



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Annual Investment Policy of the Pooled Investment Fund

CALENDAR YEAR 2010

*Approved by the
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors*

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I. Authority

Under the Sacramento County Charter, the Board of Supervisors established the position of Director of Finance and by ordinance will annually review and renew the Director of Finance's authority to invest and reinvest all the funds in the County Treasury.

II. Policy Statement

This Investment Policy (Policy) establishes cash management and investment guidelines for the Director of Finance, who is responsible for the stewardship of the Sacramento County Pooled Investment Fund. Each transaction and the entire portfolio must comply with California Government Code and this Policy. All portfolio activities will be judged by the standards of the Policy and its investment objectives. Activities that violate its spirit and intent will be considered contrary to the Policy.

III. Standard of Care

The Director of Finance is the Trustee of the Pooled Investment Fund and therefore, a fiduciary subject to the prudent investor standard. The Director of Finance, employees involved in the investment process, and members of the Sacramento County Treasury Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) shall refrain from all personal business activities that could conflict with the management of the investment program. All individuals involved will be required to report all gifts and income in accordance with California state law. When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling and managing public funds, the Director of Finance shall act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence to meet the aims of the investment objectives listed in Section IV, Investment Objectives.

IV. Investment Objectives

The Pooled Investment Fund shall be prudently invested in order to earn a reasonable return, while awaiting application for governmental purposes. The specific objectives for the Pooled Investment Fund are ranked in order of importance.

A. Safety of Principal

The preservation of principal is the primary objective. Each transaction shall seek to ensure that capital losses are avoided, whether they be from securities default or erosion of market value.

B. Liquidity

As a second objective, the Pooled Investment Fund should remain sufficiently flexible to enable the Director of Finance to meet all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated in any depositor's fund.

C. Public Trust

In managing the Pooled Investment Fund, the Director of Finance and the authorized investment traders should avoid any transactions that might impair public confidence in Sacramento County and the participating local agencies. Investments should be made with precision and care, considering the probable safety of the capital as well as the probable income to be derived.

D. Maximum Rate of Return

As the fourth objective, the Pooled Investment Fund should be designed to attain a market average rate of return through budgetary and economic cycles, consistent with the risk limitations, prudent investment principles and cash flow characteristics identified herein. For comparative purposes, the State of California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) will be used as a performance benchmark. The Pooled Investment Fund quarterly performance benchmark target has been set at or above LAIF's yield. This benchmark was chosen because LAIF's portfolio structure is similar to the Pooled Investment Fund.

V. Pooled Investment Fund Investors

The Pooled Investment Fund investors are comprised of Sacramento County, school and community college districts, districts directed by the Board of Supervisors, and independent special districts whose treasurer is the Director of Finance. Any local agencies not included in this category are subject to California Government Code section 53684 and are referred to as outside investors.

VI. Implementation

In order to provide direction to those responsible for management of the Pooled Investment Fund, the Director of Finance has established this Policy and will provide it to the Oversight Committee and render it to legislative bodies of local agencies that participate in the Pooled Investment Fund. In accordance with California Government Code section 53646, et seq., the Board of Supervisors shall review and approve this Policy annually.

This Policy provides a detailed description of investment parameters used to implement the investment process and includes the following: investable funds; authorized instruments; prohibited investments; credit requirements; maximum maturities and concentrations; repurchase agreements; Community Reinvestment Act Program; criteria and qualifications of broker/dealers and direct issuers; investment guidelines, management style and strategy; Approved Lists; and calculation of yield and costs.

VII. Internal Controls

The Director of Finance shall establish internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the investment objectives are met and to ensure that the assets are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. To assist in implementation and internal controls, the Director of Finance has established an Investment Group and a Review Group.

The Investment Group, which is comprised of the Director of Finance and his/her designees, is responsible for maintenance of the investment guidelines and Approved Lists. These guidelines and lists can be altered daily, if needed, to adjust to the ever-changing financial markets. The guidelines can be more conservative or match the policy language. In no case can the guidelines override the Policy.

The Review Group, which is comprised of the Director of Finance and his/her designees, is responsible for the monthly review and appraisal of all the investments purchased by the Director of Finance and staff. This review includes bond proceeds, which are invested separately from the Pooled Investment Fund and are not governed by this Policy.

The Director of Finance shall establish a process for daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual review and monitoring of the Pooled Investment Fund activity. The following articles, in order of supremacy, govern the Pooled Investment Fund:

1. California Government Code
2. Annual Investment Policy
3. Current Investment Guidelines
4. Approved Lists (see page 9, Section IX.K)

The Director of Finance shall review the daily investment activity and corresponding bank balances.

Monthly, the Review Group shall review all investment activity and its compliance to the corresponding governing articles and investment objectives.

Quarterly, the Director of Finance will provide the Oversight Committee with a copy of the Pooled Investment Fund activity and its compliance to the annual Policy and California Government Code.

Annually, the Oversight Committee shall cause an annual audit of the activities within the Pooled Investment Fund to be conducted to determine compliance to the Policy and California Government Code. This audit will include issues relating to the structure of the investment portfolio and risk.

All securities purchased, with the exception of time deposits, LAIF and Wells Fargo's overnight investment fund, shall be delivered to the independent third-party custodian selected by the Director of Finance. This includes all collateral for repurchase agreements. All trades, where applicable, will be executed by delivery versus payment by the designated third-party custodian.

VIII. Sacramento County Treasury Oversight Committee

In accordance with California Government Code section 27130 et seq., the Board of Supervisors, in consultation with the Director of Finance, has created the Sacramento County Treasury Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee). Annually, the Director of Finance shall prepare an Investment Policy that will be forwarded to and monitored by the Oversight Committee and rendered to Boards of all local agency participants. The Board of Supervisors shall review and approve the Policy during public session. Quarterly, the Director of Finance shall provide the

Oversight Committee a report of all investment activities of the Pooled Investment Fund to ensure compliance to the Policy. Annually, the Oversight Committee shall cause an audit to be conducted on the Pooled Investment Fund. The meetings of the Oversight Committee shall be open to the public and subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

A member of the Oversight Committee may not be employed by an entity that has contributed to the campaign of a candidate for the office of local treasurer, or contributed to the campaign of a candidate to be a member of a legislative body of any local agency that has deposited funds in the county treasury, in the previous three years or during the period that the employee is a member of the Oversight Committee. A member may not directly or indirectly raise money for a candidate for local treasurer or a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors or governing board of any local agency that has deposited funds in the county treasury while a member of the Oversight Committee. Finally, a member may not secure employment with, or be employed by bond underwriters, bond counsel, security brokerages or dealers, or financial services firms, with whom the treasurer is doing business during the period that the person is a member of the Oversight Committee or for one year after leaving the committee.

The Oversight Committee is not allowed to direct individual investment decisions, select individual investment advisors, brokers or dealers, or impinge on the day-to-day operations of the Department of Finance treasury and investment operations.

IX. Investment Parameters

A. Investable Funds

Total Investable Funds (TIF) for purposes of this Policy are all Pooled Investment Fund moneys that are available for investment at any one time, including the estimated bank account float. Included in TIF are funds of outside investors, if applicable, for which the Director of Finance provides investment services. Excluded from TIF are all bond proceeds.

The Cash Flow Horizon is the period in which the Pooled Investment Fund cash flow can be reasonably forecasted. This Policy establishes the Cash Flow Horizon to be one (1) year.

Once the Director of Finance has deemed that the cash flow forecast can be met, the Director of Finance may invest funds with maturities beyond one year. These securities will be referred to as the Core Portfolio.

B. Authorized Investments

Authorized investments shall match the general categories established by the California Government Code sections 53601 et seq. and 53635 et seq. Authorized investments shall include, in accordance with California Government Code section 16429.1, investments into LAIF. Authorization for specific instruments within these general categories, as well as narrower portfolio concentration and maturity limits, will be established and maintained by the Investment Group as part of the Investment Guidelines. As the California Government Code is amended, this Policy shall likewise become amended.

C. Prohibited Investments

No investments shall be authorized that have the possibility of returning a zero or negative yield if held to maturity. These shall include inverse floaters, range notes, and interest only strips derived from a pool of mortgages.

All legal investments issued by a tobacco-related company are prohibited. A tobacco-related company is defined as an entity that makes smoking products from tobacco used in cigarettes, cigars, or snuff or for smoking in pipes. The tobacco-related issuers restricted from any investment are Alliance One, Altria Group, Inc., British American Tobacco PLC, Lorillard, Philip Morris International, Reynolds American, Inc., Universal Corp., and Vector Group, Ltd. Annually the Director of Finance and/or his designee will update the list of tobacco-related companies.

D. Credit Requirements

Except for municipal obligations and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) bank deposits and certificates of deposit, the issuer's short-term credit ratings shall be at or above A-1 by Standard & Poor's, P-1 by Moody's, and, if available, F1 by Fitch, and the issuer's long-term credit ratings shall be at or above A by Standard & Poor's, A2 by Moody's, and, if available, A by Fitch. There are no credit requirements for Registered State Warrants. All other municipal obligations shall be at or above a short-term rating of SP-1 by Standard & Poor's, MIG1 by Moody's, and, if available, F1 by Fitch. In addition, domestic banks are limited to those with a Fitch Individual bank rating of B or better. The Investment Group is granted the authority to specify approved California banks with Fitch Individual bank ratings of B/C or C but they must have a Support rating of 1 where appropriate. Foreign banks with domestic licensed offices must have a Fitch Sovereign rating of AAA and a Fitch Individual bank rating of B or better; however, a foreign bank may have a rating of B/C or C but they must have a Support rating of 1. Domestic savings banks must be rated B or better or may have a rating of B/C or C but they must a Support rating of 1.

Community Reinvestment Act Program Credit Requirements

Maximum Amount	Minimum Requirements
Up to \$100,000	<u>Banks</u> — FDIC Insurance Coverage
	<u>Credit Unions</u> — NCUSIF Insurance Coverage <i>Credit unions are limited to a maximum deposit of \$100,000 since they are not rated by nationally recognized rating agencies and are not required to provide collateral on public deposits.</i>
Over \$100,000 To \$10 million Collateral is required	(Any 2 of 3 ratings) S&P: A-2 Moody's: P-2 Fitch: F-2

Eligible banks and savings banks must have Community Reinvestment Act performance ratings of “satisfactory” or “outstanding” from each financial institution’s regulatory authority. In addition, deposits greater than \$100,000 must be collateralized. Banks must place securities worth between 110% and 150% of the value of the deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, or a trust bank.

Since credit unions do not have Community Reinvestment Act performance ratings, they must demonstrate their commitment to meeting the community reinvestment lending and charitable activities, which are also required of banks.

All commercial paper and medium-term note issues must be issued by corporations operating within the United States and having total assets in excess of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000).

The Investment Group may raise these credit standards as part of the Investment Guidelines and Approved Lists. Appendix A provides a Comparison and Interpretation of Credit Ratings by Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s, and Fitch.

E. Maximum Maturities

Due to the nature of the invested funds, no investment with limited market liquidity should be used. Appropriate amounts of highly liquid investments, such as Treasury and Agency securities, should be maintained to accommodate unforeseen withdrawals.

The maximum maturity, determined as the term from the date of ownership to the date of maturity, for each investment shall be established as follows:

U.S. Treasury Notes and Agency Obligations	5 years
Bonds issued by local agencies	5 years
Registered State Warrants and Municipal Notes.....	5 years
Bankers Acceptances.....	180 days
Commercial Paper.....	270 days
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit.....	180 days
CRA Bank Deposit/Certificates of Deposit.....	1 year
Repurchase Agreements.....	1 year
Reverse Repurchase Agreements	92 days
Medium Term Corporate Notes.....	180 days
Shares of a Money Market Mutual Fund	90 days ¹
Collateralized Mortgage Obligations	180 days

The Investment Group may reduce these maturity limits to a shorter term as part of the Investment Guidelines and the Approved Lists.

The ultimate maximum maturity of any investment shall be five (5) years. The dollar-weighted average maturity of all securities shall be equal to or less than three (3) years.

F. Maximum Concentrations

No more than 80% of the portfolio may be invested in issues other than United States Treasuries and Government Agencies. The maximum allowable percentage for each type of security is set forth as follows:

U.S. Treasury and Agency Securities	100%
Bonds issued by local agencies	80%
Registered State Warrants and Municipal Notes.....	80%
Bankers Acceptances.....	40%
Commercial Paper.....	40%
Negotiable or CRA Bank Deposit/Certificates of Deposit	30%
Repurchase Agreements.....	30%
Reverse Repurchase Agreements	20%
Medium Term Corporate Notes.....	30%
Shares of a diversified Money Market Mutual Fund.....	20%
Collateralized Mortgage Obligations	20%
Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).....	(per State limit) ²

The Investment Group may reduce these concentrations as part of the Investment Guidelines and the Approved Lists.

No more than 10% of the portfolio, except Treasuries and Agencies, may be invested in securities of a single issuer including its related entities.

¹ Money Market mutual funds are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under §270.2a-7 and are required to maintain a dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of 90 days or less.

² LAIF current maximum allowed is \$40 million.

Where a percentage limitation is established above, for the purpose of determining investment compliance, that maximum percentage will be applied on the date of purchase.

G. Repurchase Agreements

Under California Government Code section 53601, paragraph (j) and section 53635, the Director of Finance may enter into Repurchase Agreements and Reverse Repurchase Agreements. The maximum maturity of a Repurchase Agreement shall be one year. The maximum maturity of a reverse repurchase agreement shall be 92 days, and the proceeds of a reverse repurchase agreement may not be invested beyond the expiration of the agreement. The reverse repurchase agreement must be "matched to maturity" and meet all other requirements in the code.

All repurchase agreements must have an executed Sacramento County Master Repurchase Agreement on file with both the Director of Finance and the Broker/Dealer. Repurchase Agreements executed with approved broker-dealers must be collateralized with either: (1) U.S. Treasuries or Agencies with a market value of 102% for collateral marked to market daily; or (2) money market instruments which are on the Approved Lists of the County and which meet the qualifications of the Policy, with a market value of 102%. Since the market value of the underlying securities is subject to daily market fluctuations, investments in repurchase agreements shall be in compliance if the value of the underlying securities is brought back up to 102% no later than the next business day. Use of mortgage-backed securities for collateral is not permitted. Strictly for purposes of investing the daily excess bank balance, the collateral provided by the Sacramento County's depository bank can be Treasuries or Agencies valued at 110%, or mortgage-backed securities valued at 150%.

H. Community Reinvestment Act Program

The Director of Finance has allocated within the Pooled Investment Fund, a maximum of \$90 million for the Community Reinvestment Act Program to encourage community investment by financial institutions, which includes community banks and credit unions, and to acknowledge and reward local financial institutions which support the community's financial needs. The Director of Finance may increase this amount, as appropriate, while staying within the investment policy objectives and maximum maturity and concentration limits. The eligible banks and savings banks must have Community Reinvestment Act performance ratings of "satisfactory" or "outstanding" from each financial institution's regulatory authority. The minimum credit requirements are located on page 5 of Section IX.D.

I. Criteria and Qualifications of Brokers/Dealers and Direct Issuers

All transactions initiated on behalf of the Pooled Investment Fund and Sacramento County shall be executed through either government security dealers reporting as primary dealers to the Market Reports Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or direct issuers that directly issue their own securities which have been placed on the Approved List of brokers/dealers and direct issuers. Further, these firms must have an investment grade rating from at least two national rating services, if available.

Brokers/Dealers and direct issuers which have exceeded the political contribution limits, as contained in Rule G-37 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, within the preceding four year period to the Director of Finance or any member of the governing board of a local agency or any candidate for those offices, are prohibited from the Approved List of brokers/dealers and direct issuers.

Each broker/dealer and direct issuer will be sent a copy of this Policy and a list of those persons authorized to execute investment transactions. Each firm must acknowledge receipt of such materials to qualify for the Approved List of brokers/dealers and direct issuers.

Each broker/dealer and direct issuer authorized to do business with Sacramento County shall, at least annually, supply the Director of Finance with audited financial statements.

J. Investment Guidelines, Management Style and Strategy

The Investment Group, named by the Director of Finance, shall issue and maintain Investment Guidelines specifying authorized investments, credit requirements, permitted transactions, and issue maturity and concentration limits which are consistent with this Policy.

The Investment Group shall also issue a statement describing the investment management style and current strategy for the entire investment program. The management style and strategy can be changed to accommodate shifts in the financial markets, but at all times they must be consistent with this Policy and its objectives.

K. Approved Lists

The Investment Group, named by the Director of Finance, shall issue and maintain various Approved Lists. These lists are:

1. Approved Domestic Banks for all legal investments.
2. Approved Foreign Banks for all legal investments.
3. Approved Commercial Paper and Medium Term Note Issuers.
4. Approved Money Market Mutual Funds.
5. Approved Firms for Purchase or Sale of Securities (Brokers/Dealers and Direct Issuers).
6. Approved Banks / Credit Unions for the Community Reinvestment Act Program.

L. Calculation of Yield and Costs

The costs of managing the investment portfolio, including but not limited to: investment management; accounting for the investment activity; custody of the assets; managing and accounting for the banking; receiving and remitting deposits; oversight controls; and indirect and overhead expenses are charged to the investment earnings based upon actual labor hours worked in respective areas. Costs of these respective areas are accumulated by specific cost accounting projects and charged to the Pooled Investment Fund on a quarterly basis throughout the fiscal year.

The Department of Finance will allocate the net interest earnings of the Pooled Investment Fund quarterly. The net interest earnings are allocated based upon the average daily cash balance of each Pooled Investment Fund participant.

X. Reviewing, Monitoring and Reporting of the Portfolio

The Review Group will prepare and present to the Director of Finance at least monthly a comprehensive review and evaluation of the transactions, positions, performance of the Pooled Investment Fund and compliance to the California Government Code, Policy, and Investment Guidelines.

Quarterly, the Director of Finance will provide to the Oversight Committee and to any local agency participant that requests a copy, a detailed report on the Pooled Investment Fund. Pursuant to California Government Code section 53646, the report will list the type of investments, name of issuer, maturity date, par and dollar amount of the investment. For the total Pooled Investment Fund, the report will list average maturity, the market value, and the pricing source. Additionally, the report will show any funds under the management of contracting parties, a statement of compliance to the Policy and a statement of the Pooled Investment Fund's ability to meet the expected expenditure requirements for the next six months.

Each quarter, the Director of Finance shall provide to the Board of Supervisors and interested parties a comprehensive report on the Pooled Investment Fund.

Annually, the Director of Finance shall provide to the Oversight Committee the Investment Policy. Additionally, the Director of Finance will render a copy of the Investment Policy to the legislative body of the local agencies that participate in the Pooled Investment Fund.

XI. Withdrawal Requests for Pooled Fund Investors

The Director of Finance will honor all requests to withdraw funds for normal cash flow purposes that are approved by the Director of Finance at a one dollar net asset value. Any requests to withdraw funds for purposes other than immediate cash flow needs, such as for external investing, are subject to the consent of the Director of Finance. In accordance with California Government Code Sections 27133(h) and 27136, such requests for withdrawals must first be made in writing to the Director of Finance. When evaluating a request to withdraw funds, the Director of Finance will take into account the effect of a withdrawal on the stability and predictability of the Pooled Investment Fund and the interests of other depositors. Any withdrawal for such purposes will be at the market value of the Pooled Investment Fund on the date of the withdrawal.

XII. Limits on Honoraria, Gifts, and Gratuities

In accordance with California Government Code Section 27133(d), this Policy establishes limits for the Director of Finance; individuals responsible for management of the portfolios; and members of the Investment Group and Review Group who direct individual investment decisions, select individual investment advisors and broker/dealers, and conduct day-to-day investment trading activity. The limits also apply to members of the Oversight Committee. Any individual who receives an aggregate total of gifts, honoraria and gratuities in excess of \$50 in a calendar

year from a broker/dealer, bank or service provider to the Pooled Investment Fund must report the gifts, dates and firms to the designated filing official and complete the appropriate State forms.

No individual may receive aggregate gifts, honoraria, and gratuities in a calendar year in excess of the amount specified in Section 18940.2(a) of Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations. This limitation is \$420 for the period January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2010. Any violation must be reported to the State Fair Political Practices Commission.

XIII. Terms and Conditions for Outside Investors

Outside investors may invest in the Pooled Investment Fund through California Government Code Section 53684. Their deposits are subject to the consent of the Director of Finance. The legislative body of the local agency must approve the Sacramento County Pooled Investment Fund as an authorized investment and execute a Memorandum of Understanding. Any withdrawal of these deposits must be made in writing 30 days in advance and will be paid based upon the market value of the Pooled Investment Fund. If the Director of Finance considers it appropriate, the deposits may be returned at any time to the local agency.

Appendix A

Comparison and Interpretation of Credit Ratings

Long Term Debt & Individual Bank Ratings				
Rating Interpretation	Moody's	S&P	Fitch	Fitch Individual Bank Rating
<i>Best-quality grade</i>	Aaa	AAA	AAA	A
<i>High-quality grade</i>	Aa1	AA+	AA+	A
	Aa2	AA	AA	A/B
	Aa3	AA-	AA-	B
<i>Upper Medium Grade</i>	A1	A+	A+	B
	A2	A	A	B/C
	A3	A-	A-	B/C
<i>Medium Grade</i>	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+	C
	Baa2	BBB	BBB	C/D
	Baa3	BBB-	BBB-	C/D
<i>Speculative Grade</i>	Ba1	BB+	BB+	D
	Ba2	BB	BB	D
	Ba3	BB-	BB-	D
<i>Low Grade</i>	B1	B+	B+	D/E
	B2	B	B	D/E
	B3	B-	B-	D/E
<i>Poor Grade to Default</i>	Caa	CCC+	CCC	D/E
<i>In Poor Standing</i>	-	CCC	-	D/E
	-	CCC-	-	D/E
<i>Highly Speculative Default</i>	Ca	CC	CC	D/E
	C	-	-	E
<i>Default</i>	-	-	DDD	E
	-	-	DD	E
	-	D	D	E

Short Term / Municipal Note Investment Grade Ratings			
Rating Interpretation	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
<i>Superior Capacity</i>	MIG-1	SP-1+/SP-1	F1+/F1
<i>Strong Capacity</i>	MIG-2	SP-2	F2
<i>Acceptable Capacity</i>	MIG-3	SP-3	F3

Appendix A

Short Term / Commercial Paper Investment Grade Ratings

Rating Interpretation	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
<i>Superior Capacity</i>	P-1	A-1+/A-1	F1+/F1
<i>Strong Capacity</i>	P-2	A-2	F2
<i>Acceptable Capacity</i>	P-3	A-3	F3

Fitch Support Ratings (related to Fitch Individual Bank Ratings)

Rating	Interpretation
1	A bank for which there is an extremely high probability of external support. The potential provider of support is very highly rated in its own right and has a very high propensity to support the bank in question. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-Term Rating floor of 'A-'.
2	A bank for which there is a high probability of external support. The potential provider of support is highly rated in its own right and has a high propensity to provide support to the bank in question. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-Term Rating floor of 'BBB-'.
3	A bank for which there is a moderate probability of support because of uncertainties about the ability or propensity of the potential provider of support to do so. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-Term Rating floor of 'BB-'.
4	A bank for which there is a limited probability of support because of significant uncertainties about the ability or propensity of any possible provider of support to do so. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-Term Rating floor of 'B'.
5	A bank for which external support, although possible, cannot be relied upon. This may be due to a lack of propensity to provide support or to very weak financial ability to do so. This probability of support indicates a Long-Term Rating floor no higher than 'B-' and in many cases no floor at all.

Appendix A

Fitch Sovereign Risk Ratings	
<i>Rating</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
AAA	Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of default risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote expectations of very low default risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A	High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
BB	Speculative. 'BB' ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time.
B	Highly speculative. 'B' ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.
CCC	High default risk. Default is a real possibility.
CC	Very high levels of credit risk. Default of some kind appears probable.
C	Exceptionally high levels of credit risk. Default appears imminent or inevitable.
D	<p>Default. Indicates a default. Default generally is defined as one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to make payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of the rated obligation; • The bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of the business of an issuer/obligor; or • The coercive exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation.