

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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03/10/09
MVB

Date: March 10, 2009

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Barbara Boswell, Finance Director

Subject: **Monthly Report of Investments – January 2009**

Recommendation:

Accept and approve the January 31, 2009 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

January portfolio transactions:

Purchases:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Federal Farm Credit Bureau	07/13/2010	1.43%	\$2,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FHLB)	10/20/2010	1.46%	\$2,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FNMA)	01/13/2012	1.13%	\$2,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FHLB)	01/21/2011	1.61%	\$2,000,000

Sold, Matured or Called:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Federal Home Loan (FNMA)	01/02/2009	4.42%	\$1,500,000
Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	01/12/2009	5.02%	\$1,000,000
Federal Farm Credit Bureau	01/12/2009	3.34%	\$1,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FNMA)	01/21/2009	4.33%	\$1,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FHLB)	01/28/2009	3.00%	\$2,000,000
Federal Home Loan (FHLB)	01/30/2009	2.91%	\$2,000,000

Yields:

	<u>January 2009</u>	<u>December 2008</u>
Total Portfolio	2.573%	2.827%
Wells Fargo Sweep Account	0.010%	0.033%
Local Agency Investment Fund	2.046%	2.353%

Total Portfolio Balance: \$131,081,198 \$131,506,250

The City had six securities mature during this period and purchased four additional securities. There has been no significant change to the portfolio balance. The Federal Open Market Committee decided today to keep its target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 1/4 percent. The Committee continues to anticipate that economic conditions are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels of the federal funds rate for some time.

Information received since the Committee met in December suggests that the economy has weakened further. Industrial production, housing starts, and employment have continued to decline steeply, as consumers and businesses have cut back spending. Furthermore, global demand appears to be slowing significantly. Conditions in some financial markets have improved, in part reflecting government efforts to provide liquidity and strengthen financial institutions; nevertheless, credit conditions for households and firms remain extremely tight. The Committee anticipates that a gradual recovery in economic activity will begin later this year, but the downside risks to that outlook are significant.

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