial data reports as required by the Transportation Authority.



## INVESTMENT POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to set out policies and procedures that enhance opportunities for a prudent and systematic investment policy and to organize and formalize investment-related procedures.

The investment policies and procedures of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) are, in every case, subject to and limited by applicable provisions of state law and to prudent money management principles. All funds will be invested in accordance with the Transportation Authority's Investment Policy, and applicable provisions of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the California Government Code (Section 53600 et seq.). The investment of bond proceeds will be further restricted by the provisions of relevant bond documents.

### II. SCOPE

This policy covers all funds and investment activities under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Authority.

Bond proceeds shall be invested in the securities permitted pursuant to bond documents, including a tax certificate, approved by the Transportation Authority Board of Commissioners (Board). If the bond documents are silent as to the permitted investments, bond proceeds will be invested in the securities permitted by this policy. In addition to the securities listed in Section IX below, bond proceeds may also be invested in investment and forward delivery agreements. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Investment Policy, the percentage or dollar portfolio limitations listed elsewhere in this Investment Policy do not apply to bond proceeds.

### III. PRUDENT INVESTOR STANDARD

In managing its investment program, the Transportation Authority will observe the "Prudent Investor" standard as stated in Government Code Section 53600.3, applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Investments will be made with care, skill, prudence and diligence, taking into account the prevailing circumstances, including, but not limited to general economic conditions, the anticipated needs of the Transportation Authority and other relevant factors that a prudent person acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with those matters would use in the stewardship of funds of a like character and purpose.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives, in priority order, for the Transportation Authority's investment activities are:

- 1) **Safety.** Safety of the principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the Transportation Authority will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure preservation of the principal of the funds under its control.
- 2) **Liquidity.** The Transportation Authority's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the Transportation Authority to meet its reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements.



- 3) **Return on Investment.** The Transportation Authority's investment portfolio will be managed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles commensurate with the Transportation Authority's investment risk parameters and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio.

V. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Management's responsibility for the investment program is derived from the Board and is hereby delegated to the Executive Director acting as Transportation Authority Treasurer. Pursuant to the requirements of the California Government Code, the Board may renew the delegation pursuant to this section each year. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the limits of this policy. The Transportation Authority may retain the services of an investment advisor to advise it with respect to investment decision-making and to execute investment transactions for the Transportation Authority. The advisor will follow the policy and such other written instructions as are provided by the Executive Director.

VI. ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Officers, employees and agents of the Transportation Authority involved in the investment process will not engage in any personal business activities that could conflict with proper and lawful execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial decisions.

VII. INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Transportation Authority will establish internal controls to ensure compliance with the Investment Policy and with the applicable requirements of the California Government Code.

VIII. AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND DEALERS

The Executive Director will establish and maintain a list of financial institutions and other financial services providers authorized to provide investment services. In addition, the Transportation Authority will establish and maintain a list of approved security broker/dealers, selected on the basis of credit worthiness, that are authorized to provide investment services in the State of California. These include primary dealers or regional dealers that meet the net capital and other requirements under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-1. No public deposit will be made except in a qualified public depository as established by state law.

IX. PERMITTED INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS

California Government Code Section 53601 governs and limits the investments permitted for purchase by the Transportation Authority. Within those investment limitations, the Transportation Authority seeks to further restrict eligible investment to the investments listed below. The portfolio will be diversified by security type and institution, to avoid incurring unreasonable and avoidable concentration risks regarding specific security types or individual financial institutions.

Percentage limitations, where indicated, apply at the time of purchase. Rating requirements where indicated, apply at the time of purchase. In the event a security held by the Transportation Authority is subject to a rating change that brings it below the minimum specified rating requirement, the Executive Director will notify the Board of the change. The course of action to be followed will then be decided on a case-by-case basis, considering such factors as the reason



for the rating reduction, prognosis for recovery or further rating reductions and the current market price of the security.

1. United States Treasury notes, bonds, bills, or certificates of indebtedness, or those for which the faith and credit of the United States are pledged for the payment of principal and interest. There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category.
2. 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. There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category.
3. Repurchase Agreements not to exceed one year duration. There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category. The following collateral restrictions will be observed: Only U.S. Treasury securities or Federal Agency securities are acceptable collateral. All securities underlying repurchase agreements must be delivered to the Transportation Authority's custodian bank versus payment or be handled under a properly executed tri-party repurchase agreement. The market value of securities that underlay a repurchase agreement will be valued at 102 percent or greater of the funds borrowed against those securities and the value will be adjusted no less than quarterly. Since the market value of the underlying securities is subject to daily market fluctuations, the investments in repurchase agreements will be in compliance if the value of the underlying securities is brought back up to 102 percent no later than the next business day.
4. 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; provided that the obligations are rated in one of the two highest categories by a nationally recognized statistical-rating organization (NRSRO). There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category.
5. 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, provided that the obligations are rated in one of the two highest categories by a nationally recognized statistical-rating organization (NRSRO). There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category.
6. Bankers' Acceptances issued by domestic 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 category by a NRSRO. Purchases of Banker's Acceptances may not exceed 180 days maturity or 40 percent of the Transportation Authority's portfolio. No more than 30 percent of the Transportation Authority's portfolio may be invested in the Banker's Acceptances of any one commercial bank.
7. Commercial paper of "prime" quality rated the highest ranking or of the highest letter or number rating as provided by a NRSRO. The entity that issues the commercial paper will



meet all of the criteria in either (1) or (2) as follows: (1) the corporation will be organized and operating within the United States as a general corporation, will have assets in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000), and will issue debt, other than commercial paper, if any, that is rated “A” or higher by a NRSRO; or (2) the corporation will be organized within the United States as a special purpose corporation, trust, or limited liability company, has program wide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, over collateralizations, letters of credit, or surety bond; has commercial paper that is rated “A-1” or higher, or equivalent by a NRSRO. Eligible commercial paper may not exceed 270 days’ maturity nor represent more than 10% of the outstanding paper of an issuing corporation, or 25% of the Transportation Authority’s portfolio.

8. Medium-term corporate 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 corporate notes will be rated in a rating category “A” or better by a NRSRO. Purchases of medium-term notes will not exceed 30 percent of the Transportation Authority’s portfolio.
9. FDIC insured or fully collateralized time certificates of deposit in financial institutions located in California. Purchases of time certificates of deposit may not exceed 1 year in maturity or 10 percent of the Transportation Authority’s portfolio.

To be eligible to receive local agency money, a bank, savings association, federal association, or federally insured industrial loan company shall 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, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, pursuant to Section 2906 of Title 12 of the United States Code. The FFIEC provides an overall assessment of the insured depositories’ ability to meet the credit needs of their communities, consistent with safe and sound operations.

10. Negotiable certificates of deposit or deposit notes issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a savings association or a federal association, a state or federal credit union or by a state-licensed branch of a foreign bank. Purchases of negotiable certificates of deposit may not exceed 30 percent of the Transportation Authority’s portfolio.
11. State of California’s Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). The LAIF portfolio should be reviewed periodically. There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category. However, the amount invested may not exceed the maximum allowed by LAIF.
12. The California Asset Management Program, as authorized by Section 53601 (p) of the California Government Code. The Program constitutes shares in a California common law trust established pursuant to Section 6509.7 of Title 1, Division 7, Chapter 5 of the Government Code of the State of California which invests exclusively in investments permitted by subdivisions (a) to (o) and (q) of Section 53601 of the Government Code of California, as it may be amended.
13. Insured savings account or money market account. To be eligible to receive local agency deposits, a financial institution must have received a minimum overall satisfactory rating



for meeting the credit needs of California communities in its most recent evaluation. There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category. Bank deposits are required to be collateralized as specified under Government Code Section 53630 et. seq. The collateralization requirements may be waived for any portion that is covered by federal deposit insurance. The Transportation Authority shall have a signed agreement with any depository accepting Transportation Authority funds per Government Code Section 53649.

14. Placement Service Certificates of Deposit (CDs). Certificates of deposit placed with a private sector entity that assists in the placement of certificates of deposit with eligible financial institutions located in the United States (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. The combined maximum portfolio exposure to Placement Service CDs and Negotiable CDs is limited to 30%. The maximum investment maturity will be restricted to five years.
15. The San Francisco City and County Treasury Pool. There is no limitation as to the percentage of the portfolio that may be invested in this category. Any loans or investments of Transportation Authority funds invested in the San Francisco City and County Treasury Pool to agencies of the City and County of San Francisco will specifically require the approval of the Board prior to purchase or acceptance.
16. 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. To be eligible for investment pursuant to this subdivision these companies shall meet either of the following criteria:
  - Attain the highest ranking or highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two NRSROs.
  - 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 five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000).

The purchase price of shares of beneficial interest purchased will not include any commission that these companies may charge and will not exceed 20 percent of the Transportation Authority's portfolio.

#### X. INELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS

The Transportation Authority will not invest any funds in inverse floaters, range notes, or interest-only strips that are derived from a pool of mortgages, or in any security that could result in zero interest accrual if held to maturity.

#### XI. MAXIMUM MATURITY

Investment maturities will be based on a review of cash flow forecasts. Maturities will be scheduled so as to permit the Transportation Authority to meet all projected obligations.

Where this Policy does not specify a maximum remaining maturity at the time of the investment, no investment will 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.

## XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Executive Director will submit a quarterly list of transactions to the Board. In addition, the Executive Director will submit to the Board an investment report each quarter, which will include, at a minimum, the following information for each individual investment:

- Type of investment instrument
- Issuer name
- Purchase date
- Maturity date
- Purchase price
- Par value
- Amortized cost
- Current market value and the source of the valuation
- Credit rating
- Overall portfolio yield based on cost
- Sale Date of any investment sold prior to maturity

The quarterly report also will (i) state compliance of the portfolio to the statement of investment policy, or manner in which the portfolio is not in compliance, (ii) include a description of any of the Transportation Authority's funds, investments or programs that are under the management of contracted parties, and (iii) include a statement denoting the ability of the Transportation Authority to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months, or provide an explanation as to why sufficient money may, or may, not be available. For all of the Transportation Authority's investments held in the City and County of San Francisco's Treasury Pool the Executive Director will provide the Board with the most recent investment report furnished by the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector.

## XIII. SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY

All security transactions entered into by the Transportation Authority will be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment basis. Securities will be held by an independent third-party custodian selected by the Transportation Authority. The securities will be held directly in the name of the Transportation Authority as beneficiary.

## XIV. INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

The Executive Director will annually render to the Board a statement of investment policy, which the Board will consider at a public meeting. Any changes to the policy will also be considered by the Board at a public meeting.



## GLOSSARY

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

*ASKED.* The price at which securities are offered.

*BANKERS' ACCEPTANCE (BA).* A draft or bill of exchange accepted by a bank or trust company. The accepting institution guarantees payment of the bill, as well as the issuer.

*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.

*BID.* The price offered by a buyer of securities. (When you are selling securities, you ask for a bid.) See Offer.

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

*CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD).* A time deposit with a specific maturity evidenced by a Certificate. Large-denomination CD's 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.

*COUPON.* (a) The annual rate of interest that a bond's issuer promises to pay the bondholder on the bond's face value. (b) A certificate attached to a bond evidencing interest due on a payment date.

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

*DEBENTURE.* A bond secured only by the general credit of the issuer.

*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.

*DERIVATIVES.* (1) Financial instruments whose return profile is linked to, or derived from, the movement of one or more underlying index or security, and may include a leveraging factor, or (2) financial contracts based upon notional amounts whose value is derived from an underlying index or security (interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equities or commodities).

*DISCOUNT.* The difference between the cost price of a security and its maturity when quoted at lower than face value. A security selling below original offering price shortly after sale also is considered to be at a discount.

*DISCOUNT SECURITIES.* Non-interest bearing money market instruments that are issued at a discount and redeemed at maturity for full face value, *e.g.*, U.S. Treasury Bills.

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

*FEDERAL CREDIT AGENCIES.* Agencies of the Federal government set up to supply credit to various classes of institutions and individuals, *e.g.*, S&L's, small business firms, students, farmers, farm cooperatives, and exporters.



*FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC).* A federal agency that insures bank deposits, currently up to \$100,000 per deposit.

*FEDERAL FUNDS RATE.* The rate of interest at which Fed funds are traded. This rate is currently pegged by the Federal Reserve through open-market operations.

*FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS (FHLB).* Government sponsored wholesale banks (currently 12 regional banks), which lend funds and provide correspondent banking services to member commercial banks, thrift institutions, credit unions and insurance companies. The mission of the FHLBs is to liquefy the housing related assets of its members who must purchase stock in their district Bank.

*FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (FNMA).* FNMA, like GNMA was chartered under the Federal National Mortgage Association Act in 1938. FNMA is a federal corporation working under the auspices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is the largest single provider of residential mortgage funds in the United States. Fannie Mae, as the corporation is called, is a private stockholder-owned corporation. The corporation's purchases include a variety of adjustable mortgages and second loans, in addition to fixed-rate mortgages. FNMA's securities are also highly liquid and are widely accepted. FNMA assumes and guarantees that all security holders will receive timely payment of principal and interest.

*FEDERAL OPEN MARKET COMMITTEE (FOMC).* Consists of seven members of the Federal Reserve Board and five of the twelve Federal Reserve Bank Presidents. The President of the New York Federal Reserve Bank is a permanent member, while the other Presidents serve on a rotating basis. The Committee periodically meets to set Federal Reserve guidelines regarding purchases and sales of Government Securities in the open market as a means of influencing the volume of bank credit and money.

*FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.* The central bank of the United States created by Congress and consisting of a seven member Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., 12 regional banks and about 5,700 commercial banks that are members of the system.

*FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.* Financial statements are an overview of the agency's finances and shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall be accompanied by a report, certificate, or opinion of an independent certified public accountant or independent public accountant.

*GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION (GNMA or Ginnie Mae).* Securities influencing the volume of bank credit guaranteed by GNMA and issued by mortgage bankers, commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and other institutions. Security holder is protected by full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Ginnie Mae securities are backed by the FHA, VA or FmHA mortgages. The term "pass-throughs" is often used to describe Ginnie Maes.

*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.

*LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL (LGIP).* The aggregate of all funds from political subdivisions that are placed in the custody of the State Treasurer for investment and reinvestment.

*MARKET VALUE.* The price at which a security is trading and could presumably be purchased or sold.

*MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.* A written contract covering all future transactions between the parties to repurchase—reverse repurchase agreements that establishes each party's rights in the



transactions. A master agreement will often specify, among other things, the right of the buyer-lender to liquidate the underlying securities in the event of default by the seller borrower.

*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.

*OFFER.* The price asked by a seller of securities. (When you are buying securities, you ask for an offer.) See Asked and Bid.

*OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS.* Purchases and sales of government and certain other securities in the open market by the New York Federal Reserve Bank as directed by the FOMC in order to influence the volume of money and credit in the economy. Purchases inject reserves into the bank system and stimulate growth of money and credit; sales have the opposite effect. Open market operations are the Federal Reserve's most important and most flexible monetary policy tool.

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

*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.

*PRUDENT PERSON RULE.* An investment standard. In some states the law requires that a fiduciary, such as a trustee, may invest money only in a list of securities selected by the custody state—the so-called legal list. In other states the trustee may invest in a security if it is one which would be bought by a prudent person of discretion and intelligence who is seeking a reasonable income and preservation of capital.

*QUALIFIED PUBLIC DEPOSITORY.* A financial institution which does not claim exemption from the payment of any sales or compensating use or ad valorem taxes under the laws of this state, which has segregated for the benefit of the commission eligible collateral having a value of not less than its maximum liability and which has been approved by the Public Deposit Protection Commission to hold public deposits.

*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.

*REPURCHASE AGREEMENT (RP OR REPO).* A holder of securities sells these securities to an investor with an agreement to repurchase them at a fixed price on a fixed date. The security "buyer" in effect lends the "seller" money for the period of the agreement, and the terms of the agreement are structured to compensate him for this. Dealers use RP extensively to finance their positions. Exception: When the Fed is said to be doing RP, it is lending money that is, increasing bank reserves.

*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.

*SECONDARY MARKET.* A market made for the purchase and sale of outstanding issues following the initial distribution.

*SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC).* Agency created by Congress to protect investors in securities transactions by administering securities legislation.



*SEC RULE 15C3-1.* See Uniform Net Capital Rule.

*STRUCTURED NOTES.* Notes issued by Government Sponsored Enterprises (FHLB, FNMA, SLMA, etc.) and Corporations, which have imbedded options (e.g., call features, step-up coupons, floating rate coupons, derivative-based returns) into their debt structure. Their market performance is impacted by the fluctuation of interest rates, the volatility of the imbedded options and shifts in the shape of the yield curve.

*TREASURY BILLS.* A non-interest bearing discount security issued by the U.S. Treasury to finance the national debt. Most bills are issued to mature in three months, six months, or one year.

*TREASURY BONDS.* Long-term coupon-bearing U.S. Treasury securities issued as direct obligations of the U.S. Government and having initial maturities of more than 10 years.

*TREASURY NOTES.* Medium-term coupon-bearing U.S. Treasury securities issued as direct obligations of the U.S. Government and having initial maturities from two to 10 years.

*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.

*YIELD.* The rate of annual income return on an investment, expressed as a percentage. (a) *INCOME YIELD* is obtained by dividing the current dollar income by the current market price for the security. (b) *NET YIELD* or *YIELD TO MATURITY* is the current income yield minus any premium above par or plus any discount from par in purchase price, with the adjustment spread over the period from the date of purchase to the date of maturity of the bond.



## PROCUREMENT POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Procurement Policy is designed to guide decisions pertaining to procurement, including the modes, methods and procedures for acquiring the materials, equipment and services necessary to carry out the operations of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority). This policy is intended to establish the manner in which all Transportation Authority procurement activities shall be conducted, and define the requirements and/or limitations for the Transportation Authority and those individuals, firms or agencies doing business with the Transportation Authority. It is intended to be consistent with the Transportation Authority's Administrative Code, the Proposition K Sales Tax Expenditure Plan (Expenditure Plan), federal and state regulations, and general prudent accounting and financial management practices.

### II. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

The Procurement Policy applies to the operations of the Transportation Authority and is not applicable to the operations of any project sponsoring agencies of the Transportation Authority, unless otherwise specifically provided. The Transportation Authority may enter into an agreement to solicit and award contracts on behalf of a sponsoring agency, if requested and if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Transportation Authority and the sponsoring agency. The award of such contracts shall be for goods and services for programs or projects contained in the Expenditure Plan.

The Procurement Policy provides guidelines for procuring materials and supplies, professional and technical services, and lease and rental agreements. The Procurement Policy is separate from, but shall be applied in conjunction with, the Transportation Authority's Strategic Plan, adopted Fiscal Policy and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Local Business Enterprise (LBE) Policy, as applicable. Overall policy direction shall be the responsibility of the Transportation Authority Board (Board). Responsibility for implementation of the Procurement Policy, and day-to-day responsibility and authority for structuring, implementing, and managing the Transportation Authority's policies, goals, and objectives, shall lie with the Executive Director. This Policy will be reviewed and updated as required or deemed advisable at least once every three years. Any changes to the policy are subject to approval by the Board at a public meeting.

### III. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Open competition is the basis for efficient, economic and fair public procurement. It is the policy of the Transportation Authority to competitively bid the procurement of all goods and services, and to encourage small and local firms to do business with the Transportation Authority. All procurement activities are considered to be contractual obligations encompassing financial compensation in return for the rendering of specific goods and/or services. All procurements are to be negotiated on a fixed-price or cost plus fee basis.

#### A. General Provisions

All procurement transactions, regardless of purchasing methodology or dollar value, shall be conducted in a manner that maximizes open and free competition. Solicitation for offers, whether by an informal or formal bid process or through competitive negotiation shall:



1. incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the materials, product or services to be procured; and
2. clearly set forth all requirements which bidders must fulfill, and all other factors to be used in evaluating the proposals.

All bids or proposals must be submitted to and received at the location designated no later than the exact time and date stated in bid or proposal requirements, and must be date- and time-stamped and logged as received by Transportation Authority personnel. Bids or proposals received after the date and time deadline will be returned unopened and will be considered as disqualified. A bid or proposal may be withdrawn prior to bid or proposal opening for any reason by a bidder or his/her authorized representative, provided a written request to withdraw is received by the Transportation Authority prior to bid or proposal opening. After bid or proposal opening, a bid or proposal may be withdrawn only for material obvious error(s) and subject to written approval by the Executive Director.

The Transportation Authority reserves the right to modify and/or suspend any and all aspects, terms, conditions and requirements of any procurement, to obtain further information from any firm or person responding to the procurement, to waive any informality or irregularity as to form or content of the procurement document or any response thereto, to be the sole judge of the merits of the bids or proposals received, and to reject any or all bids or proposals for any reason provided that such actions are made in accordance with federal and state laws.

Contract awards shall be made only to responsive and responsible contractors that possess the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration shall be given to such matters as compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. False statements in proposals will be a basis for disqualification. All contract awards shall be documented by written purchase order, written contract or written memorandum. Contracts, including all options therein, will generally be limited to a maximum period of five (5) years.

The Transportation Authority annual budget establishes the monetary limits for the procurement of goods and services subject to this Policy. All procurements, whether formal or informal, shall be in compliance with the Transportation Authority's non-discrimination policy, DBE/LBE Policy, if applicable, and any other Transportation Authority contracting policy in effect at the time of the procurement.

B. Conflict of Interest

No employee, officer or agent of the Transportation Authority shall participate in the procurement process, or in the award or administration of a contract, if such participation would result in a conflict of interest, real or apparent, as defined by state and federal laws. No employee, officer, or agent shall solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors or parties to sub-agreements. The Transportation Authority shall be subject to Articles 1 and 3 of Title 9, Chapter 7 of the California Government Code and the regulations which implement those provisions as well as the San Francisco County Transportation Authority Conflict of Interest Code.



C. Informal Bid Process

Solicitations for goods and services that are anticipated to be equal to or less than \$75,000 may go through an informal Request for Proposal (RFP) or bid process. Quotes may be requested by telephone, via the Internet or through the mail from known qualified vendors or from current vendor catalogs and/or websites. Routine purchases in the amount of \$25,000 or less should be distributed equitably among qualified competitively priced suppliers, with consideration given to DBE/LBE utilization as applicable and as permitted by law. It is not permissible to segment the contract or use multiple solicitations for similar goods or services in order to circumvent the limitation for formal solicitation.

The informal bid or solicitation process shall include a minimum of three quotes from potential providers to ascertain that the proposed price is fair and reasonable. Transportation Authority files shall maintain support documentation demonstrating that a sufficient number of quotes were obtained.

Except in the case of an emergency, or a finding by the Board by two-thirds vote of all its voting members that, in its opinion, the supplies, equipment or materials may be purchased at a lower price in the open market, awards of contracts for supplies, equipment and materials in excess of \$25,000 shall be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Awards of contracts for supplies, equipment and materials not in excess of \$25,000 will generally be awarded to the lowest bidder after a competitive process, but other factors including but not limited to delivery date and known performance and, if applicable and permitted by law, DBE/LBE participation may be considered in selecting the vendor.

Awards of contracts for professional services, including legal, financial advisory, private architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, environmental, land surveying, or construction project management firms shall be on the basis of demonstrated competence and on the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the services required, and at a price that is fair and reasonable, in accordance with state and federal laws.

D. Formal Bid Process

Solicitation of goods and/or services that are anticipated to be in excess of \$75,000 shall be required to go through a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) or Invitation for Bid (IFB) process. An RFP process will also be used to procure professional and technical services as applicable in accordance with the provisions of California Government Code Section 4526 and applicable federal laws and regulations. Award of a contract for professional services will be qualifications-based and will consider multiple factors that will be clearly stated in the RFP, although price may be considered during the negotiation of the contract. Procurement for establishing an on-call or preapproved list of professional services providers shall be based on a qualifications-based process in accordance with state and federal law, and price may be taken into consideration when negotiating a contract with a firm selected from such a list to fulfill task orders.

For procurements anticipated to be in excess of \$75,000, an Invitation for Bids (IFB) process will be used to procure all supplies, equipment, or materials that are standard in nature, character, and quality; easily defined; and/or reasonably accessible in the open market. Award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder after competitive bidding, except in an emergency declared by the vote of two-thirds of the voting membership of the Board



pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 131285. If, after rejecting bids received, the Transportation Authority, pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 131286, determines and declares by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the Board that, in its opinion, the supplies, equipment, or materials may be purchased at a lower price in the open market, the Transportation Authority may proceed to purchase these supplies, equipment, or materials in the open market without further observance of the provisions regarding contracts, bids, or advertisement.

Solicitation for offers in the formal bid process shall include the following:

1. A clear and accurate written description of the project scope and deliverables, and technical requirements for the materials, product, or service being procured;
2. Special conditions or restricting policies, policy goals such as DBE/LBE goals, if applicable, patents, liquidated damages and performance, bid or indemnification requirements;
3. Proposed timetable for the project or service;
4. General format requirements and number of copies/items (if applicable) to be delivered;
5. Date of pre-proposal conference, if applicable;
6. A clear definition of the evaluation criteria to be used in evaluating the bids or proposals; and
7. Date, time, and place for submission of final bids or proposals.

If a pre-proposal conference is held, a listing of those in attendance showing name(s) of attendees and agency or company represented shall be maintained in the resulting contract files.

Responses to RFPs for professional and technical services shall require identification of the bidders or proposer's key employees and subcontractors. Bidders or proposers shall be required to notify the Transportation Authority of any pending lawsuits or labor disputes that may interfere with the delivery of services.

Procurements in amounts greater than \$75,000 shall require a formal notice process including advertising requests for bids or proposals in local appropriate newspapers or other media outlets. Notice should occur with sufficient time to allow bidders or proposers reasonable time in which to respond. The term "reasonable time" may vary depending on the complexity of the proposed project. Thirty (30) calendar days shall be considered the standard time allotted in notification to potential bidders or proposers. More or less time may be allotted at the determination of the Executive Director.

RFPs and IFBs will be reviewed by a selection panel appointed by the Executive Director. The Executive Director may elect to assemble a separate cost evaluation panel to review cost proposals and evaluate cost assumptions. Based on their reviews and analysis, the selection panel and cost evaluation panel, if any, shall rank bids or proposals. The Executive Director will recommend to the Board award of a contract, based on the results of the procurement process and the recommendations the selection panel and cost evaluation panel, if any, to the bidder or proposer most advantageous to the Transportation Authority. In the case of IFBs,



the Executive Director will recommend award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder or proposer.

Copies of all correspondence, including negative response letters, copies of evaluation sheets/scores, and copies of all bids or proposals not being considered further shall be maintained in the files.

In the event that only a single bid or proposal is submitted, the Transportation Authority shall document its efforts in soliciting responses; and record the history of all correspondence, negotiations, including parties involved, etc. that took place with reference to the award of the resulting contract.

#### IV. NONCOMPETITIVE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS (SOLE SOURCE)

A noncompetitive, negotiated contract may be developed when special conditions arise. These types of agreements are defined as “Sole Source” agreements. Conditions under which noncompetitive, negotiated contracts may be acceptable include:

1. A unique commodity or specialized professional service is known to be available from only one vendor;
2. An emergency of such magnitude that cannot permit delay; or
3. Competition is determined to be inadequate after solicitation of a number of sources.

In these cases, the Transportation Authority will develop an adequate scope of work, evaluation factors and cost estimate, and conduct negotiations with the vendor to ensure a fair and reasonable cost. The Transportation Authority will document details of the special conditions and retain those details in the respective contract file for audit and grant review purposes.

#### V. PROCUREMENT PROTEST AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

It shall be the policy of the Transportation Authority to have established protest procedures which shall apply to all procurements of supplies, equipment, and services. A copy of these policies and procedures shall be maintained in the Transportation Authority’s offices for general inspection and review by the public. In addition, the Transportation Authority shall provide, upon request, a copy of these protest policies and procedures to all individuals, associations, corporations, and companies with which the Transportation Authority conducts business.

A bidder or proposer that has timely submitted a bid or proposal in response to a procurement of the Transportation Authority may file a protest asserting that the Transportation Authority has failed to follow applicable policies or procedures relative to seeking, evaluating, and/or awarding a contract or has failed to comply with relevant specifications or procedures contained in the bid documents or request for proposals. In order to file a protest, the protester must be an actual bidder or proposer whose direct economic interests would be affected by the award of a procurement contract or by the failure to award a procurement contract.

Such protests must be filed within the earlier of five (5) business days after (i) notice, actual or constructive, of the Transportation Authority’s finding that the bidder or proposer’s bid or proposal is not being considered further or (ii) an award of the contract by the Transportation Authority to another bidder or proposer.



A protest shall be deemed filed when the Transportation Authority actually receives the protest by mail or personal delivery. Failure to file a timely protest shall constitute a waiver of the right to file a protest under these procedures. Within five (5) business days of receipt of an untimely protest, the Transportation Authority shall notify the individual or entity that the protest was untimely and is being rejected. Such notice shall constitute the final decision of the Transportation Authority relative to the untimely protest.

All protests filed must be filed by an actual bidder or proposer responding to the procurement and must be in writing and include the following information:

1. Name of individual or entity filing protest;
2. Business address and telephone number of individual or entity;
3. Name and title of contact person;
4. Description of specific procurement and the action or decision being protested;
5. A clear and concise statement of the protest, including identification of:
  - a) procedures or specifications contained in bid documents or request for proposals which were allegedly not complied with, or
  - b) specific instance(s) of Transportation Authority failure to follow its policies and procedures;
6. Detailed factual support for the protest, including relevant documents or correspondence;
7. Desired resolution of the protest; and
8. Dated signature of individual, or authorized representative of entity, filing the protest.

The Executive Director shall review and consider all stated concerns and issues alleged to be in non-compliance and issue a decision within five (5) business days of receipt of the protest. If the decision of the Executive Director is not satisfactory to the protesting party, the protesting party may appeal that decision to the Board. The appeal must be filed within five (5) business days of the date of the decision. The appeal must clearly state the basis for disputing the decision of the Executive Director.

The appeal shall be referred to the Board, which shall consider whether to accept the appeal and hold a hearing on the matter. If a majority of the Board does not wish to accept the appeal, the Board shall defer to the decision of the Executive Director as final.

If a majority of the Board agrees to accept the appeal and hold a hearing on the matter, the protesting party shall be notified of the hearing date and time, which shall be scheduled at the earliest convenience of the Board. At the hearing, the protesting party shall be allowed fifteen (15) minutes to present its case. The Transportation Authority staff shall then be allowed fifteen (15) minutes to present the Transportation Authority's case. The Board may extend these time periods at its discretion.

The Board shall review and act upon the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting, unless it determines that additional time to consider the appeal is required. The Board shall issue written notification to the protester of its decision which shall constitute the final decision of the Transportation Authority.



## VI. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

No contractual obligations, administrative or capital, shall be assumed by the Transportation Authority in the excess of its ability to pay as defined by the adopted final budget and the Strategic Plan. Approval of the Board is required prior to the execution of any contract for the procurement of goods or professional services that authorizes payments that in the aggregate exceed \$75,000 in a fiscal year. The Executive Director is authorized to approve and execute all such contracts that authorize payments not in excess of \$75,000 per fiscal year, provided that the amounts are consistent with the adopted final budget, as amended in accordance with the Fiscal Policy for the current fiscal year or, in the event that the contract was not completed in a single fiscal year, the contiguous fiscal year(s). The Executive Director is authorized to amend contracts to extend time, to add or delete tasks of similar scope and nature, and to increase or reduce the total amount of the contract. The Executive Director may execute such amendments without prior Board approval, if the amount of the amendment does not exceed \$75,000.

All expenditures shall comply with all federal, state and local statutory requirements and other legal restrictions placed on the use of said funds. The Executive Director shall execute all contracts in conformance with the monetary limits established in the adopted final budget. The Executive Director and/or his/her designee has the responsibility for monitoring all contractual agreements for compliance with the terms and conditions established in the contract and for rendering payment upon completion of services or delivery of goods and materials as agreed.



## TRAVEL, CONFERENCE, TRAINING AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

### I. PURPOSE AND GENERAL POLICY

- A. Purpose. This document establishes a set of policies relating to travel, conference, training and business expenses, and establishes procedures for reimbursement of eligible San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) Commissioners and employees, herein referred to as Transportation Authority personnel, for such expenses. These rules and guidelines are designed to safeguard public funds and to ensure the Transportation Authority and its personnel are using the most economical and well-documented procedures in a consistent manner.
- B. General Policy. The Transportation Authority recognizes that in some instances it is necessary and/or convenient for authorized Transportation Authority personnel to incur expenses for travel, training and other business purposes in connection with the official business of the Transportation Authority. Additionally, the Transportation Authority recognizes the benefit of attendance at meetings, conferences and other functions which advance professional knowledge and provide opportunities to exchange information related to transportation, government operations and issues. The policy of the Transportation Authority is to pay or reimburse Transportation Authority personnel for such expenses, travel and fees that a reasonable and prudent person would incur when traveling on official business and which serve a Transportation Authority purpose and are deemed necessary and/or advantageous to the Transportation Authority.
- C. Limitations. Travel and meeting expenditures shall not exceed the approved budget, except with justification and documentation, and shall be consistent with associated policies established by the Transportation Authority. Eligible Transportation Authority personnel are entitled to claim reimbursement for actual, reasonable and necessary expenses for eligible expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties, subject to the limitations set forth herein.

### II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Eligible Personnel. Expenses are authorized for Transportation Authority Commissioners and employees (Transportation Authority personnel). Travel expenses may be authorized for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of the Transportation Authority, including employment interviews.
- B. Eligible Travel Expenses. The following expenses are eligible for reimbursement in connection with authorized Transportation Authority business, travel, conferences, meetings, and training, subject to the restrictions identified in this policy. Travel expenses are subject to review by the Deputy Director for Finance and Administration and will only be approved if deemed reasonable and proper. Reimbursements shall be for actual expenditures (receipts required for expenses greater than \$25) for amounts not to exceed the per diem rates and allowances established by the General Services Administration (GSA) and/or United States Department of Defense (USDOD) as appropriate<sup>1</sup>:
  1. Meals;

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<sup>1</sup> Per diem is an allowance for lodging (excluding taxes), meals and incidental expenses. The GSA establishes per diem rates for destinations within the Continental United States. The United States Department of State establishes the foreign rates.



2. Lodging;
3. Transportation charges (including commercial carrier fares, rental car charges, private car mileage allowances, parking, bridge and road tolls, and necessary taxi, transportation network company or public transit fares); and
4. Miscellaneous expenses:
  - a. Local and long distance business telephone calls, faxes and internet access by the most economical practicable commercial service;
  - b. Registration fees for attending conferences, seminars, conventions, meetings, or other training of professional societies or community organizations;
  - c. Tips to porters, baggage carriers, bellhops, hotel staff, and stewards or stewardesses;
  - d. Purchase of necessary training or conference materials or supplies;
  - e. Business expenses in connection with the preparation of clerical or official reports while on training or travel status; and
  - f. Unforeseen or unusual expenses which are justified, necessary and substantiated.
- C. Non-Eligible Travel Expenses. Transportation Authority personnel are not eligible to claim reimbursement for the following items:
  1. Personal telephone calls;
  2. Alcoholic beverages and entertainment expenses;
  3. Constructive expenses, which are those which might have been incurred for Transportation Authority business but were not; such as:
    - a. if two individuals traveled together to a meeting in one car and each claimed full transportation costs, then one would be making a “constructive” claim; or
    - b. if an individual on a trip stayed with friends or relatives, it would be “constructive” to claim a lodging expense.
  4. Expenses which are excessive or unreasonable as determined by the Deputy Director for Finance and Administration.
- D. Expense Limitations. Reimbursement of costs shall be based on the minimum number of days and hours required to transact Transportation Authority business. Costs incurred due to early or late arrival shall be at the traveler’s expense unless it is shown that the savings in airfare outweighs other costs. In that event, it is up to the traveler’s discretion as to whether he or she wishes to take advantage of the reduced airfare by traveling at an earlier/later date.
- E. Cash Advance. Cash advances may be requested to cover anticipated travel expenses for out-of-area or overnight travel if requested a minimum of ten working days before departure. Cash advances shall not be less than \$100 nor more than the estimated expenses listed on the approved travel authorization form. Advances must be refunded immediately when an authorized trip is canceled or indefinitely postponed.



### III. TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

- A. **Approval.** Before any Transportation Authority paid or reimbursed overnight or out-of-area travel may take place, Transportation Authority personnel must first submit a travel authorization form to their supervisor for approval, who will forward the approved form to the Deputy Director for Finance and Administration to verify that sufficient funds are available in the Transportation Authority's budget for the travel. The Deputy Director for Finance and Administration will forward the approved form to the Executive Director for final approval. Transportation Authority Commissioners must submit the travel authorization form to the Executive Director for pre-approval. The Executive Director is authorized to approve travel requests for Transportation Authority personnel consistent with this policy. The Executive Director will inform the Chairperson of the Transportation Authority of all Commissioner travel requests in excess of \$5,000. All travel requests must be approved in advance, prior to incurring any reimbursable expenses.
- B. **Local Travel.** Local travel, which does not involve overnight travel, can be reimbursed by the Transportation Authority without pre-verification of travel funds availability but staff shall obtain verbal approval from their respective supervisor and the Executive Director. If overnight travel is necessary, a travel authorization form shall be submitted prior to incurring reimbursable expenses.
- C. **Out-of-Area Travel.** Out-of-area travel is defined as 50 miles or more beyond the San Francisco city limits.
- D. **Travel Authorization Form.** The travel authorization form shall list the destination, purpose and justification for the trip, departure and return dates, and the estimated costs for transportation, meals, lodging, registration, and other expenses.

### IV. PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- A. **Expense Report.** Any reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of the Transportation Authority shall be claimed on an expense report. Expense reports shall be submitted within 45 days of incurring the expenses, and the reports shall be accompanied by adequate documentation supporting the expenses.

The total amount of all expenses pertaining to a particular trip should be accounted for the traveler on an expense report form. If the total actual cost of a trip exceeds the amount listed on the travel authorization form, justification and documentation of the excess cost must be provided. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation, any amount in excess of the estimated cost approved on the travel authorization form shall not be allowed. If the cash advance exceeds the actual reimbursable expense, then the traveler shall immediately return the excess amount with the expense report.

- B. **Nature of Claim.** Claims must be for actual and necessary expenses consistent with this document; not for "constructive" expenses.
- C. **Per Diem Adjustments.** Per diem claims will be adjusted, using the appropriate per meal rate, in those instances where meals are provided gratis or as part of a registration or any other fee claimed on the expense report.
- D. **Required Information.** Each claim must clearly indicate the date, nature of expense and amount for which reimbursement is being claimed.



- E. **Receipts.** Receipts or proof of payment must be submitted with the claim to substantiate expenditures for public carrier fares, rental cars, lodging (indicating the single rate), meals, conference or seminar registration fees, and for any unusual items or items not specifically related to travel. Claims must be recorded and certified on an expense report. For any official business in-transit travel destination, Transportation Authority personnel must provide a receipt and narrative to substantiate claimed travel expenses for lodging and a receipt for any authorized expenses incurred costing over \$25. Itemized receipts shall be obtained and submitted with the expense report. If a receipt cannot be obtained or has been lost for expenses greater than \$25, a statement to that effect shall be made on the expense report and the reason given. In absence of a satisfactory explanation, the amount involved shall not be allowed.
- F. **Commissioner Reports.** Transportation Authority Commissioners attending a meeting, conference, or training at the expense of the Transportation Authority shall provide a brief **written and oral** report of such at the next regular Board meeting of the Transportation Authority. The report must include a statement of how the Commissioner's attendance has an impact on, or was associated with, Transportation Authority business, and include any materials distributed at the meeting, conference, or training that could be helpful to other Commissioners.
- G. **Expenses Not Covered by Transportation Authority Policy.** In the event where an expense does not qualify for reimbursement under this policy, to be reimbursable, the expense shall be approved by the Transportation Authority Board, in a public meeting before the expense is incurred, unless the expense is related to lodging in connection with a conference or organized educational activity conducted in compliance with California Government Code s. 54952.2(c), including but not limited to ethics training required by Article 2.4 (commencing with §. 53234) of the Government Code.
- V. **PREPAYMENT OF CONFERENCE/SEMINAR/TRAINING FEES**
- All requests for prepayment of conference/seminar/training will be submitted for approval a minimum of ten working days in advance of the conference/seminar/training, unless reasonable justification is provided. If the ten-day requirement cannot be met, Transportation Authority personnel may personally pay registration fees and other expenses at their own risk and seek reimbursement on the expense report.
- VI. **MEAL EXPENSE**
- A. **General.** Transportation Authority personnel may incur expenses for the purchase of meals for persons not employed by the Transportation Authority, with whom the Transportation Authority is transacting business. The name and business affiliation of the person, as well as the purpose of the business meeting, must be included in the expense report. The maximum per-person expenditure shall not exceed a reasonable amount under the particular circumstances and shall not exceed the set per diem amount established by the GSA or USDOD as appropriate. Actual costs shall include reasonable and customary gratuities, but not the cost of alcoholic beverages. All such expenditures for personnel must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.
- B. **Restrictions.** The purchase of non-travel-related meals is authorized only when Transportation Authority personnel are required, and where approved in advance by the Executive Director in the following circumstances:



1. to attend a breakfast, lunch or dinner meeting concerning Transportation Authority business affairs because of the official position or duties of the individual;
  2. to attend a meeting between Commissioners and staff when required to conduct Transportation Authority business outside of normal business hours;
  3. to attend consecutive or continuing morning and afternoon and night sessions of a Transportation Authority, Board of Supervisors, city council, commission, district or other public agency meeting to cover an agenda;
  4. to act as host for official guests of the Transportation Authority, such as members of examining boards, official visitors, and speakers or honored guests at banquets or other official functions; and
  5. to attend off-site training events (training workshops, seminars, and retreats) and ready access to reasonably priced meals is not available. The Executive Director may elect to either provide meals to the attendees or authorize individuals to purchase their own meals and claim reimbursement in accordance with provisions of this document.
- C. Local Area Meals. Reimbursement for employee meals in the local area must be associated with Transportation Authority business and must be approved in advance by the Executive Director. Meal expenses incurred prior to authorization will be at the risk of the employee. Meals should not exceed the per diem rates and allowances established by the GSA or USDOD as appropriate. Unusual costs must be justified in writing.
- D. Out-of-Area Meals. Reimbursement for employee meals during periods of approved trips out-of-area must be approved on the travel authorization form. Reimbursement for out-of-area meals will be based on either actual costs, for which receipts must be provided for expenditures exceeding \$25, and in accordance with the per diem of the federal standard meal allowance, including single day and total trip meal rates, as established by the GSA or USDOD as appropriate. Unusual costs must be justified in writing.
- E. Special Functions. Reimbursement for meals at special functions, such as banquet meals at authorized conferences, professional meetings, or special events or functions, may be eligible for reimbursement at rates different than the per diem allowances. Eligibility for such reimbursements is based on pre-approval by the Executive Director or the Transportation Authority Board in accordance with this policy.

## VII. LODGING EXPENSES

Reimbursement is allowable for single-room lodging expenses associated with attendance at out-of-area conferences or meetings. The cost of a single room will be reimbursed when travel exceeds the day's duration. Where available, government and group rates must be requested. No reimbursement is authorized for overnight accommodations within the nine Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma unless prior authorization is granted.

Transportation Authority personnel will be expected to be prudent in the choice of lodging and will submit proper documentation to justify the expense. The Executive Director will approve the lodging as part of the approval of the travel request, and reserves the right to determine which lodging is prudent, based on economic, comfort, safety, and reasonability considerations. If lodging is required in connection with a conference or activity, lodging shall be at the location where the conference or



activity is being held. Lodging costs shall not exceed the maximum group rate published by the conference or activity sponsor, provided that the lodging at the group rate is available at the time of booking. If the group rate is not available and the hotel has no remaining vacancies, comparable lodging that is consistent with the requirements of this policy shall be used. No lodging shall be reimbursed on the final day of a conference or activity unless reasonable justification is provided or unless authorized by the Executive Director.

## VIII. MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

A. General. All travel must utilize the most efficient, direct and economical mode of available transportation. Transportation Authority personnel shall use government and group rates offered by providers of transport where available. If for personal convenience, Transportation Authority personnel travel an indirect route and travel is interrupted, any resulting extra expense will be borne by the individual except for reasons beyond the control of the individual. For employees, any resulting excess travel time, except where beyond the control of the employee, will not be considered work time, but will be charged the appropriate type of leave.

Charges or loss of refunds resulting from failure to cancel reservations in accordance with the carrier's rules and time limits will not be reimbursed, unless it can be shown that such failure resulted from circumstances beyond the control of Transportation Authority personnel.

Unused portions of transportation tickets are subject to refund and, when purchased by the Transportation Authority, the individual traveler is responsible to see that they are turned in promptly to secure such a refund.

B. Local Travel. Transportation Authority personnel are encouraged to make optimum use of available public transit services and carpooling for local area travel. The following modes of transportation are to be used in the following priority:

1. public transportation;
2. privately-owned motor vehicles;
3. taxis, cabs, or transportation network companies; and
4. rental cars, after exhausting all other available options.

C. Air and Rail Travel. Transportation Authority personnel shall use coach-class or equivalent accommodations for air and rail travel whenever possible. Any additional fees for seat location upgrades, seat spacing upgrades, or preferential boarding will not be reimbursed unless documentation is provided that there were no other reasonable options available and unless authorized by the Executive Director for special circumstances (e.g. physical or medical conditions).

D. Automobiles

1. Privately-owned Automobile for Official Business

- a. In instances where Transportation Authority personnel use their private automobiles for transportation between their normal work location and other designated work locations (e.g., the site of a meeting), Transportation Authority personnel may be reimbursed for such mileage based upon the standard mileage rate as established by the GSA. When actual mileage exceeds by 10% the reasonable distance between points, Transportation Authority



personnel must justify such excess. Inability to do so will result in the reimbursement being based on mileage for the most direct route. Mileage rate of reimbursement will be adjusted as required. Mileage reimbursement for out-of-area trips shall not exceed the cost of the most efficient and economical direct air rate. Transportation Authority personnel who use their privately-owned motor vehicles for transportation while on official Transportation Authority business must carry at least the minimum automobile liability insurance for privately-owned motor vehicles as required by the State of California. Reimbursement for this minimum automobile liability insurance coverage shall not be allowed. When using privately-owned motor vehicles, Transportation Authority personnel will not be reimbursed for any damages that may occur.

- b. Charges for ferries, bridges, tunnels, or toll roads will be allowed. Reasonable charges will also be allowed for necessary parking.
- c. Property damage to the automobile owned by Transportation Authority personnel incurred without fault or cause of the traveler shall be reimbursed in an amount up to \$250 or the amount of the deductible on the traveler's auto insurance policy, whichever is the lesser amount, for each accident. The Transportation Authority will assume an assignment of subrogation rights up to the amount expended, for recovery of such sums from third parties, known or unknown at the time of such payment.
- d. In order to be paid mileage for travel which originates other than at the normal work location, the mileage must be in excess of that normally driven from the traveler's residence to and from the normal work location. The requesting traveler will include justification in the expense report. In the absence of satisfactory justification, the mileage expense shall not be allowed.

## 2. Rental Automobiles

- a. Rental automobiles may be used when such rental is considered to be more advantageous to the Transportation Authority than the use of other means of transportation. Advance reservations should be made whenever possible and Transportation Authority personnel are expected to be prudent in the selection of an automobile model.
- b. The traveler must obtain full collision coverage. Any additional charge for this coverage will be allowed for reimbursement.
- c. Charges for ferries, bridges, tunnels, or toll roads will be allowed. Reasonable charges will also be allowed for necessary parking.

E. Other Modes of Transportation. Limousine, taxi and transportation network company fares will be allowed for travel where public transportation is not practical or available. Examples may include, but are not limited to, travel between transportation terminal and hotel, between hotel and place of business, and between places of business.

F. Reimbursement. Unless otherwise provided above, the Transportation Authority will reimburse its personnel for transportation at the rates established by the GSA or USDOD as appropriate.

## IX. BAGGAGE

Charges incurred for excess baggage will be reimbursed if justified as necessary for the purpose of the trip. An explanation of the circumstances and payment receipts must accompany the claim for



reimbursement. Charges for checking and handling of baggage, including reasonable and customary gratuities will be allowed.