

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 5/29/03
Department: Auditor-Controller
Budget Unit: 0410
Agenda Date: 06/24/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert W. Geis, CPA
Auditor-Controller

STAFF CONTACT: Sarah Dandona, Vicki Dreste
Internal Audit ext. 2100

SUBJECT: Report on the Schedule of Deposits and Investments for the quarter ended March 31, 2003.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive and file the Auditor's Report on the Schedule of Deposits and Investments in the Santa Barbara County Treasury Pool, and the Auditor's Report on Compliance with Investment Policies for the quarter ended March 31, 2003.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with our organizational values regarding economy in government.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The reports presented here are the result of our quarter-end compliance testing of the investments in the County Treasury. Funds that are controlled by the County Treasurer include currently available cash of the County as well as the cash invested into the pool by other governments (such as school districts, special districts and others). The Treasurer is responsible for investing all of these funds in accordance with California Government Codes and the Treasurer's Investment Policy.

We prepared a Schedule of Deposits and Investments in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applied the audit steps of a comprehensive audit program covering cash, investments and compliance in order to provide for an audit opinion report relative to the Schedule of

Deposits and Investments. The results of our tests indicate that, with respect to items tested, the Treasurer complied, in all material respects, with the provisions of the California Government Code and the Treasurer's Investment Policy. With respect to items not tested, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Treasurer had not complied, in all material respects, with those provisions.

The goals of the Treasurer's Investment Policy are safety, liquidity, and yield, in that order, and compliance always. The Treasurer utilizes a passive management investment style. This style utilizes the purchase of fixed-income instruments with intent to hold them until maturity. Types of securities in which the Treasurer may invest include U.S. Government Treasury and Agency Securities, Bankers' Acceptances, Commercial Paper, Corporate Bonds and Notes, Repurchase Agreements, and the State Treasurer's Local Agency Investment Pool (LAIF). The Treasurer also maintains an investment policy that keeps 30% of the portfolio in investments that mature within 18 months. The Treasurer believes this provides sufficient liquidity to avoid the actual realization of any unrealized investment losses that may result from price changes for investments purchased under the buy-and-hold style. These price changes can occur with fluctuations in interest rates. Generally, bond prices fall when interest rates rise, and prices rise when interest rates decline.

Pursuant to Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 31, the County is required to carry investments at fair value. The types of investments made during the third quarter of fiscal year 2002-03 were substantially the same as those held as of December 31, 2002. The following discloses the Unrealized Gains and Losses (in millions):

<u>Balance As Of</u>	<u>Principal Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Gains For The Quarter</u>	<u>Cummulative Unrealized Gains</u>	<u>FMV</u>
12/31/2002	\$ 687.84	\$ 0.01	\$ 6.27	\$ 694.12
3/31/2003	\$ 741.72	\$ (1.89)	\$ 4.38	\$ 746.10

Unrealized gains or losses are apportioned quarterly to participating funds based upon the fund's average daily balance.

Interest earned on pooled investments is accrued in the interest apportionment fund (fund 0260), and is also apportioned quarterly to participating funds based upon each fund's average daily deposit balance. For the third quarter of FY 2002-03 the pool earned \$6,092,466, a rate of 3.456%.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 27131, the Treasurer has established a County Treasury Oversight Committee to review and monitor the Treasurer's Investment Policy and to promote public interest in the investment of public funds. In addition, Government Code Section 26923 requires the Auditor-Controller to count the cash in the county treasury at least quarterly. Pursuant to the adoption of Government Code Section 26920(b) by your Board on May 2, 1995, the Auditor-Controller has implemented additional audit steps as a means of enhancing the monitoring of treasury investments.

Cash and investments for the pension trust fund, deferred compensation fund, and bond indenture agreement funds are held outside the County Treasury Pool and are not included in the scope of this audit.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Government Code Sections 27131 and 26920.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The apportionment of unrealized gains/losses to participating funds causes volatility in the recording of revenues. However, it is reflective of the actual position of the fair market value of the pool and is required by the Government Accounting Standards Board and recognized as the correct practice to be applied to all governmental entities.