

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-172

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY
COUNCIL ADOPTING THE CITY OF LODI
ANNUAL INVESTMENT POLICY AND
INTERNAL CONTROL GUIDELINES

=====

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code §53646, the City Council may annually review and adopt the City of Lodi Investment Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Policy, attached hereto marked Exhibit A, is in compliance with State laws governing the investment of local agency funds and provides internal control guidelines to protect the funds of the City from misappropriation, speculation, and fraud.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lodi has reviewed and hereby adopts the City of Lodi Annual Investment Policy and Internal Control Guidelines, which shall be effective this date.

Dated: November 7, 2012

=====

I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2012-172 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held November 7, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hansen, Johnson, Katzakian, and
Mayor Mounce

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Nakanishi

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None


RANDI JOHL
City Clerk

CITY OF LODI
INVESTMENT POLICY
AND
INTERNAL CONTROL GUIDELINES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	Page
I	Investment Policies	
	Introduction	1
	Scope	1
	Objectives	1
	Delegation of Authority	2
	Prudence	2
	Ethics and Conflicts of Interest	3
	Monitoring and Adjusting the Portfolio	3
	Internal Controls	3
	Reporting	3
	Authorized Investments	4
	Banks and Security Dealers	6
	Purchase of CD's from Local Institutions	7
	Safekeeping and Collateralization	8
	Administration	8
II	Internal Controls	
	General	11
	Procedures	12
	Treasury Function Responsibilities	13
III	Sample of Investment Forms	
	Investment Bid Sheet	15
	Broker/Dealer Questionnaire	16
IV	Glossary	21

**INVESTMENT
POLICIES**

INVESTMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to state the City's policies and procedures to be used for the investment of surplus funds in a prudent and systematic manner **conforming** to all state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds. Safety of principal is given the highest priority. In addition, this statement is intended to formalize investment-related activities to provide the highest investment return with maximum security while meeting daily cash flow demands.

2. SCOPE

The investment policy applies to all funds under the direct authority of the Deputy City Manager/City Treasurer of the City of **Lodi**, including but not limited to the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds and Trust and Agency Funds. All funds are accounted for in the City's Comprehensive **Annual** Financial Report. ~~This policy is generally applicable to bond proceeds with consideration given to specific provisions of each issuance.~~ Investments of debt proceeds held by bond trustee are governed by the provisions of the debt agreements and to the extent that they are permissible investments of **funds** of the City. Proceeds of bonds will be invested in accordance with the ordinance, resolution, indenture or other agreement governing the issuance of the bonds.

3. OBJECTIVES

Funds of the City will be invested with the following objectives in **priority** order:

Safety:

Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the City of **Lodi** shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. To attain this objective, diversification is required in order that potential losses on individual securities do not exceed the income generated from the remainder of the portfolio. The City of **Lodi** **will** diversify its investments by security type and institution. Financial institutions and broker/dealers will be prequalified and monitored **as well as** investment instruments they propose.

Liquidity:

The investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the City to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated. This will be accomplished through maturity diversification in accordance with California Government Code 53635 and the State Local Agency Investment Fund with immediate withdrawal provision.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Return on Investments:

The City's investment portfolio shall be invested to achieve a "bench marked average" rate of return through economic cycles, that will protect these funds from the effects of inflation and the risks associated with higher returns, as long as it does not diminish the objectives of Safety and Liquidity, while preserving and protecting capital in the overall portfolio.

The "bench marked average" rate of return targeted to achieve this objective is the annual rate of return on the one-year U.S. Treasury Bill. Whenever possible and in a manner consistent with the objectives of safety of principal and liquidity, a yield higher than the "bench marked average" rate of return shall be sought.

4. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Treasurer is designated by the authority of the legislative body as the investment officer of the City as provided for in Government Code Section 53607 and is responsible for the investment decisions and activities of the City. The Treasurer will develop and maintain Written administrative procedures for the operation of the investment program, consistent with this investment policy. The Treasurer shall hereafter assume full responsibility for such transactions until such time as the delegation of authority is revoked, and shall make a monthly report of such transactions to the legislative body. In order to optimize total return through active portfolio management, daily activity may be delegated to the Supervising Budget Analyst.

5. PRUDENCE

The standard of prudence to be applied by the Treasurer will be the "prudent investor" standard, in accordance with Government Code Section 53600.3 which states "...all governing bodies of local agencies or persons authorized to make investment decisions on behalf of those local agencies investing public funds pursuant to this chapter are trustees and therefore fiduciaries subject to the prudent investor standard. When investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling, or managing public funds, a trustee shall act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, including, but not limited to, the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of the agency, that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiarity with those matters would use in the conduct of funds of a like character and with like aims, to safeguard the principal and maintain the liquidity needs of the agency. Within the limitations of this section and considering individual investments as part of an overall strategy, investments may be acquired as authorized by law."

INVESTMENT POLICY

6. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The City Treasurer is governed by The Political Reform Act of 1974 regarding disclosure of material financial interests as well as Government Code Section 87103. The City Treasurer shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program or which could impair the ability to make impartial investment decisions.

7. MONITORING AND ADJUSTING THE PORTFOLIO

The Treasurer will routinely monitor the contents of the portfolio, the available markets and the relative values of competing instruments, and will adjust the portfolio accordingly.

8. INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Treasurer will establish a system of written internal controls, which will be reviewed annually by the City's independent audit firm. The controls will be designed to prevent loss of public funds due to fraud, error, misrepresentation, unanticipated market changes or imprudent actions.

9. REPORTING

The Treasurer will submit a quarterly investment report to the City Council, in accordance with Government Code Section 53646, to disclose the following information:

- A listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period by authorized investment category.
- Percentage of the portfolio represented by each investment category.
- Institution
- Average life and final maturity of all investments listed.
- Coupon, discount or earnings rate.
- Par value or cost of the security
- Current market value of securities with maturity in excess of 12 months and the source of this valuation.
- Ability of the city to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months or provide an explanation of why sufficient funds will not be available as required by Gov. Code 53646 (b)(3).

The quarterly investment report to the Lodi City Council, acting legislative authority, as endorsed by Government Code Section 53646, will be in addition to the Treasurer's monthly report and accounting of all receipts, disbursements and fund balances.

INVESTMENT POLICY

In addition, the investment policy will be submitted to the City Council annually in November. Any changes will be noted and formal adoption in the form of a resolution of the City Council is required.

10. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

The City will invest surplus funds not required to finance the immediate needs of the City as provided in California Government Code Sections 16429.1, 53601, 53601.6, ~~53601.7~~, 53601.8, 53635, 53635.2, 53638 and 53684, In selecting authorized investments consideration must be given to credit ratings and collateralization of applicable instruments. A list of these instruments is provided below. These limitations, diversification and maturity scheduling will depend upon whether the funds being invested are considered short-term or long-term funds. All funds will be considered short-term except those reserved for capital projects and special assessment prepayments being held for debt retirement.

Pooled Accounts

The City of Lodi is authorized by policy, to invest in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), a voluntary program created by statute, which began in 1977 as an investment alternative for California's local governments and special districts and continues today under the State Treasurer's Administration. The enabling legislation of the LAIF is Section 16429.1,2,3 of the California Government Code.

The LAIF is part of the Pooled Money Investment Account (PMIA). The PMIA began in 1953 and has oversight provided by the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) and an in-house Investment Committee. The PMIB members are the State Treasurer, Director of Finance, and State Controller.

All securities are purchased under the authority of Government Code Section 16430 and 16480.4. The State Treasurer's Office takes delivery of all securities purchased on a delivery versus payment basis using a third party custodian. All investments are purchased at market and market valuation is conducted monthly.

It has been determined that the State of California cannot declare bankruptcy under Federal regulations, thereby allowing the Government Code Section 16429.3 to stand. This Section states that "money placed with the state treasurer for deposit in the LAIF shall not be subject to either: (a) transfer or loan pursuant to Sections 16310, 16312, or 16313, or (b) impoundment or seizure by any state official or state agency."

The LAIF provides a book entitled "The Local Agency Investment Fund Answer Book" which resides in the City of Lodi Treasurer's office and provides current answers to the following questions, which are required prior to investing in any pooled/fund account.

INVESTMENT POLICY

- A description of eligible investment securities and a written statement of investment policy and objectives.
- A description of interest calculations and how it is distributed, and how gains and losses are treated.
- A description of how the securities are safeguarded (including the settlement processes), and how often the securities are priced and the program audited.
- A description of who may invest in the program, how often, what size deposit and withdrawal are allowed.
 - A schedule for receiving statements and portfolio listing.
- A fee schedule and when and how it is assessed.
- Is the pool/fund eligible for bond proceeds and/or will it accept such proceeds?

The City of Lodi is authorized by policy to invest in shares issued by the Investment Trust of California (CalTRUST), a joint powers authority created under the authority of California Government Code Section 6509.7, as an investment alternative for California's local governments and special districts. CalTRUST began in 2005 and has oversight provided by a Board of Trustees, consisting of experienced local treasurers and finance directors.

All securities purchased by CalTRUST are securities which are eligible for direct local agency investment under the authority of California Government Code Section 53601. All securities are purchased at market value, and market valuation of all securities in the CalTRUST portfolios is conducted on a daily basis. The CalTRUST program offers three account options: the CalTRUST Heritage Money Market option, which provides same-day liquidity (access to funds); the CalTRUST Short-Term Fund, which offers next-day liquidity; and the CalTRUST Medium-Term Fund, which provides monthly liquidity.

Short-Term Portfolio Diversification

The City will diversify use of investment instruments to avoid incurring unreasonable risks inherent in over investing in specific instruments, individual financial institutions or maturities.

Where this section does not specify a limitation on the term or remaining maturity at the time of the investment, no investment will be made in any security which at the time of the investment has a term remaining to maturity in excess of five years, unless the City Council has granted express authority to make that investment either specifically or as part of an investment program and approved by the City Council no less than three months prior to the investment.

INVESTMENT POLICY

Maximum Permitted Investments	Percent of Maturity	Portfolio
U.S. Treasury Obligations (Bills, notes and bonds)	5 Years	100%
U.S. Government Agency Securities and Instrumentalities	5 Years	100%
Bankers Acceptances	180 days	40%
Certificates of Deposit	5 Years	100%
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	5 Years	30%
Commercial Paper	270 days	40%
California State Local Agency Investment Fund	Indefinite	100%
Passbook Deposits	Indefinite	100%
Repurchase Agreements	Not Authorized	N/A
Reverse Repurchase agreements	Not Authorized	N/A
Mutual Funds	Indefinite	20%
Medium Term Notes	5 Years	30%
CalTRUST Pooled Accounts	Indefinite	100%

The City Treasurer will not invest in Repurchase Agreements and Reverse Repurchase agreements. Pooled funds invested for the City by entities such as California State Local Agency Investment Fund, and NCPA may invest in repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements. If repurchase agreements are legal **and** authorized, by policy, a Master Repurchase Agreement must be signed with the bank or dealer.

Diversification by Financial Institution

Bankers' Acceptances (Bas)

No more **than** 25% of the total portfolio with any one institution.

Certificates of Deposit (CDs)

No more than **33%** of the total portfolio with any one institution.

California State Local Agency Investment Fund

No more than \$50 million in any one account, effective November 16, 2009.

Maturity Scheduling

Investment maturities for operating funds shall be scheduled to coincide with projected cash flow needs, taking into account large routine expenditures (payroll, bond payments) **as** well as considering sizable blocks of anticipated revenue (taxes, franchise fees). Maturities in this category will be timed to comply with the following guidelines:

Under 30 days	10% minimum
Under 90 days	25% minimum
Under 270 days	50% minimum
Under 1 year	75% minimum
Under 18 months	90% minimum
Under 2 years	95% minimum
Under 5 years	100% minimum

INVESTMENT POLICY

Long-Term Portfolio Diversification

Investments and diversification for the long-term portfolio will be the same as the short-term portfolio. Maturity scheduling will be timed according to anticipated need. For example, investment of capital project funds will be timed to meet contractor payments, usually for a term not to exceed three years. Investment of prepaid assessment funds will be tied to bond payment dates, after cash flow projections are made using a forecasting model which considers prepayment rate, delinquency rate, interest on bonds and income on investments.

11. BANKS AND SECURITY DEALERS

The Treasurer will consider the credit worthiness of institutions in selecting financial institutions for the deposit or investment of City funds. These institutions will be monitored to ensure their continued stability and credit worthiness.

Investment transactions will only be made with pre-approved financial institutions. Banks will provide their most recent Consolidated Report of Condition (“call report”) at the request of the Treasurer.

The Treasurer will maintain a list of financial institutions authorized to provide investment services. In addition, a list will be maintained of approved security brokers/dealers selected for credit worthiness, who maintain an office in the State of California. This includes primary dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15C3-1.

All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified bidders for investment transactions must supply the Treasurer with the following:

- Audited financial statements
- Proof of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority registration.
- Trading Resolution
- Proof of State Registration
- Completed broker/dealer questionnaire
- Certification of having read the City of Lodi’s investment policy and depository contracts.

An annual review of the financial condition and registration of qualified bidders will be conducted by the Treasurer. The City will not normally use more than three qualified dealer/brokers to obtain bids.

INVESTMENT POLICY

12. PURCHASE OF CDs FROM LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

To the extent reasonable and within the limits specified above, the Treasurer may purchase a Certificate of Deposit, up to the amount fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), from each bank and savings and loan institution located within the corporate limits of the City to promote economic development and as a statement of support for those institutions maintaining an office in Lodi. These investments are limited to those institutions which offer Certificates of Deposit insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and have a Community Reinvestment Act Rating of satisfactory or above.

To aid in the diversification of the portfolio, additional Certificates of Deposit in **amounts** up to fully insured FDIC limits, may be purchased from local institutions provided the investment has the safety, liquidity and a rate of return comparable to that offered from LAIF at the time the original investment is made.

13. SAFEKEEPING AND COLLATERALIZATION

All investment securities purchased by the City will be held in third-party safekeeping by an institution designated as primary agent. The custodian will hold these securities in a manner that establishes the City's right of ownership. The primary agent will issue a safekeeping receipt to the City listing the specific instruments, rate, maturity and other pertinent information. Deposit type securities (i.e., certificates of deposit) will be collateralized.

Collateral for time deposits in savings and loans will be held by the Federal Home Loan **Bank** or an approved Agent of Depository. If collateral is government securities, 110% of market value to the face amount of the deposit is required. Promissory notes secured by first mortgages and first trust deeds used as collateral require 150% of market value to the face amount of the deposit. An irrevocable letter of credit issued by the Federal Home **Loan Bank** of San Francisco requires 105% of market value to the face amount of the public deposit.

The collateral for time deposits in banks should be held in the City's name in the bank's Trust Department, or alternately, in the Federal Reserve **Bank**. The City may waive collateral requirements for deposits which are fully insured up to limits prescribed by the FDIC.

The amount of securities placed with an agent of depository will at all times be maintained in accordance with California Government Code 53652.

INVESTMENT POLICY

14. ADMINISTRATION

The following administrative policies will be strictly observed

a. Payment

All transactions will be executed on a delivery versus payment basis which should be done by the City's safekeeping agent.

b. Bid

A competitive bid process in which three competitive bids are obtained, when practical, will be used to place all investment purchases. If a specific maturity date is required, either for cash flow purposes or for conformance to maturity guidelines, bids will be requested for instruments which meet the maturity requirement. If no specific maturity is required, a market trend (yield curve) analysis will be conducted to determine which maturities would be most advantageous.

c. Wire Transfers

All wire transfers will be approved by the Treasurer or Supervising Budget Analyst. The City's bank will **verify** each transaction with a predetermined City employee other than the individual sending the wire transfer.

Pre-formatted wire transfers will be used to restrict the transfer of funds with preauthorized accounts **only**.

d. Confirmations

Receipts for confirmation of a purchase of authorized securities should include the following information: trade date; **par** value; maturity; rate; price; yield; settlement date; description of securities purchased; net amount due; third-party custodial information. Confirmations of all investment transactions are **to** be received by the Treasurer within three business days.

e. Pooled Cash

The City will consolidate into one bank account and invest on a pooled concept basis. Interest earnings will be allocated monthly based on current cash balances.

f. Bond Proceeds

The City will comply with applicable federal **tax** law and regulations in connection **with** the investment of bond proceeds.

**INTERNAL
CONTROLS**

INTERNAL CONTROLS

GENERAL

Through this system of internal control, the City is adopting procedures and establishing safeguards to prevent or limit the loss of funds invested or held for investment due to errors, losses, misjudgments and improper acts. Internal control procedures are not intended to address every possible situation but are intended to provide a reasonable and prudent level of protection for the City's funds.

1. Objectives

These procedures and policies are established to ensure:

- the orderly and efficient conduct of investment practices, including adherence to investment policies
- the safeguarding of surplus cash
- the prevention or detection of errors and fraud
- the accuracy and completeness of investment records
- the timely preparation of reliable investment reports.

2. General Control Policies

The following policies are to be used to safeguard investments:

o Organization

A description of responsibilities and procedures for the investment of City funds, lines of authority and reporting requirement will be maintained.

o Personnel

Only qualified and assigned personnel will be authorized to approve investment transactions; make and liquidate investments; maintain investment records; and maintain custody of negotiable instruments. Personnel assigned responsibility for the investment of City surplus funds will ~~maintain their~~ professional qualifications by continued education and membership in professional associations.

• Segregation of functions

No one having general ledger functions will have responsibility for the investment of City funds.

• Safekeeping

All securities are to be held in the name of the City of Lodi. The City Will contract with a third party, usually a bank, to provide custodial services and securities safekeeping. Although a cost is involved, the **risk** of losing physical securities outweighs the fees involved. Preference should be given to custodial services which include reporting services as part of their service, including marking the portfolio to market value, performance evaluation and internal reporting.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

- **Reconciliation of records**
Regular and timely reconciliation will be made of detailed securities records ~~with~~ the general ledger control account.
- **Performance evaluation**
Performance statistics will be maintained and reported monthly ~~as~~ provided in the Investment Policies. The indices to be used is the rate ~~of~~ return for the one-year **U.S.** Treasury Bill and the annual rate of return for the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) managed by the State Treasurer's Office.

PROCEDURES

1. Assigned Responsibilities

- a. City Council responsibilities:
 - Adoption of City's investment policies by Resolution
 - Review and evaluation of investment performance.
- b. Deputy City Manager/Treasurer duties **and** responsibilities:
 - Formulating, recommending and implementing the City's investment policies
 - Approves all investment transactions prior to execution of any transaction
 - Approves broker/dealer arrangements.
- c. Supervising Budget Analyst duties **and** responsibilities:
 - Recommends broker/dealer arrangements
 - Recommends investments
 - Executes investment transactions
 - Maintains records of all investment transactions
 - Prepares monthly investment report for City Council review
 - Prepare fiscal year end investment reports for City's independent audit ~~firm~~ review
 - Review's financial condition of the City's depositories (banks) at least annually for compliance with collateralization requirements under government code and financial condition and reports **results** to City Treasurer.
- d. Financial Services Manager duties and responsibilities:
 - Maintains general ledger control account and duplicate records of investment transactions
 - Verifies investment records and reconciles detailed securities records with general ledger control accounts.
- e. City's independent audit **firm**.
 - Will review the City's investment policies and procedures and make appropriate recommendations and findings **as** to compliance and steps to be taken to improve internal controls.

TREASURY FUNCTION RESPONSIBILITIES

FUNCTION	RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Recommendations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommends broker/dealer arrangements• Recommends investments	Supervising Budget Analyst Supervising Budget Analyst
2. Authorization of Investment Transactions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal investment policy prepared by• Formal investment policy approved by• Investment transactions approved by• Broker/deal arrangements approved by	Deputy City Manager/Treasurer City Council Deputy City Manager/Treasurer Deputy City Manager/Treasurer
3. Execution of Investment Transactions	Supervising Budget Analyst
4. Recording of Investment Transactions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording of transactions in Treasurer's records• Recording of transactions in Accounting records	Supervising Budget Analyst Financial Services Manager
5. Safeguarding of assets and records	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of Treasurer's records• Reconciliation of Treasurer's records to accounting records• Review of (a) financial institution's financial condition, (b) safety, liquidity, and potential yields of investment instruments, and (c) reputation and financial condition of investment brokers	Supervising Budget Analyst Financial Services Manager Supervising Budget Analyst
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Periodic reviews of collateral• Review and evaluation of performance	Supervising Budget Analyst City Council
6. Preparation of reports	Supervising Budget Analyst
7. Periodic review of investment portfolio for conformance to City's investment policy	City's Audit Firm

**SAMPLE
INVESTMENT FORMS**

**CITY OF LODI
INVESTMENT BID SHEET**

Date: _____

Cycle to: _____
 Management Analyst: _____
 Fin. Services Manager: _____

	Transaction #1		Transaction #2		Transaction #3	
	Invest	Withdraw	Invest	Withdraw	Invest	Sell
Recommended Selection						
Primary Dealer						
Quotes						
Firm						
Dealer						
Telephone#						
Security Type						
Price						
Maturity Date						
1st Call Date						
Yield to Maturity						
Purchase Price						
Cusip #						
Principal						
Discount						
Accrued Interest						
Interest Rate						
Interest Period						
Risk Category						
Trade Date						
Settlement Date						
Calculation						
Invstmnt.—Fund #						
Investment Fund #						
Issuer Code						
Cert.Acct. #						
Term of Days						

- ME (Month end in advance)
- AE (Month end in arrears)
- M (Monthly in advance)
- AM** (Monthly in arrears)
- QE (Quarter end)
- S (Semi-annual Actual)
- SC (Semi-Annual Equal)
- MA (Maturity)
- MD (Maturity Discount)
- LAIF BALANCE

Approval: _____
 Management Analyst: _____
 Fin. Svcs. Manager: _____
 Approval Date: _____
 Transaction Date: _____

comments: _____

 Conf #: _____

BROKER/DEALER QUESTIONNAIRE
CITY OF LODI TREASURER'S OFFICE
P. O. Box 3006
Lodi, California 95241

1. Name: _____
2. Branch Address: _____
3. Telephone No.: _____
4. Primary Account Representative: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Telephone No.: _____
5. Is your firm a primary dealer in US Government Securities? Y/N _____
6. Identify the personnel who will be trading with or quoting securities to our agencies employees:

Name	Title	Telephone No.

7. National Headquarters Address: _____
Corporate Contract: _____
Telephone No.: _____
Compliance Officer (Name, Address, Telephone): _____
8. What was your firm's total volume in US Government and Agency securities trading last calendar year?
9. Which securities are offered by **your** firm?

<input type="checkbox"/> US Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Paper
<input type="checkbox"/> US Treasury Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> BAs Domestic
<input type="checkbox"/> US Treasury Bonds	<input type="checkbox"/> BAs Foreign
<input type="checkbox"/> Agencies (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Repurchase Agreements
<input type="checkbox"/> Negotiable CD's	<input type="checkbox"/> Reverse Repurchase Agreements
10. List your personnel who have read the City of Lodi Treasurer's Investment Policy.
11. Please identify your public-sector clients in our geographical area who are most comparable to our government with which you currently do business.
12. Have any of your clients ever sustained a loss on a securities transaction arising from misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the **risk** characteristics of the instrument? If so, please explain.
13. Have any of your public-sector clients ever reported to your **firm**, its officers or employees, orally or in Writing, that they **sustained** a loss exceeding 10% of the original purchase price in a single year on any individual security purchased through your firm? Explain.
14. Has your **firm** ever been subject to a regulatory or state/federal agency investigation for alleged improper, fraudulent, disreputable or unfair activities related to the sale of securities? Have any of your employees ever been so investigated? Explain.

15. Has a public sector client ever claimed in writing that your firm or members of your firm were responsible for investment losses?
16. Please include samples of research reports that your firm regularly provides to public-sector clients.
17. Please explain your normal delivery process. Who audits these fiduciary systems?
18. Please provide certified financial statements and other indicators regarding your firm's capitalization.
19. Describe the capital line and trading limits that support/limit the office that would conduct business with our government.
20. What training would you provide to our employees and investment officers?
21. Has your firm consistently complied with the Federal Reserve Bank's capital adequacy guidelines? As of this date, does your firm comply with the guidelines? Has your capital position ever fallen short? By what factor (1.5x, 2x, etc.). Does your firm presently exceed the capital adequacy guidelines, measure of risk? Include certified documentation of your capital adequacy as measured by the Federal Reserve standards.
22. Do you participate in the Securities Investor Protection corporation (SIPC) insurance program? If not, why?
23. What portfolio information do you require from your clients?
24. What reports, confirmations and paper trail will we receive?
25. Enclose a complete schedule of fees and charges for various transactions.
26. How many and what percentage of your transactions failed last month? Last year?
27. Describe the precautions taken by your firm to protect the interest of the public when dealing with governmental agencies as investors.
28. Is your firm licensed by the State of California as a broker/dealer? Y/N _____

CERTIFICATION ATTACHED

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have personally read the latest adopted resolution of investment policies and objectives of the City of Lodi Treasurer and the California Government Codes pertaining to the investments of the City of **Lodi**, and have implemented reasonable procedures and a system of controls designed to preclude imprudent investment activities arising out to transaction conducted between **our firm** and the City of **Lodi**. **All** sales personnel will be routinely informed of the City of Lodi's investment objectives, horizon, outlook, strategies and **risk** constraints whenever we are so advised We pledge to exercise due diligence in **informing** the City of Lodi of all foreseeable **risks** associated **with** financial transactions conducted with our firm. I attest to the accuracy of our responses to your questionnaire.

SIGNED _____ **TITLE** _____ **DATE** _____

COUNTERSIGNED _____ **DATE** _____
(Person in charge of government securities operations)

NOTE Completion of Questionnaire is only part of the City of Lodi's Certification process and **DOES NOT** guarantee that the applicant will be approved to do business with the City of Lodi.

On **this** _____ day of _____ **20**_____ before me the undersigned Notary Public personally appeared
() personally known to me
() proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence **to** be the **person(s)** whose **name(s)** subscribed to the **within** instrument and acknowledged that _____ executed it.

State of _____

county of _____

WITNESS my hand and official seal.
Notary's Signature

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

AGENT an agent is a **firm** or individual which executes orders for others or acts on behalf of others (the principal). The agent is subject to the control of the principal and does not have title to the principal's property. The agent may charge a fee or commission for this service.

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

AGREEMENT: an agreement is an arrangement or understanding between individual traders to honor market quotes within predetermined limits on dollar amount and size.

AMORTIZATION: straight-line reduction of debt by means of periodic payments sufficient to meet current interest charges and to pay off the debt at maturity.

ARBITRAGE a technique used to take advantage of price differences in separate markets. This is accomplished by purchasing securities, negotiable instruments or currencies in one market for immediate sale in another market at a better price.

ASKED: the price at which securities are offered.

AT THE MARKET: a trading term for the buying or selling of securities at the current market price rather than at a predetermined price.

BANKERS ACCEPTANCE (BA): a bearer time draft for a specified amount payable on a specified date. An individual or business seeking to finance domestic or international trade draws it **on** a bank. Commodity products collateralize the BA. Sale of goods is usually the source of the borrower's repayment to the bank. The bank finances the borrower's transaction and then often sells **the BA** on a discount basis to an investor. At maturity, the bank is repaid and the investor holding the BA receives par value from the bank.

BASIS PRICE: price expressed in yield-to-maturity or the annual rate of return on the investment.

BEAR MARKET: a period of generally pessimistic attitudes and declining market prices. (Compare: Bull market)

BELOW THE MARKET: a price below the current market price for a particular security.

BID AND ASKED OR BID AND OFFER the price at which an owner offers to sell (asked or offer) and the price at which a prospective buyer offers to buy (bid). It **is** often referred to **as** a quotation or a quote. The difference between the two is called the spread.

BOND: an interest-bearing security issued by a corporation, government, governmental agency or other body, which can be executed through a bank or trust company. A bond **is** a form **of** debt with **an** interest rate, maturity, and face value, and **is** usually secured by specific assets. Most bonds have a maturity of greater than one year, and generally pay interest semiannually.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE (BAN): short-term notes sold by states and municipalities to obtain interim financing for projects which will eventually be financed by the sale of bonds.

BOND DISCOUNT the difference between a bond's face value and a selling price, when the selling price is lower than the face value.

BOND RATING: the classification of a bond's investment quality. (See: Rating).

BOND RESOLUTION a legal order or contract by a governmental unit to authorize a bond issue. A bond resolution carefully details the rights of the bondholders and the obligation of the issuer.

BOOK VALUE: the amount at which a security is carried on the books of the holder or issuer. The book value is often the cost, plus or minus amortization, and may differ significantly from the market value.

BROKER: a middleman who brings buyers and sellers together and handles their orders, generally charging a commission for this service. In contrast to a principal or a dealer, the broker does not own or take a position in securities.

BULL MARKET: a period of generally optimistic attitudes and increasing market prices. (Compare: Bear Market).

BUYERS MARKET a market where supply is greater than demand, giving buyers an advantage in purchase price and terms.

CALL: an option to buy a specific asset at a certain price within a particular period.

CALLABLE: a feature which states a bond or preferred stock may be redeemed by the issuer prior to maturity under terms designated prior to issuance.

CALL DATE: the date on which a bond may be redeemed before maturity at the option of the issuer.

CALLED BONDS: bonds redeemed before maturity.

CALL PREMIUM: the excess paid for a bond or security over its face value.

CALL PRICE: the price paid for a security when it is called. The call price is equal to the face value of the security, plus the call premium.

CALL PROVISION the call provision describes the details by which a bond may be redeemed by the issuer, in whole or in part, prior to maturity. A Security with such a provision will usually have a higher interest rate than comparable, but noncallable securities.

CAPITAL GAIN OR LOSS: the amount that is made or lost, depending upon the difference between the sale price and the purchase price of any capital asset or security.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

CAPITAL MARKET: the market in which buyers and sellers, including institutions, banks, governments, corporations and individuals, trade debt and equity securities.

CASH SALE: a transaction calling for the delivery and payment of the securities on the same day that the transaction takes place.

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD): debt instrument issued by a bank that usually pays interest. Institutional CD's are issued in denominations of \$100,000 or more. Maturities range from a few weeks to several years. Competitive forces in the marketplace set interest rates.

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

COLLATERAL NOTE: a promissory note, which specifically mentions the collateral, pledged by the borrower for the repayment of an obligation.

COMMERCIAL PAPER short-term obligations with maturities ranging from 2 to 270 days issued by banks, corporations, and other borrowers to investors with temporarily idle cash. Such instruments are unsecured and usually discounted, although some are interest-bearing.

COMMISSION: the brokers or agent's fee for purchasing or selling securities for a client.

COUPON the annual rate of interest that a bond's issuer promises to pay the bondholder on the bond's face value.

COVENANT: a pledge in the bond resolution or indenture of the issuing government to perform in a way that may benefit the bondholders, or to refrain from doing something that might be disadvantageous to them.

COVER the spread between the winning bid (or offer) and the next highest bid (or the next lowest offer). It is useful as a basis for evaluation of the bids.

COVERAGERATIO: the ratio of income available to pay a specific obligation versus the total amount obligated. This is a measure of financial stability.

CREDIT ANALYSIS: a critical review and appraisal of the economic and financial condition of a government agency or corporation. The credit analysis evaluates the issuing entity's ability to meet its debt obligations, and the suitability of such obligations for underwriting or investment.

CURRENT MATURITY: amount of time left to the maturity of an obligation.

DEBENTURE: a bond secured by the general credit of the issuer rather than being backed by a specific lien on property as in mortgage bonds.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

DEBT COVERAGE this term is normally **used** in connection with revenue and corporate bonds. It indicates the margin of safety for payment of debt, reflecting the number of times by which earnings for a certain period of time exceed debt payable during the same period.

DEBT LIMIT (OR CEILING): the maximum amount of debt that can legally be acquired under the debt-incurring power of a state or municipality.

DEBT SERVICE: interest and principal obligation on an outstanding debt. This is usually for a one-year period.

DEFAULT failure to pay principal or interest promptly when due.

DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT: securities industry procedure, common with institutional accounts, whereby delivery of securities sold is made to the buying customer's bank **in** exchange for payment, usually in the form of cash. (Institutions are required by law to require "assets of equal value" in exchange for delivery.) Also called Cash on Delivery.

DERIVATIVE: contracts written between a City and a counter party such **as** a bank, insurance company or brokerage firms. Their value is derived from the value of some underlying assets such as Treasury Bonds or a market index such as LIBOR. Derivatives are used to create financial instruments to meet special market needs. **Two** contrasting reasons for the use of derivatives are: 1) to limit risk or transfer it to those willing to bear it; and, 2) to speculate about future interest rates and leverage in hope of increasing returns.

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 a sale also **is** considered to be at a discount.

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

DUE DILIGENCE: exercising of due professional care in the performance of duties.

FACE VALUE: the principal amount owed on a debt instrument. It is the amount on which interest is computed and represents the amount that the issuer promises to pay at maturity.

FANNIE MAE: trade name for the Federal National Mortgage Association.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (FDIC): federal agency established in **1933** that guarantees (within limits) funds on deposit in member banks and performs other functions such as making loans to or buying assets **from** members **banks** to facilitate mergers or prevent failures.

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.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

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, 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.

FIDUCIARY: an individual or group, such as a bank or trust company, which acts for the benefit of another party or to which certain property is given to hold in trust, according the trust agreement.

FISCAL YEAR: an accounting or ~~tax~~ period comprising any twelve month period. The City's fiscal year starts July 1.

FREDDIE MAC: trade name for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

FULL FAITH AND CREDIT: the unconditional guarantee of the United States government backing a debt for repayment.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (GO's): bonds secured by the pledge of the municipal issuer's **full** faith and credit, usually including unlimited taxing power.

GINNIE MAE: trade name for the Government National Mortgage Association.

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-through" is often used to describe Ginnie Maes.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

HOLDER the person or entity which is in possession of a negotiable instrument.

INDEBTEDNESS: the obligation assumed by a borrower, guarantor, endorser, etc. to repay funds which have been or will be paid out on the borrower's behalf.

INDENTURE: a written agreement used in connection with a security issue. The document sets the maturity date, interest rate, security and other terms for both the issue holder, issuer and, when appropriate, the trustee.

INTEREST RATE: the interest payable each year on borrowed funds expressed **as** a percentage of the principal.

INVESTMENT: use of capital to create more money, either through income-producing vehicles or through more risk-oriented ventures designed to result in capital gains.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO: a collection of securities held by a bank, individual, institution, or government agency for investment purposes,

IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT: instrument or document issued by a bank guaranteeing the payment of a customer's drafts up to a stated amount for a specified period. It substitutes the bank's credit for the buyer's and eliminates the seller's **risk**. This arrangement cannot be changed or terminated by the one who created it without the agreement of the beneficiary.

ISSUE PRICE the price at which a new issue of securities is put on the market.

ISSUER any corporation or governmental unit, which borrows money through **the** sale of securities.

JOINT AND SEVERAL OBLIGATION: a guarantee to the holder in which the liability for a bond or note issue may be enforced against all parties jointly or any one of them individually so that one, several or all may be held responsible for its payment.

LAI: trade name for California State Local Agency Investment Fund.

LEGAL, INVESTMENT a list of securities in which certain institutions and fiduciaries may invest **as** determined by regulatory agencies.

LEGAL OPINION: **an** opinion concerning the legality of a bond issue, usually written by a recognized law **firm** specializing in the approval of public borrowings.

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**.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

MARKETABILITY: the measure of ease with which a security can be sold in the secondary market.

MARKET ORDER an order to buy or sell securities at the prevailing bid or ask price on the market.

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

MARKET VS. QUOTE: quote designates the current bid and ask on a security, as opposed to the price at which the last security order was 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 that the principal or stated value of debt instrument becomes due and payable. It is also used as the length of time between the issue date and the due date.

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

MORTGAGE BOND: a bond secured by a mortgage on property. The value of the property used as collateral usually exceeds that of the mortgage bond issued against it.

NEGOTIABLE a term used to designate a security, the title to which is transferable by delivery. Also used to refer to the ability to exchange securities for cash or near-cash instruments.

NO PAR VALUE: a security issued with no face or par value.

NON-NEGOTIABLE a security whose title or ownership is not transferable through a simple delivery or endorsement. (See: Negotiable.)

OBLIGATION: a responsibility for paying back a debt.

OFFER the price of a security at which a person is willing to sell.

OFFERING: placing securities for sale to buyers. The offering usually states the price and terms.

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.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

PAR VALUE: the stated or face value of a security expressed as a specific dollar amount marked on the face of the security; the amount of money due at maturity. Par value should not be confused with market value.

PAYING AGENT the agency, usually a commercial bank, which dispenses the principal and interest payable on a maturing issue.

PORTFOLIO: the collection of securities held by an individual or institution.

PREMIUM: the amount by which the price paid for a security exceeds the par value. **Also**, the amount that must be paid over the par value to call an issue before maturity.

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**.

PRINCIPAL: the face or par value of **an** instrument. It does not include accrued interest.

PRUDENT INVESTOR RULE: an investment standard adopted by the State of California in 1995. It states that a trustee shall consider the entire investment portfolio when determining the prudence of **an** individual investment; diversification is explicitly required within a portfolio; suitability of **an** investment is a primary determinant; and delegation of investment management is acceptable.

PRUDENT MAN RULE: an investment standard established in 1630. It states that a trustee who is investing for another should behave in the same way as a prudent individual of discretion and intelligence who is **seeking** a reasonable income and preservation of capital.

QUOTATION (QUOTE): the highest bid to buy or the lowest offer to sell a security in any market at a particular time.

RATE OF RETURN: 1) the yield which is attainable on a security based on its purchase price or its current market price. 2) This may be the amortized yield to maturity on a bond or the current income returns.

RATING: the designation used **by** investors' services to rate the quality of a security's creditworthiness. Moody's ratings range from the highest **Aaa**, down **through Aa, A, Baa, Ba, B**, etc., while Standard and Poor's ratings range from the highest **AAA**, down **through AA, A, BBB, BB, B**, etc.

REFINANCING rolling over the principal on securities that have reached maturity or replacing them with the sale of new issues. The object may be to save interest costs or to extend the maturity of the loan.

REGISTERED BOND: a bond whose principal and/or interest is payable only to that person or organization which is registered with the issuer. This form is not negotiable and it can be transferred only when endorsed by the registered owner.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

REPURCHASE AGREEMENT (REPO): agreement between a seller and a buyer, usually of U.S. Government securities, whereby the seller agrees to repurchase the securities at an agreed upon price and, usually, at a stated time. The attraction of repos is the flexibility of maturities that makes them an ideal place to “park” funds on a very temporary basis. Dealers also arrange *reverse repurchase agreements*, whereby they agree to buy the securities and the investor agrees to repurchase them at a later date.

REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES (RAN): short-term notes sold in anticipation of receiving future revenues. The notes are to be paid from the proceeds of those revenues.

REVENUE BOND: a state or local bond secured by revenues derived from the operations of specific public enterprises, such as utilities. Such bonds are not generally backed by the taxation power of the issuer unless otherwise specified in the bond indenture.

SAFEKEEPING: a service banks offer to customers for a fee, where securities are held in the bank’s vaults for protection.

SECURED DEPOSIT: bank deposits of state or local government funds which, under the laws of certain jurisdictions, must be secured by the pledge of acceptable securities.

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

SECURED DEPOSIT: bank deposits of state or local government funds which, under the laws of certain jurisdictions, must be secured by the pledge of acceptable securities.

SECURITIES: investment instruments such as bonds, stocks and other instruments of indebtedness or equity.

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

SERIAL BOND: bonds of the same issue, which have different maturities, coming due over a number of years rather than all at once. This allows the issuer to retire the issue in small amounts over a long period of time.

SETTLEMENT DATE date by which an executed order must be settled, either by buyer paying for the securities with cash or by a seller delivering the securities and receiving the proceeds of the sale for them.

SINKING FUND: a reserve fund set aside over a period of time for the purpose of liquidating or retiring an obligation, such as a bond issue, at maturity.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS: bonds that are paid back from taxes on the property that is benefiting from the improvement being financed. The issuing governmental entity agrees to make the assessments and earmark the tax proceeds to repay the debt on these bonds.

SPREAD: the difference between two figures or percentages. For example, it may be the difference between the bid and asked prices of a quote, or between the amount paid when bought and the amount received when sold.

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED FINANCIAL TERMS

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES (TAN): short-term notes issued by states or municipalities to finance current operations in anticipation of future **tax** collections which would be used to repay the debt.

TAX-EXEMPT BONDS: interest paid on municipal bonds issued by state and local governments or agencies is usually exempt **from** federal taxes, and in some cases, the state and/or local taxes. The interest rate paid on these bonds is generally lower than rates on non-exempt securities.

TERMS : the conditions of the sale or purchase of a security.

TREASURY BILL (T-BILL): 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 AND NOTES: obligations of the U. **S.** government which bear interest. Notes have maturities of one to seven years, while bonds have longer maturities.

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.

TRUSTEE: a bank designated as the custodian of funds and the official representative for bondholders.

UNDERWRITER a dealer bank or other financial institution, which arranges for the sale and distribution of a large batch of securities and assumes the responsibility for paying the net purchase price.

UNIFORM NET CAPITAL RULE: Securities and Exchange Commission requirement that member firms as well as nonmember brokerdealers 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 annual rate of return on **an** investment, expressed **as** a percentage **of** the investment.

YIELD CURVE: graph showing the term structure of interest rates by plotting the yields of **all** bonds of the same quality with maturities ranging from the shortest to the longest available. The resulting curve shows if short-term interest rates are higher or lower than long-term rates. For the most part, the yield curve is positive (short-term rates are lower), since investors who are willing to tie up their money for a longer period of time usually are compensated for the extra risk they are taking by receiving a higher yield.