

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

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02/10/09
MVB

Date: February 10, 2009  
 To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members  
 From: Barbara Boswell, Finance Director  
 Subject: **Monthly Report of Investments – December 2008**

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**Recommendation:**

Accept and approve the December 31, 2008 Monthly Report of Investments as submitted.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None

**Background:**

Each month, the Finance Department prepares a report listing the investments for all the separate entities under jurisdiction of the City as identified in the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. These component units include: the City of Lancaster, Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, and Lancaster Housing Authority.

Portfolio Recap

December portfolio transactions:

Purchases:

None

Sold, Matured or Called:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Federal Home Loan Mtg. Corp.	12/09/2008	4.17%	\$1,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FHLB)	12/12/2008	4.78%	\$2,000,000

Yields:

	<u>December 2008</u>	<u>November 2008</u>
Total Portfolio	2.827%	3.072%
Wells Fargo Sweep Account	0.033%	0.100%
Local Agency Investment Fund	2.353%	2.568%
Total Portfolio Balance:	\$131,506,250	\$122,284,719

The City had two securities mature during this period and purchased no additional securities. The total portfolio balance is slightly higher due to the receipt of large payments from the County of Los Angeles in the amounts of \$5,834,364 (property tax) and \$11,249,483 (tax increment). On December 16, 2008, for the first time ever, the Federal Reserve cut its target interest rate to historic lows to a range between zero and a quarter percentage point (0.00%-0.25%) instead of a

specific rate. The central bank said it would use every weapon from its arsenal to lift the U.S. from recession. Another Fed lending rate, the discount rate, will go to half a percentage point, a level last seen in the 1940s.

The City's temporary idle cash, those funds that are not immediately needed to pay current bills and not governed by bond indentures or bond resolutions, is invested in accordance with the City's adopted Investment Policy. This policy is reviewed annually by the City Council, with the latest policy adopted December 11, 2007 by Resolution No. 07-204.

The City's cash management system is designed to accurately monitor and forecast expenditures and revenues, thus enabling the City to invest funds to the fullest extent possible within the guidelines of this Investment Policy. The City attempts to achieve the highest yield obtainable through a diversified portfolio only after meeting the criteria established for safety and liquidity in that order. The principal investment objectives of the City are:

1. Preservation of capital and protection of investment principal.
2. Maintenance of sufficient liquidity to meet anticipated cash flows.
3. Attainment of a market rate of return.
4. Diversification to avoid incurring unreasonable market risks.
5. Compliance with the City's Municipal Code and with all applicable City resolutions, California statutes and Federal regulations.

The City's portfolio is a short-term and intermediate-term fixed income portfolio. The maximum maturity of any investment is 5 years, with consideration of anticipated cash flow requirements and known future liabilities. The City contracts with an investment advisory service (MBIA Asset Management Group) to assist in the effort to maximize the return on the City portfolio. The City investments include publicly traded Treasury notes, Treasury Bills, Federal Agency Investments, Time Deposits, and Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) under the auspices of the State Treasurer for investment. Funds invested in the LAIF are available within 24 hours, and other investments are available upon maturity at full face value. These investments enable the City and Agency to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months, as required by state law.

The City's investments are governed by Sections 53600 et. seq. of the California Government Code. Additional limitations have been placed on the City's authorized investments by the Investment Policy (a copy is available in the Finance Department or from the City Clerk), and all investments listed on the attached report adhere to these limitations.

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**Attachment:**  
Monthly Report of Investments