

**CITY OF CHICO
DEBT POLICY**

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A. INTRODUCTION

The City and its related entities are committed to fiscal sustainability by employing long-term financial planning efforts, maintaining appropriate reserves levels and employing prudent practices in governance, management, budget administration and financial reporting.

Debt levels and their related annual costs are important long-term obligations that must be managed within available resources. A disciplined thoughtful approach to debt management includes policies that provide guidelines for the City, and its related entities to manage their collective debt program in line with those resources.

B. CONDITIONS AND PURPOSES OF DEBT ISSUANCE

B.1. Acceptable Conditions for the Use of Debt

The City believes that prudent amounts of debt can be an equitable and cost-effective means of financing major infrastructure and capital asset and project needs of the City. Debt will be considered to finance such projects if:

- The project has been, or will be, included in the City's capital improvement plan or has otherwise been coordinated with the City's planning goals and objectives.
- It is the most cost-effective funding means available to the City, considering cash flow needs and other funding alternatives.
- It is fiscally prudent. Any consideration of debt financing shall consider financial alternatives, including pay-as-you-go funding, proceeds derived from development or redevelopment of existing land and capital assets owned by the City, and use of existing or future cash reserves, or combinations thereof.

B.2. Acceptable Uses of Debt and Proceeds of Debt

The primary purpose of debt is to finance one of the following:

- The City will consider long-term financing for the acquisition, substantial refurbishment, replacement, or expansion of capital assets (including but not limited to land improvements, infrastructure projects, equipment and water rights) for the following purposes:
 - Acquisition and/or improvement of land, right-of-way or long-term easements.
 - Acquisition of a capital asset with a useful life of three or more years.
 - Construction or reconstruction of a facility.
 - Although not the primary purpose of the financing effort, project reimbursables that include project planning design, engineering and other preconstruction efforts; project-associated furniture fixtures and equipment; capitalized interest (prefunded interest), original issue discount, underwriter's discount, and other costs of issuance.
- Refunding, refinancing, or restructuring debt (including without limitation the refinancing or advance funding of City pension obligations).

B.3. Short-Term Debt

In the event of temporary shortfalls in cash flow for City operation costs due to timing of receipt of revenues and the lack of cash on hand to cover the temporary deficit, the City may consider interim or cash flow financing, such as anticipation notes or bank line of credits. In compliance with applicable state law, any such notes shall be payable either (i) not later than the last day of the fiscal year in which it is issued, or (ii) during the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year in which issued, but in no event later than 15 months after the date of issue, and only if such note is payable only from revenue received or accrued during the fiscal year in which it was issued.

Short-term debt may be used to finance short-lived capital projects, such as lease purchase financing or equipment.

Prior to issuance of any short-term debt, a reliable revenue source shall be identified for repayment of the debt.

B.4. Internal Control Procedures Concerning Use of Proceeds of Debt

One of the City's priorities in the management of debt is to assure that the proceeds of the debt will be directed to the intended use for which the debt has been issued. In the furtherance of this priority, the following procedures shall apply:

- The Administrative Services Department shall retain a copy of each annual report filed with the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC) pursuant to Section 8855(k) of the California Government Code concerning (i) debt authorized during the applicable reporting period (whether issued or not), (ii) debt outstanding during the reporting period, and (iii) the use during the reporting period of proceeds of issued debt.
- In connection with the preparation of each annual report to be filed with CDIAC pursuant to Section 8855(k) of the California Government Code, the Administrative Services Department shall keep a record of the original intended use for which the debt has been issued and indicate whether the proceeds spent during the applicable one-year reporting period for such annual report comport with the intended use. If a change in intended use has been authorized subsequent to the original issuance of the debt, the Administrative Services Department shall indicate in the record when the change in use was authorized and whether the City Council, City Manager, or another City official has authorized the change in intended use. The Administrative Services Director or his or her designee shall report apparent deviations from the intended use in debt proceeds to the City Manager for further discussion.
- If the debt has been issued to finance a capital project and the project timeline or scope of project has changed in a way that all or a portion of the debt proceeds cannot be expended on the original project, the Administrative Services Director shall consult with the City Manager and legal counsel as to available alternatives for the expenditure of the remaining debt proceeds.

C. TYPE OF FINANCING INSTRUMENTS: AFFORDABILITY AND PLANNING POLICIES

The City recognizes that there are numerous types of financing structures and funding sources available, each with specific benefits, risks, and costs. Prior to the issuance of debt or other financing obligations to finance a project, the City will carefully consider the overall long-term affordability of the proposed debt issuance. The City shall not assume more debt or other financial obligations without conducting an objective analysis of the City's ability to assume and support additional debt service payments. The City will consider its long-term revenue and expenditure trends, the impact on operational flexibility and the overall debt burden on the taxpayers. The evaluation process shall include a review of generally accepted measures of affordability and will strive to achieve and or maintain debt levels consistent with its current operating and capital needs.

C.1. General Fund-Supported Debt

General Fund Supported Debt generally include Certificates of Participation (COPs) and Lease Revenue Bonds (LRBs) which are lease obligations that are secured by a lease-back arrangement between the City and another public entity. Typically, the City appropriates available General Fund monies to pay the lease payments to the other public entity and, in turn, the public entity uses such lease payments received to pay debt service on the bonds or Certificates of Participation.

General Fund Supported Debt may also include bonds issued to refund obligations imposed by law, such as judgements (judgement obligation bonds (JOBs) or unfunded accrued actuarial liabilities for pension plans, pension obligation bonds (POBs).

These obligations do not constitute indebtedness under the state constitutional debt limitation and, therefore, are not subject to voter approval.

The City may enter into operating leases and lease purchase agreements on an as-needed basis without voter approval. Lease terms are typically three to ten years.

The City should strive to maintain its net General Fund-backed annual debt service at or less than 8% of available annually budgeted revenue. This ratio is defined as the City's annual debt service requirements on General Fund Supported Debt (including, but not limited to COPs, LRBs, JOBs, and POBs) compared to total annual General Fund Revenues net of interfund transfers out.

C.2. Revenue Bonds

Long-term obligations payable solely from specific special fund sources, in general, are not subject to debt limitation. Examples of such long-term obligations include those which are payable from a special fund consisting of restricted revenues or user fees (Enterprise Revenues) and revenues derived from the system of which the project being funded is a part.

In determining the affordability of proposed revenue bonds, the City will perform an analysis comparing projected annual net revenues (exclusive of depreciation which is a non-cash related expense) to estimated annual debt service. The City should strive to maintain an annual coverage ratio of 110% using historical and/or projected net revenues to cover annual debt service for bonds. To the extent necessary, the City shall

undertake proceedings for a rate increase to cover both operations and debt service costs and create debt service reserve funds to maintain the required coverage ratio.

C.3. Special Districts Financing

The City's special districts primarily consist of 1913/1915 Act Assessment Districts (Assessment Districts). If the City determines appropriate in the future, it may also undertake proceedings to form Community Facilities Districts pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities District Act of 1982. The City will consider requests for special district formation and debt issuance when such requests address a public need or provide a public benefit. Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the Administrative Services Department may not recommend a financing if it is determined that the financing could be detrimental to the debt position or the best interests of the City.

C.4. General Obligation Bonds

General Obligation Bonds are not general obligations of the City, but instead they are payable from and secured by a dedicated, voter-approved property tax override rate. While the dedicated revenue stream to repay the debt makes General Obligation Bonds an attractive option, additional considerations for this financing mechanism include the time and expense of an election, the possibility that the electorate will not approve the ballot measure, and the legal bonding capacity limit of the assessed value of all taxable property within the City.

C.5. Tax Increment Financing

Tax increment financing is a financing method whereby a portion of *ad valorem* property taxes (commonly called the "tax increment") that are allocated to an entity, such as a successor agency to redevelopment agency (Successor Agency), an enhanced infrastructure financing district (EIFD), a community revitalization and investment authority (CRIA) or an infrastructure and revitalization financing district (IRFD), and the entity is permitted to incur debt payable from and secured by the tax increment revenues.

C.6. Conduit Financing

Conduit financing provides for the issuance of securities by a government agency to finance a project of a third party, such as a non-profit organization or other private entity. The City may sponsor conduit financings for those activities that have a general public purpose and are consistent with the City's overall service and policy objectives. Unless a compelling public policy rationale exists, such conduit financings will not in any way pledge the City's faith and credit.

D. STRUCTURE OF DEBT

D.1. Term of Debt

In keeping with Internal Revenue Service regulations for tax-exempt financing obligations, the weighted average maturity of the debt should not exceed 120 percent of the weighted average useful life of the facilities or projects to be financed, unless specific

circumstances exist that would mitigate the extension of time to repay the debt and it would not cause the City to violate any covenants to maintain the tax-exempt status of such debt, if applicable.

D.2. Rapidity of Debt Payment; Level Payment

To the extent practical, bonds will be amortized on a level repayment basis, and revenue bonds will be amortized on a level repayment basis considering the forecasted available pledged revenues to achieve the lowest rates possible. Bond repayments should not increase on an annual basis in excess of 2% without a dedicated and supporting revenue funding stream.

Accelerated repayment schedules reduce debt burden faster and reduce total borrowing costs. The Administrative Services Department will amortize debt through the most financially advantageous debt structure and to the extent possible, match the City's projected cash flow to the anticipated debt service payments. "Backloading" of debt service will be considered only when one or more of the following occur:

- Natural disasters or extraordinary or unanticipated external factors make payments on the debt in early years prohibitive.
- The benefits derived from the debt issuance can clearly be demonstrated to be greater in the future than in the present.
- Such structuring is beneficial to the aggregate overall debt payment schedule or achieves measurable interest savings.
- Such structuring will allow debt service to more closely match projected revenues, whether due to lower project revenues during the early years of the project's operation, inflation escalators in the enterprise user rates, or other quantifiable reasons.

D.3. Serial Bonds, Term Bonds, and Capital Appreciation Bonds

For each issuance, the City will select serial bonds or term bonds, or both. On the occasions where circumstances warrant, Capital Appreciation Bonds (CABs) may be used. The decision to use term, serial, or CAB bonds is driven based on market conditions. However, the use of CABs should be used as a last resort unless a compelling financing need is presented and acceptable rates and terms can be secured.

D.4. Reserve Funds

To the extent that the use of available City monies to fund a reserve fund provides an economic benefit that offsets the cost of financing the reserve fund from bond proceeds (as determined by the Administrative Services Director in consultation with the City's municipal advisor and, if applicable, the underwriter for the bonds), the City may use legally permitted monies to fund a reserve fund (in cash through the purchase of a debt service reserve surety bond or insurance policy) for the proposed bonds, up to the maximum amount permitted by applicable law or regulation. Typically, this amount is equal to the least of: (i) maximum annual debt service on the bonds, (ii) 10% of the principal amount of the bonds (or 10% of the sale proceeds of the bonds, within the meaning of Section 148 of the federal Internal Revenue Code), or (iii) 125% of average annual debt service on the bonds.

E. USE OF ALTERNATIVE DEBT INSTRUMENTS

Alternative debt instruments and financing structures sometimes can provide a lower cost of borrowing in the short run but may involve greater medium-term or long-term risk. Due diligence review must be performed for each transaction, including the quantification of potential risks and benefits, analysis of the impact on City creditworthiness and debt affordability and capacity, and an evaluation of the ability of the City to withstand the medium-term or long-term risk attendant to alternative debt instruments, including the feasibility of exit strategies.

E.1. Variable Rate Debt

Variable rate debt affords the City the potential to achieve a lower cost debt depending on market conditions. However, the City will seek to limit the use of variable-rate debt to the potential risks of such instruments.

E.2. Derivatives

The use of certain derivative products to hedge variable rate debt, such as interest rate swaps, may be considered to the extent the City has such debt outstanding or under consideration. The City will exercise extreme caution in the use of derivative investments for hedging purposes and will consider their utilization only when sufficient understanding of the products and sufficient expertise for their appropriate use has been developed. A comprehensive derivative policy will be adopted by the City prior to any utilization of such instruments.

F. REFUNDING GUIDELINES

The Administrative Services Director shall monitor all outstanding City debt obligations for potential refinancing opportunities. The City will consider refinancing of outstanding debt to achieve annual savings or to refinance a bullet payment or spike in debt service. Except for instances in which a bullet payment or spike in debt service is being refinanced, absent a compelling reason or financial benefit to the City, any refinancing should not result in an increase to the weighted average life of the refinanced debt.

Except for instances in which a bullet payment or spike in debt service is being refinanced, the City will generally seek to achieve debt service savings which, on a net present value basis, are at least 3% of the debt being refinanced. The net present value assessment shall factor in all costs, including issuance, escrow, and foregone interest earnings of any contributed funds on hand. Any potential refinancing shall additionally consider whether an alternative refinancing opportunity with higher savings is reasonably expected in the future. Refundings which produce a net present value savings of less than 3% will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a refunding by the Successor Agency to the Chico Redevelopment Agency shall be determined based on the requirements of Health and Safety Code Section 34177.5.

G. MARKET COMMUNICATION, ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING

G.1. Rating Agency Relations and Annual or Ongoing Surveillance

The Administrative Services Director shall be responsible for maintaining the City's relationships with S&P Global Ratings, Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. These agencies' rating criteria often change, and the City cannot control the decisions made by any rating agency. However, for each debt issue that the City will seek a rating assignment, the City will strive to obtain and maintain the highest possible underlying, uninsured rating. In addition to general communication, the Administrative Services Director shall:

- Ensure the rating agencies are provided updated financial statements of the City as they become publicly available.
- Communicate with credit analysts at each agency as may be requested by the agencies.
- Prior to each proposed new debt issuance, schedule meetings or conference calls with agency analysts and provide a thorough update on the City's financial position, including the impacts of the proposed debt issuance.

G.2. Council Communication

The Administrative Services Director should report feedback from rating agencies, when and if available, regarding the City's financial strengths and weaknesses and areas of concern relating to weaknesses as they pertain to maintaining the City's existing credit ratings.

G.3. Continuing Disclosure Compliance

The City shall remain in compliance with Rule 15c2-12, promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, by filing (to the extent required by the applicable continuing disclosure undertaking) its annual financial statements and other financial and operating data for the benefit of its bondholders within 270 days of the close of the fiscal year, or by such other annual deadline required in any continuing disclosure agreement or certificate for any debt issue. The City shall maintain a log or file evidencing that all continuing disclosure filings have been made promptly. Related information and documentation should also be posted on the City's website.

G.4. Debt Issue Record-Keeping

A copy of all debt-related records shall be retained at the City's offices. At minimum, these records shall include all official statements, bond legal documents/transcripts, resolutions, trustee statements, leases, and title reports for each City financing (to the extent available).

Such records shall be retained while any bonds of an issue are outstanding and during the three year period following the final maturity or redemption of the bond issue or, if later, while any bonds that refunds bonds of that original issue are outstanding and for

the three year period following the final maturity or redemption date of the latest refunding bond issue.

G.5. Arbitrage Rebate

The use of bond proceeds and their investments must be monitored to ensure compliance with all arbitrage rebate requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and related Internal Revenue Service regulations, in keeping with the covenants of the City and/or related entity in the tax certificate for any federally tax-exempt financing. The Administrative Services Director shall ensure that all bond proceeds and investments are tracked in a manner which facilitates accurate calculation; and, if a rebate payment is due, such payment is made in a timely manner.

H. CREDIT RATINGS

The City will consider published ratings agency guidelines regarding best financial practices and guidelines for structuring its capital funding and debt strategies to maintain the highest possible credit ratings consistent with its current operating and capital needs.

I. CREDIT ENHANCEMENT

Credit enhancement may be used to improve or establish a credit rating on a City debt obligation. Types of credit enhancement include letters of credit, bond insurance and surety policies. The City, in consultation with the City municipal advisor, may determine the use of a credit enhancement, for any debt issue, if it reduces the overall cost of the proposed financing or if the use of such credit enhancement furthers the City's overall financing objectives.

J. SB 1029 COMPLIANCE

Senate Bill 1029, signed by Governor Brown on September 12, 2016, and enacted as Chapter 307, Statutes of 2016, requires issuers to adopt debt policies addressing each of the five items below:

J.1. The Purposes for which the Debt Proceeds may be Used

Section B.2 (Acceptable Uses of Debt and Proceeds of Debt) address the purposes for which debt proceeds may be used.

J.2. The Types of Debt that may be Used

Section B.3 (Short-Term Debt), Section C (Types of Financing Instruments; Affordability and Planning Policies), Section D (Structure of Debt), and Section E (Use of Alternative Debt Instruments) are among the provisions that provide information regarding the types of debt that may be issued.

J.3. The Relationship of the Debt to, and Integration with, the Issuer's Capital Improvement Program or Budget, if Applicable

Section B.1 (Acceptable Conditions for the Use of Debt) provides information regarding the relationship between the City's debt and Capital Improvement Program.

J.4. Policy Goals Related to the Issuer's Planning Goals and Objectives

As described in Section C (Types of Financing Instruments; Affordability and Planning Policies) and other sections, this policy has been adopted to assist with the City's goal of maintaining fiscal sustainability and financial prudence.

J.5. The Internal Control Procedures that the Issuer has Implemented, or will Implement, to Ensure that the Proceeds of the Proposed Debt Issuance will be Directed to the Intended Use

Section B.4 (Internal Control Procedures Concerning Use of Proceeds of Debt) provides information regarding the City's internal control procedures designed to ensure that the proceeds of its debt issues are spent as intended.

GLOSSARY:

Ad Valorem Tax: A tax calculated "according to the value" of property. In California, property which is subject to *ad valorem* taxes is classified as "secured" or "unsecured." The secured classification includes property on which any property tax levied by a county becomes a lien on that property. A tax levied on unsecured property does not become a lien against the unsecured property but may become a lien on certain other property owned by the taxpayer.

Annual Coverage Ratio: With respect to any bonds that are secured by a particular source of revenue for a particular 12-month period, the ratio obtained from dividing the estimated dollar amount of the revenue during such period by the scheduled principal and interest payment for the bonds during such period.

Anticipation Notes: Short term notes (such as Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes, Grant Anticipation Notes and Bond Anticipation Notes) issued to provide interim financing anticipated to be paid off from sources to be received at or before the maturity date of the anticipation notes (such as tax revenues, grant funds, proceeds of long-term bonds).

Arbitrage: The gain that may be obtained by borrowing funds at a lower (often tax-exempt) rate and investing the proceeds at higher (often taxable) rates. The ability to earn arbitrage by issuing tax-exempt securities has been severely curtailed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Assessed Valuation: The "value" of property as set by a taxing authority (such as the county assessor) on the tax roll for purposes of *ad valorem* taxation.

Bond: A security that represents an obligation to pay a specified amount of money on a specific date in the future, typically with periodic interest payments.

Bond Anticipation Notes: Short-term notes issued usually for capital projects and paid from the proceeds of the issuance of long-term bonds. Provide interim financing in anticipation of bond issuance.

Bond Counsel: A specialized, qualified attorney retained by the issuer to give a legal opinion concerning the validity of securities. The bond counsel's opinion usually addresses the subject

of tax exemption. Bond counsel typically prepares and/or advises the issuer regarding legal structure, authorizing resolutions, trust indentures and the like.

Bond Insurance: A type of credit enhancement whereby an insurance company indemnifies an investor against default by the issuer. In the event of failure by the issuer to pay principal and interest in full and on time, investors may call upon the insurance company to do so. Once issued, the municipal bond insurance policy is generally irrevocable. The insurance company receives its premium when the policy is issued, and this premium is typically paid out of the bond issue.

Capital Appreciation Bond: A municipal security on which the investment return on an initial principal amount is reinvested at a stated compounded rate until maturity, at which time the investor receives a single payment representing both the initial principal amount and the total investment return.

CDIAC: California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission.

Certificates of Participation: A financial instrument representing a proportionate interest in payments (such as lease payments) by one party (such as a city acting as a lessee) to another party (often a JPA or non-profit).

Competitive Sale: A sale of bonds in which an underwriter or syndicate of underwriters submit sealed bids to purchase the bonds. Bids are awarded on a true interest cost basis (TIC), providing that other bidding requirements are satisfied. Competitive sales are recommended for simple financings with a strong underlying credit rating. This type of sale contrasts with a Negotiated Sale.

Continuing Disclosure: An issuer's obligations under its continuing disclosure agreements executed in connection with its bond issues. See "Rule 15c2-12" below. Under each continuing disclosure agreement, the issuer agrees to periodically provide certain relevant information and make such information available to the investing market. The information is generally required to be posted on MSRB's Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) website.

Credit Enhancement: An instrument (such as a bond insurance policy, a debt service reserve insurance policy or surety bond, a letter of credit) which may be purchased to provide additional assurance that the repayment of the debt will be honored, and hence may enhance the credit rating for the debt issue.

Credit Rating Agency: A company that rates the relative credit quality of a bond issue and assigns a letter rating. These rating agencies include Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Ratings.

Debt Limit: The maximum amount of debt that is legally permitted by applicable charter, constitution, or statutes.

Debt Service: The amount necessary to pay principal and interest requirements on outstanding bonds for a given year or series of years.

Default: The failure to pay principal or interest in full or on time and, in some cases, the failure to comply with non-payment obligations after notice and the opportunity to cure.

Derivative: A financial instrument which derives its own value from the value of another instrument, usually an underlying asset such as a stock, bond, or an underlying reference such as an interest rate index.

Disclosure Counsel: A specialized, qualified attorney retained to provide advice on issuer disclosure obligations, to prepare the official statement and to prepare the continuing disclosure undertaking.

Discount: The difference between a bond's par value and the price for which it is sold when the latter is less than par. Also known as "underwriter discount," this is the fee paid to the underwriter its banking and bond marketing services.

Enterprise Activity: Specific activity that generates revenues. Common examples include water, wastewater and solid waste enterprises. A use of revenues generated by an enterprise activity for purposes unrelated to that enterprise is often subject to restrictions imposed by law. Debt service on bonds issued to finance facilities or projects for an enterprise is usually paid with the revenues of such enterprise.

Financing Team: The working group of City staff and outside consultants necessary to complete a debt issuance.

Indenture: A contract between the issuer and the trustee stipulating the characteristics of the financial instrument, the issuer's obligation to pay debt service, and the remedies available to the trustee in the event of default.

Issuance Costs: The costs incurred by the bond issuer during the planning and sale of securities. These costs include but are not limited to municipal advisory, bond counsel, disclosure counsel, printing, advertising costs, credit enhancement, rating agencies fees, and other expenses incurred in the marketing of an issue.

Lease: An obligation wherein a lessee agrees to make payments to a lessor in exchange for the use of certain property. The term may refer to a capital lease or to an operating lease.

Lease Revenue Bonds: Bonds that are secured by the revenue from lease payments made by one party to another.

Maturity Date: The date upon which a specified amount of debt principal or bond matures or becomes due and payable by the issuer of the debt.

Municipal Advisor: A consultant who provides the municipal issuer with advice on the structure of the bond issue, timing, terms and related matters for a new bond issue.

Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB): A self-regulating organization established on September 5, 1975 upon the appointment of a 15-member board by the Securities and Exchange Agreement. The MSRB, comprised of representatives from investment banking firms, dealer bank representatives, and public representatives, is entrusted with the responsibility of writing rules of conduct for the municipal securities market. The MSRB hosts the EMMA website, which hosts information posted by issuers under their continuing disclosure undertakings.

Negotiated Sale: A sale of securities in which the terms of the sale are determined through negotiation between the issuer and the purchaser, typically an underwriter, without competitive bidding. The negotiated sales process provides control over the financing structure and issuance timing. Negotiated sales are recommended for unusual financing terms, period of market volatility and weaker credit quality. A thorough evaluation, usually with the assistance of the City's Municipal Advisor, of the proposed bond's credit characteristics in conjunction with market conditions will be performed to ensure reasonable final pricing and underwriting spread.

Net Present Value (NPV) – A financial measurement whereby savings of a transaction are discounted back to money into a "today's" dollars equivalent. Often the discount rate used is the true interest cost (TIC—see definition below) rate on the proposed new bond issuance. Typically, in the municipal marketplace it is common to then divide the NPV value by the outstanding par amount of the bonds that are to be refunded to develop a percentage value.

Official Statement (Prospectus): A document published by the issuer in connection with a primary offering of securities that discloses material information on a new security issue including the purposes of the issue, how the securities will be repaid, and the financial, economic and social characteristics of the security for the bonds. Investors may use this information to evaluate the credit quality of the securities.

Par Value: The face value or principal amount of a security.

Pension Obligation Bonds: Financing instruments used to pay some or all of the unfunded pension liability of a pension plan. POBs are issued as taxable instruments over a 10-40-year term or by matching the term with the amortization period of the outstanding unfunded actuarial accrued liability.

Premium: The excess of the price at which a bond is sold over its face value.

Present Value: The value of a future amount or stream of revenues or expenditures.

Private Placement: A bond issue that is structured specifically for one purchaser. Private placements are typically carried out when extraneous circumstances preclude public offerings. A private placement is a negotiated sale.

Redemption: Depending on an issue's call provisions, an issuer may on certain dates and at certain premiums, redeem or call specific outstanding maturities. When a bond or certificate is redeemed, the issuer is required to pay the maturities' par value, the accrued interest to the call date, plus any premium required by the issue's call provisions.

Refunding: A procedure whereby an issuer refinances an outstanding debt issue by issuing a new debt issue.

Rule 15c2-12: Rule adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission setting forth certain obligations of (i) underwriters to receive, review and disseminate official statements prepared by issuers of most primary offering of municipal securities, (ii) underwriters to obtain continuing disclosure agreements from issuers and other obligated persons to provide ongoing annual financial information on a continuing basis, and (iii) broker-dealers to have access to such continuing disclosure in order to make recommendations of municipal securities in the secondary market.

Reserve Fund: A fund established by the indenture of a bond issue into which money is deposited for payment of debt service in case of a shortfall in current revenues.

Revenue Bond: A bond which is payable from a specific source of revenue and to which the full faith and credit of an issuer is not pledged. Revenue bonds are payable from identified sources of revenue, and do not permit the bondholders to compel a jurisdiction to pay debt service from any other source. Pledged revenues often are derived from the operation of an enterprise.

Secondary Market: The market in which bonds are sold after their initial sale in the new issue market.

Serial Bonds: Bonds of an issue that mature in consecutive years or other intervals and are not subject to mandatory sinking fund provisions.

Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS): Short term notes issued in anticipation of receiving tax receipts and revenues within a fiscal year. TRANS allow the municipality to manage the period of cash shortfalls resulting from a mismatch between timing of revenues and timing of expenditures.

Term Bonds: Bonds that come due in a single maturity but where the issuer may agree to make periodic payments into a sinking fund for mandatory redemption of term bonds before maturity and for payment at maturity.

True Interest Cost (TIC): Under this method of computing the interest expense to the issuer of bonds, true interest cost is defined as the rate necessary to discount the amounts payable on the respective principal and interest payment dates to the purchase price received for the new issue of bonds. Interest is assumed to be compounded semi-annually. TIC computations produce a figure slightly different from the net interest cost (NIC) method because TIC considers the time value of money while NIC does not.

Trustee: A bank retained by the issuer as custodian of bond proceeds and official representative of bondholders. The trustee ensures compliance with the indenture. In many cases, the trustee also acts as paying agent and is responsible for transmitting payments of interest and principal to the bondholders.

Underwriter: A broker-dealer that purchases a new issue of municipal securities from the issuer for resale in a primary offering. The bonds may be purchased either through a negotiated sale with the issuer or through a competitive sale.

Weighted Average Useful Life: In reference to a particular bond issue, the weighted average useful life of the assets financed with the proceeds of the bonds is calculated by giving weight to both the relative dollar amount spent on each asset and the useful life of that asset.

Yield: The net rate of return, as a percentage, received by an investor on an investment. Yield calculations on a fixed income investment, such as a bond issue, take purchase price and coupon into account when calculating yield to maturity.