

**Orange County Transportation Authority  
Fiscal Year 2025-26 Investment Policy  
July 1, 2025**

**1. PURPOSE**

This Investment Policy (Policy) sets forth the investment guidelines for all funds of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA). The objective of this Policy is to ensure OCTA's funds are prudently invested to preserve capital, provide necessary liquidity, and to achieve a market-average rate of return through economic cycles.

Investments may only be made as authorized by this Policy. The Policy conforms to the California Government Code (Code) as well as customary standards of prudent investment management. Irrespective of these policy provisions, should the provisions of the Code be or become more restrictive than those contained herein, such provisions will be considered immediately incorporated into the Policy and adhered to.

**2. SCOPE**

The Policy applies to the investment of all funds, excluding the investment of employees' retirement funds, separate trusts, Environmental Mitigation Program Endowment Fund, and funds invested separately under Bond Indenture Agreements (Bond Agreements). Bond Funds and Accounts (Bond Funds) shall be invested in the securities permitted by the applicable Bond Agreements. If the Bond Agreements are silent as to the permitted investments, the Bond Funds will be invested in the securities permitted by this Policy. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Policy, the percentage limitations listed elsewhere in this Policy do not apply to Bond Funds.

**3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives, in priority order, of investment activities shall be:

- A. **Safety of Principal** -- Safety of principal is the foremost objective of OCTA. Each investment transaction shall seek to ensure that capital losses are avoided, whether from institutional default, broker-dealer default, or erosion of market value of the securities.
- B. **Liquidity** -- It is important that the portfolio contain investments for which there is an active secondary market, and which offer the flexibility to be easily sold at any time with minimal risk of loss of either the principal or interest based upon then prevailing rates.
- C. **Total Return** -- OCTA's portfolio shall be designed to attain a market-average rate of return through economic cycles.
- D. **Diversification** -- Finally, OCTA shall diversify its portfolio(s) to avoid incurring unreasonable market risks.

#### **4. PRUDENCE**

OCTA's Board, or persons authorized to make investment decisions on behalf of OCTA, are trustees and fiduciaries subject to the prudent investor standard.

The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the "prudent investor" standard as defined in the Code below and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. OCTA's investment professionals acting in accordance with the Policy, and exercising due diligence, shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security's credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control developments.

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 OCTA, 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.

#### **5. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

OCTA's officers and employees involved in the investment process shall not participate in personal business activity that conflicts with the proper execution of OCTA's investment program, or which impairs their ability to make impartial investment decisions. OCTA's investment professionals and Treasury/Public Finance Department employees are not permitted to have any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business with OCTA, and they are not permitted to have any personal financial/investment holdings that have a material effect on the performance of OCTA's investments.

#### **6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

Authority to manage OCTA's investment program is derived from an order of the Board. Management responsibility for the investment program is hereby delegated to OCTA's Treasurer pursuant to Section 53607 of the Code. On an annual basis, the Board is required to renew the authority of OCTA's Treasurer to invest or reinvest OCTA funds. The Treasurer is hereby authorized to delegate his authority as he determines to be appropriate. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this Policy and the procedures established by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all actions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate professionals.

The Treasurer shall develop administrative procedures and internal control, consistent with this Policy, for the operation of OCTA's investment program. Such procedures shall be designed to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, or imprudent actions by employees of OCTA.

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee of the OCTA Board, subject to the approval of the OCTA Board, is responsible for establishing the Policy and ensuring investments are made in compliance with this Policy. This Policy shall be reviewed annually by the Board at a public meeting.

The Treasurer is responsible for making investments and for compliance with this Policy pursuant to the delegation of authority to invest funds or to sell or exchange securities. Pursuant to Section 53607 of the Code, the Treasurer shall make a monthly report to the Board. OCTA provides a monthly report to the F&A Committee and the Board in accordance with Section 53607 of the Code

The Treasurer is responsible for establishing a procedural manual for OCTA's investment program and for having an annual independent audit performed on OCTA's investments.

## **8. COMPLIANCE**

OCTA has provided each of its portfolio managers with a copy of this Policy as a part of their contract and expects its portfolio managers to invest each portfolio they manage for OCTA in accordance with the provisions of the Policy or the respective Bond Agreements as applicable. When diversification limits are exceeded by a portfolio manager, the Treasurer will document the situation and include a write-up in the monthly Debt and Investment Report to the F&A Committee and the Board.

The OCTA Treasurer is responsible for verifying each portfolio manager's compliance as well as OCTA's entire portfolio's compliance with the provisions of the Policy.

If OCTA's Treasurer, in their sole discretion, finds that a portfolio manager has made an investment that does not comply with the provisions of the Policy, the Treasurer shall immediately notify the portfolio manager of the compliance violation. At that point, the portfolio manager is on probation for a period of one year. The second time a violation occurs while the portfolio manager is on probation, the F&A Committee shall review the error and may request that the portfolio manager responsible for the compliance violation meet with the Chairman of the F&A Committee and the Treasurer as soon as practical at which time it will be decided whether the Board will be notified of the violation.

If OCTA's Treasurer finds that the portfolio manager has made a third investment while on probation that does not comply with the provisions of the Policy, the Treasurer shall notify the Board of the compliance violations. OCTA may terminate services for its convenience at any time by providing at least 30 days written notice.

## **9. FINANCIAL BENCHMARKS**

In order to establish a basis for evaluating investment results, OCTA uses four nationally recognized fixed-income security performance benchmarks to evaluate return on investments.

The Intercontinental Exchange (ICE)/Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BAML) 1-3-year Treasury Index, the ICE/BAML 1–3-year AAA-A U.S. Corporate and Government Index, the ICE/BAML 1-5 year Treasury Index, and the ICE/BAML 1-5 year AAA-A United States (U.S.) Corporate and Government Index benchmarks are used for OCTA's short-term portfolios.

## **10. SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY**

To protect against potential losses by collapse of individual securities dealers, all deliverable securities owned by OCTA, including collateral on repurchase agreements, shall be held in safekeeping by a third-party bank trust department acting as agent for OCTA under the terms of a custody agreement executed by the bank and by OCTA. All deliverable securities will be received and delivered using standard delivery-versus-payment procedures.

## **11. PERMITTED INVESTMENTS**

### Maturity and Term

All investments, unless otherwise specified, are subject to a maximum stated term of five years. Maturity shall mean the stated final maturity or the mandatory redemption date of the security, or the unconditional put option date if the security contains such a provision. Term or tenure shall mean the remaining time to maturity from the settlement date.

The Board must grant express written authority to make an investment or to establish an investment program of a longer term no less than three months prior to the investment.

### Eligible Instruments and Quality

OCTA policy is to invest only in high quality instruments as permitted by the Code, subject to the limitations of this Policy. If a security held in OCTA's portfolio is subsequently placed on "Negative Credit Watch" (Credit Watch) by any of the three primary Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs), S&P Global Ratings, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or Fitch Ratings, Inc, or if a security on Credit Watch is purchased in accordance with this Policy, it shall be addressed under the provisions outlined in the Credit Rating Actions section. Percentage holding limits and credit quality minimums in this section apply at the time of purchase.

### **11-1. OCTA NOTES AND BONDS**

Notes and bonds issued by OCTA, including notes and bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by OCTA or by a department, board, agency, or authority of OCTA, which may bear interest at a fixed or floating rate.

## 11-2. U.S. TREASURY OBLIGATIONS

U.S. Treasury notes, bonds, bills, or certificates of indebtedness, or those for which the faith and credit of the United States are pledged for the payment of principal and interest.

## 11-3. FEDERAL AGENCY OR U.S. GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

Federal agency or U.S. government-sponsored enterprise obligations, participations, or other instruments, including those issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by federal agencies or the U.S. government sponsored enterprises.

## 11-4. MUNICIPAL DEBT

Such instruments defined as being issued by a local or state agency, including:

- A. Registered state warrants or treasury notes or bonds of this state, including bonds payable solely out of revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the state.
- B. Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidence of indebtedness of a local agency within this state, including bonds payable solely out of revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by the state or local agency or by a department, board, agency, or authority of the local agency.
- C. Registered treasury notes or bonds of any of the other 49 states in addition to California, including bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by a state or by a department, board, agency, or authority of any of the other 49 states, in addition to California.
- D. Defeased state and local obligations (as defined in A, B, or C above) as long as the obligations have been legally defeased with State and Local Government Series (SLGS), U.S. Treasury, and U.S. Agency securities and such obligations mature or otherwise terminate within five years of the date of purchase.

## 11-5. BANKERS ACCEPTANCES

Bankers' acceptances otherwise known as bills of exchange or time drafts that are drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank.

## 11-6. COMMERCIAL PAPER

The entity that issues commercial paper shall meet all of the following conditions in paragraph A or B:

- A. Is organized and operating in the U.S. as a general corporation; has total assets in excess of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000); has debt other than commercial paper, if any, that is rated in the ratings category of A or its equivalent or higher by two NRSROs.

- B. Is organized within the U.S. as a special purpose corporation, trust, or LLC; has program wide credit enhancements including, but not limited to, overcollateralization, letters of credit, or a surety bond; has commercial paper that is rated "A-1" or higher, or the equivalent, by two NRSRO's.

#### 11-7. NEGOTIABLE CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Negotiable Certificates of Deposit issued by a nationally or state-chartered bank, a savings association or a federal association (as defined by Section 5102 of the Financial Code), a state or federal credit union, or by a federally licensed or state-licensed branch of a foreign bank.

#### 11-8. REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS

Repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Treasuries or Agency securities as defined in the Policy with any registered broker-dealer subject to the Securities Investors Protection Act or any commercial banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) provided:

- A. A Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) master repurchase agreement and a tri-party agreement, if applicable, representing a custodial undertaking in connection with a master repurchase agreement, which governs the transaction and has been signed by OCTA; and
- B. the securities are held free and clear of any lien by OCTA's custodian or trustee or an independent third party acting as agent "Agent" for the custodian or trustee, and such third party is (i) a Federal Reserve Bank, or (ii) a bank which is a member of the FDIC and which has combined capital, surplus and undivided profits of not less than \$50 million and the custodian or trustee shall have received written confirmation from such third party that it holds such securities, free and clear of any lien, as agent for OCTA's custodian or trustee; and
- C. a perfected first security interest under the Uniform Commercial Code, or book entry procedures prescribed at 31 C.F.R. 306.1 et seq. or 31 C.F.R. 350.0 et seq. in such securities is created for the benefit of OCTA's custodian or trustee and OCTA; and
- D. the Agent provides OCTA's custodian or trustee and OCTA with valuation of the collateral securities no less frequently than weekly and will liquidate the collateral securities if any deficiency in the required 102 percent collateral percentage is not restored within two business days of such valuation.

#### 11-9. MEDIUM-TERM NOTES

Medium-term notes are defined as all corporate and depository institution debt securities issued by corporations organized and operating within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by the U.S. or any state and operating within the U.S.

#### 11-10. MUTUAL FUNDS AND MONEY MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS

Shares of beneficial interest issued by diversified management companies that are mutual funds or money market mutual funds, registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are permitted investments under this Policy, provided that:

- A. The fund has attained the highest ranking or the highest letter and numerical rating provided by not less than two NRSROs.
- B. The purchase price of shares does not include any commission or sales charge.
- C. The total investment in mutual funds and money market mutual funds combined shall not exceed 20 percent of the agency's total portfolio. However, no more than ten percent of the agency's total portfolio may be invested in any one mutual fund. This limitation does not apply to money market mutual funds

#### 11-11. MORTGAGE OR ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES (NON-AGENCY)

Any mortgage pass-through security, collateralized mortgage obligation, mortgage-backed or other pay-through bond, equipment lease-backed certificate, consumer receivable pass-through certificate, or consumer receivable-backed bond.

Mortgage and asset-backed securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S., its federal agencies and/or government-sponsored enterprises are exempt when calculating the 20 percent maximum portfolio exposure to mortgage and asset-backed securities.

#### 11-12. SUPRANATIONALS

U.S. dollar denominated senior unsecured unsubordinated obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, or Inter-American Development Bank.

#### 11-13. STATE OF CALIFORNIA LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND (LAIF)

LAIF is a pooled fund managed by the State Treasurer referred to in Section 16429.1 of the Code. All securities are purchased under the authority of the Code Section 16430 and 16480.4.

#### 11-14. ORANGE COUNTY TREASURY INVESTMENT POOL (OCIP)

The OCIP is a pooled fund managed by the Orange County Treasurer and is comprised of two funds, the Money Market Fund and Extended Fund. The Money Market Fund is invested in cash equivalent securities. The Extended Fund is for cash requirements past one year and is based on the Code Sections 53601 and 53635. These pools are based on the investment requirements detailed in Code Sections 53600 et seq. and 53630 et seq.

## 11-15. INVESTMENT POOLS

Shares of beneficial interest issued by a joint powers authority organized pursuant to Code Section 6509.7 that invests in the securities and obligations as authorized under the pools investment policy and that comply with the investment restrictions of Code Sections 53600 through 53610 and Section 53630.

## 11-16. VARIABLE AND FLOATING RATE SECURITIES

Variable and floating rate securities are restricted to investments in securities with a final maturity of not to exceed five years as described above, must utilize traditional money market reset indices such as U. S. Treasury bills, Federal Funds, commercial paper or Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), and must meet all minimum credit requirements previously detailed in the Policy. Investments in floating rate securities whose reset is calculated using more than one of the above indices are not permitted, i.e. dual index notes.

## 11-17. BANK DEPOSITS

Bank deposits in California banks which have a minimum short-term rating of A-1, or its equivalent or higher, by a NRSRO. Bank deposits are required to be collateralized as specified under Code Section 53630. The Treasurer shall draft and execute a contract describing provisions for bank deposits, as specified under Code Section 53649.

## 11-18. DERIVATIVES

Derivatives are to be used as a tool for bonafide hedging investments only where deemed appropriate. Derivatives shall not be used for the purpose of interest rate speculation. Derivative products in any of the eligible investment categories listed above may be permitted. The Treasurer has the sole responsibility for determining which prospective investments are derivatives. Each prospective investment in a derivative product must be documented by the Treasurer as to the purpose and specific financial risk being hedged. Each such investment must be approved by the F&A Committee prior to entering into such investment.

## **Credit Rating Actions**

Rating criteria will apply at the time of purchase of a security and monitored for changes while retained within OCTA's portfolio. A security whose credit rating is on Credit Watch at the time of purchase, has been placed on Credit Watch, or whose credit rating has been downgraded (including downgrades resulting in the rating falling below the minimum credit rating requirements) subsequent to the time of purchase, is not a violation of OCTA's Policy.

For any security, whose credit rating falls below the minimum required rating as per the California Code and the Policy or placed on Negative Credit Watch for imminent downgrade to below the minimum required ratings, the Treasurer will make the decision whether to continue to retain or sell the security. For all other security rating downgrades, and for securities placed on Negative Credit Watch, the decision to retain or sell the security will be left to the investment manager, and OCTA will be notified immediately of the decision along with rationale regarding



the decision to retain or sell.

OCTA will notify the Board through its monthly reporting practices of all securities on Credit Watch at the time of purchase, placed on Credit Watch or downgraded during the reporting period. Securities whose credit rating falls below the minimum requirements will be noticed in the monthly debt and investment reports until the security is sold or meets the minimum credit rating requirements.

## Diversification and Maturity Restrictions

Diversification and maturity restrictions ensure the portfolio is not unduly concentrated in the securities of one type, industry, entity, or specific maturity thereby assuring adequate portfolio liquidity should one sector or company experience difficulties.

Outside portfolio managers must review the portfolios they manage to ensure compliance with OCTA's diversification guidelines on an ongoing basis.

## AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS, ISSUER CONCENTRATION & MATURITY RESTRICTIONS

Authorized Investments, Issuer Concentration and Maturity Restrictions					
Type of Investment	CA Code Maximum Maturity	CA Code Maximum % of Portfolio	CA Code Minimum Quality Requirements	OCTA Maximum % of Portfolio*	OCTA Code Minimum Quality Requirements
OCTA Notes and Bonds	5 Years	100%	None	25%	Same as CA Code
U.S. Treasury Obligations	5 Years	100%	None	Same as CA Code	Same as CA Code
Federal Agencies or U.S. Government Sponsored Enterprises	5 Years	100%	None	Same as CA Code	Same as CA Code
Municipal Debt	5 Years	100%	None	30% total, no more than 5% by any one issuer	"A" rating category or "A-1" rated, or its equivalent or higher, by an NRSRO
Bankers Acceptances	180 Days	40%, 30% of a single issuer	None	30%, no more than 5% any single issuer	"A-1" rated, or its equivalent or higher, by 2 NRSROs
Commercial Paper	270 Days	40% **	"A-1" rated, or its equivalent or higher by an NRSRO	40%**	"A-1" rated, or its equivalent or higher, by 2 NRSROs
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	5 Years	30%	None	30%, no more than 5% in any single issuer	"A" rating category or "A-1" rated, or its equivalent or higher, by 2 NRSROs

Repurchase Agreements	1 Year	100%	None	25%	"A" rating category or "A-1" rated, or its equivalent, by 2 NRSROs
Medium-Term Notes**	5 Years	30%**	"A" rating category, or its equivalent or higher, by an NRSRO	30%**	Same as CA Code
Mutual Funds and Money Market Mutual Funds	N/A	20%, 10% of any one mutual fund	"AAA" rated, or its equivalent, by 2 NRSROs	20%, 10% of any one mutual fund	Same as CA Code
Mortgage Pass-Through and Asset-backed Securities (Non-Agency)***	5 Years	20%	"AA" rating category, or its equivalent or higher, by an NRSRO	Same as CA Code	Same as CA Code
Supranationals	5 Years	30%	"AA" rating category, or its equivalent or higher, by an NRSRO	20%, no more than 10% in any single issuer	Same as CA Code
Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)****	N/A	\$75 million per account	None	\$75 million per account	Same as CA Code
Orange County Investment Pool (OCIP)	N/A	100%	None	10%	Same as CA Code
Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Investment Pools	N/A	100%	None	10%	Same as CA Code

\* Additional portfolio restrictions include a 5 percent limit on bank deposits and a 30 percent limit on variable and floating rate securities.

\*\* A Combined 10 percent per issuer limit applies to commercial paper and medium-term notes pursuant to the Code. A separate 5 percent per issuer limit applies under this Policy. See the section titled Issuer/Counterparty Diversification Guidelines for all Securities Except U.S. Treasuries and U.S. Government Agency Securities for details.

\*\*\* The credit and holding limits under this section do not apply to mortgage-backed or asset backed securities that are issued or guaranteed by federal agencies or government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs).

\*\*\*\* The current deposit limits for the LAIF regular account are set by the California State Treasurer.

### **Issuer/Counterparty Diversification Guidelines for All Securities Except U.S. Treasuries and U.S. Government Agency Securities**

Unless otherwise specified in this policy, any one corporation, bank, local agency, special purpose vehicle or other corporate issuer name for one or more series of securities shall not exceed five percent of the portfolio.

## **Issuer/Counterparty Diversification Guidelines for OCTA's Debt**

OCTA can purchase all or a portion of the OCTA's debt, including notes and bonds payable solely out of the revenues from a revenue-producing property owned, controlled, or operated by OCTA or by a department, board, agency or authority of OCTA which may bear interest at a fixed or floating rate, providing the purchase does not exceed 25 percent of the maximum portfolio.

## **12. PROHIBITED INVESTMENT VEHICLES AND PRACTICES**

- State law notwithstanding, any investments not specifically described herein are prohibited, including, but not limited to futures and options.
- In accordance with Code, Section 53601.6, investment in inverse floaters, range notes, or mortgage derived interest-only strips is prohibited.
- Investment in any security that could result in a zero-interest accrual if held to maturity is prohibited. Except securities backed by the U.S. Government that could result in a zero- or negative-interest accrual if held to maturity are permitted, under a provision sunseting on January 1, 2026,
- Step-up notes and dual-index notes are prohibited.
- Trading securities for the sole purpose of speculating on the future direction of interest rates is prohibited.
- Purchasing or selling securities on margin is prohibited.
- The use of reverse repurchase agreements, securities lending, or any other form of borrowing or leverage is prohibited.
- The purchase of foreign currency denominated securities is prohibited. Agencies that are not Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission are prohibited from purchasing Private Placement Securities. The SEC defines a QIB as having at least \$100,000,000 in securities owned and invested.
- The purchase of a security with a forward settlement date exceeding 45 days from the time of the investment is prohibited.

## **13. SECURITIES SAFE KEEPING**

All deliverable security transactions, including collateral for repurchase agreements, entered into by OCTA shall be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment basis. Deliverable securities shall be held by a third-party custodian designated by the Treasurer, evidenced by safekeeping receipts and in compliance with Code Section 53608.

## **14. BROKER DEALERS**

The Treasurer, and investment professionals authorized by the Treasurer, may buy securities from a list of broker dealers and financial institutions that will be periodically reviewed.

Outside portfolio managers must certify, at the outset of their engagement, that they will purchase securities from broker/dealers (other than themselves) or financial institutions in compliance with this Policy.

## 15. INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

This Policy shall be reviewed annually by the F&A Committee of the OCTA Board to ensure its consistency with the overall objectives of preservation of principal, liquidity, yield and diversification, and its relevance to current law and economic trends.

## 16. DEFINITION OF TERMS

**ACCRUED INTEREST:** The amount of interest that is earned but unpaid since the last interest payment date.

**AGENCY SECURITIES:** (See U.S. Government Agency Securities)

**ASK PRICE:** (Offer Price) The price at which securities are offered from a seller.

**ASSET BACKED SECURITIES (ABS):** Securities collateralized or backed by receivables such as automobile loans and credit card receivables. The assets are transferred or sold by the company to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and held in trust. The SPV or trust will issue debt collateralized by the receivables.

**BANKERS ACCEPTANCES (BAs):** Time drafts which a bank "accepts" as its financial responsibility as part of a trade finance process. These short-term notes are sold at a discount and are obligations of the drawer (the bank's trade finance client) as well as the bank. Once accepted, the bank is irrevocably obligated to pay the BA upon maturity if the drawer does not.

**BASIS POINT:** When a yield is expressed as X.YZ percent, the YZ digits to the right of the decimal point are known as basis points. One basis point equals 1/100 of one percent. Basis points are used more often to describe changes in yields on bonds, notes and other fixed-income securities.

**BID PRICE:** The price at which a buyer offers to buy a security.

**BOOK ENTRY:** The system, maintained by the Federal Reserve, by which most securities are "delivered" to an investor's custodian bank. The Federal Reserve maintains an electronic record of the ownership of these securities and records any changes in ownership corresponding to payments made over the Federal Reserve wire (delivery versus payment). These securities do not receive physical certificates.

**BOOK VALUE:** The original cost of the investment.

**CALLABLE BONDS:** A bond issue which all or part of its outstanding principal amount may be redeemed before maturity by the issuer under specified conditions.

**CAPITAL GAIN/LOSS:** The profit or loss realized from the sale of a security.

**CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (NEGOTIABLE CDs):** A negotiable (marketable or transferable) receipt for a time deposit at a bank or other financial institution for a fixed time and interest rate.

**COLLATERAL:** Securities or cash pledged by a borrower to secure repayment of a loan or repurchase agreement. Also, securities pledged by a financial institution to secure deposits in an investment agreement.

**COMMERCIAL PAPER (CP):** Unsecured promissory notes issued by companies and government entities usually at a discount. Commercial paper is negotiable, although it is typically held to maturity.

**COUPON:** The annual rate of interest received by an investor from the issuer of certain types of fixed-income securities. Also known as "interest rate."

**CURRENT YIELD:** The annual income from an investment divided by the current market value. Since the mathematical calculation relies on the current market value rather than the investor's cost, current yield is unrelated to the actual return the investor will earn if the security is held to maturity.

**CUSTODIAN:** A bank or other financial institution that keeps custody of assets in the name of the depositor.

**DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT (DVP):** Delivery of securities with a simultaneous exchange of money for the securities.

**DERIVATIVE SECURITY:** Financial instrument created from, or whose value depends upon, one or more underlying assets or indexes of asset values.

**DISCOUNT:** The difference between the par value of a bond and the cost of the bond, when the cost is below par. Some short-term securities, such as Treasury bills and bankers' acceptances, are known as discount securities. They sell at a discount from par and return the par value to the investor at maturity without additional interest. Other securities, which have fixed coupons, trade at a discount when the coupon rate is lower than the current market rate for securities of that maturity and/or quality.

**DIVERSIFICATION:** An investment principal designed to spread the risk in a portfolio by dividing investments by sector, maturity and quality rating.

**DOLLAR-WEIGHTED AVERAGE MATURITY:** A calculation that expresses the "average maturity" of an investment portfolio using each investment's maturity weighted by the size or book-value of that investment.

**DURATION:** A measure of the timing of cash flows, such as the interest payments and principal repayment, to be received from a given fixed-income security.

**FEDERAL FUNDS RATE:** Interest rate at which banks lend federal funds to each other.

**FEDERAL OPEN MARKET COMMITTEE (FOMC):** A committee within the Federal Reserve System that determines the direction of monetary policy. The committee decides either to sell securities to reduce the money supply, or to buy government securities to increase the money supply. Decisions made at FOMC meetings will cause interest rates to either rise or fall.

**FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM:** A U.S. centralized banking system which has supervisory powers over the two Federal Reserve banks and about 3,000-member banks.

**FITCH Ratings referred to as Fitch:** (See Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations)

**INTEREST:** The amount earned while owning a debt security, generally calculated as a percentage of the principal amount.

**INTEREST RATE RISK:** The risk associated with declines or rises in interest rates, which causes the market price of a fixed-income security to increase or decrease in value.

**LIQUIDITY:** The speed and ease with which an investment can be converted to cash.

**MARK-TO-MARKET:** The process by where the value of a security is adjusted to reflect current market conditions.

**MARKET RISK:** The risk that the value of a security will rise or decline as a result in changes in market conditions.

**MARKET VALUE:** The current market price of a security.

**MATURITY:** The date that the principal or stated value of an investment becomes due and payable. An investment's term or remaining maturity is measured from the settlement date to final maturity.

**MEDIUM TERM MATURITY CORPORATE SECURITIES:** Notes issued by corporations organized and operating within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by the United States or any state and operating within the United States.

**MONEY MARKET:** The market in which short-term debt instruments (Treasury bills, discount notes, commercial paper, bankers' acceptances, etc.) are issued and traded.

**MONEY MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS:** An investment company that pools money from investors and invests in a variety of short-term money market instruments.

**MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC. referred to as Moody's:** (See Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations)

**MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITY:** A debt instrument with a pool of real estate loans as the underlying collateral. The mortgage payments of the individual real estate assets are used to pay interest and principal on the bonds.

**MUNICIPAL DEBT:** Issued by public entities to meet capital needs.

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STATISTICAL RATING ORGANIZATIONS (NRSROs):** Firms designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to evaluate the

creditworthiness of debt issuers and express their opinions in the form of standardized letter ratings (e.g. AAA, AA, A, BBB, etc.). The three primary NRSROs referenced by OCTA are Standard & Poor's Global Ratings, Moody's Investors Services, Inc., and Fitch Ratings, Inc.

**NEGOTIABLE CD:** (See Certificates of Deposit)

**NET ASSET VALUE (NAV):** The market value of one share of an investment company, such as a mutual fund. This figure is calculated by totaling the fund's assets, which includes securities, cash, and accrued earnings, then subtracting this from the fund's liabilities and dividing by the total number of shares outstanding. This is calculated once a day based on the closing price for each security in the fund's portfolio.

**NON-CALLABLE:** Bond that is exempt from any kind of redemption for a stated time period.

**OCTA BONDS:** Bonds, notes, warrants, or other evidences of indebtedness.

**OFFER PRICE:** An indicated price at which market participants are willing to sell a security.

**PAR VALUE:** The amount of principal that must be paid at maturity. Also referred to as the face amount of a bond, normally quoted in \$1,000 increments per bond.

**PHYSICAL DELIVERY:** The delivery of an investment to a custodian bank in the form of a certificate and/or supporting documents evidencing the investment (as opposed to "book entry" delivery).

**PORTFOLIO:** A group of securities held by an investor.

**PREMIUM:** The amount by which the price paid for a security exceeds the security's par value.

**PRIME RATE:** A preferred interest rate charged by commercial banks to their most creditworthy customers.

**PRINCIPAL:** The face value or par value of an investment.

**PURCHASE DATE:** See (Trade Date)

**REINVESTMENT RISK:** The risk that coupon payments (or other payments received) cannot be reinvested at the same rate as the initial investment.

**REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS (REPOS):** A purchase of securities under a simultaneous agreement to sell these securities back at a fixed price on some future date. This is in essence a collateralized investment, with the difference between the purchase price and sales price determining the earnings.

**SAFEKEEPING:** Holding of assets (e.g. securities) by a financial institution.

**SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC):** The federal agency responsible for supervising and regulating the securities industry.

**SETTLEMENT DATE:** The date on which the purchase or sale of securities is executed. For example, in a purchase transaction, the day securities are physically delivered or wired to the buyer in exchange for cash is the settlement date.

**SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE (SPV):** A trust or similar structure created specifically to purchase securities and reprofile cash flows and/or credit risk. Mortgage or Asset-backed securities may be issued out of the SPV and secured by the collateral transferred from the corporation.

**STANDARD & POOR'S GLOBAL RATINGS referred to as Standard and Poor's or S & P:** (See Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations)

**SUPRANATIONAL:** A supranational is a multi-national organization whereby member states transcend national boundaries or interests to share in the decision making to promote economic development in member countries.

**THIRD-PARTY CUSTODIAL AGREEMENT:** (See Custodian)

**TOTAL RETURN:** The sum of all investment income plus changes in the capital value of the portfolio.

**TRADE DATE:** The date and time corresponding to an investor's commitment to buy or sell a security.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY SECURITIES or FEDERAL AGENCIES:** U.S. Government related organizations, the largest of which are government financial intermediaries assisting specific credit markets (housing, agriculture).

**U.S. TREASURY OBLIGATIONS:** Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. The Treasury issues both discounted securities and fixed coupon notes and bonds.

**Treasury bills:** non-interest-bearing discount securities of the U.S. Treasury with maturities under one year.

**Treasury notes:** interest-bearing obligations of the U.S. Treasury with maturities ranging from two to ten years from the date of issue.

**Treasury bond:** interest-bearing obligations issued by the U.S. Treasury with maturities ranging from 10 to 30 years from the date of issue.

**Treasury STRIPS:** U.S. Treasury securities that have been separated into their component parts of principal and interest payments and recorded as such in the Federal Reserve book entry record-keeping system.

**Treasury TIPS:** U.S. Treasury securities whose principal increases at the same rate as the Consumer Price Index. The interest payment is then calculated from the inflated principal and repaid at maturity.



**VARIABLE AND FLOATING RATE SECURITIES:** Variable and floating rate securities are appropriate investments when used to enhance yield and reduce risk. They should have the same stability, liquidity and quality as traditional money market securities.

**VOLATILITY:** The degree of fluctuation in the price and valuation of securities.

**YIELD:** The current rate of return on an investment security generally expressed as a percentage of the securities current price.

**ZERO COUPON SECURITIES:** Security that is issued at a discount and makes no periodic interest payments. The rate of return consists of a gradual accretion of the principal of the security and is payable at par upon maturity.