

City of Seabrook Investment Policy

1. *POLICY*

It is the policy of the City of Seabrook (the “City”) to invest public funds in a manner which will preserve the principal and maintain liquidity through limitations and diversification seeking the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the City and conforming to all state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds.

2. *PURPOSE*

The purpose of this investment policy is to comply with all the statutes governing the investment of the City’s funds and Chapter 2256 of the Government Code (“Public Funds Investment Act”) which requires the City to adopt a written investment policy regarding the investment of its funds and funds under its control. The policy addresses the methods, procedures and practices that must be exercised to ensure effective and judicious fiscal management of the City’s funds.

3. *SCOPE*

This investment policy applies to all financial assets of the City of Seabrook. These funds are accounted for in the City of Seabrook’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and include:

- General Fund
- Special Revenue Funds
- Capital Project Funds
- Enterprise Funds
- Debt Service Fund
- Any new fund created by the City, unless specifically exempted from this Policy by the City Council or by law.

The City may consolidate cash balances from various funds to maximize investment earnings. Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based on their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

4. *INVESTMENT STRATEGY BY FUND TYPE*

- **Operating Funds:** Operating funds will have as their primary objective to assure that anticipated daily cash requirements are matched with adequate investment liquidity. The secondary objective is to create a portfolio that will minimize volatility during changing economic cycles. There should also be a marketability of the investment if the need arises to liquidate the investment before maturity.
- **Debt Service Funds:** Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as their primary objective the assurance of investment liquidity adequate to cover the debt service obligation on the required payment date. Securities purchased shall not have a stated final maturity which exceeds the debt service payment date or funds shall be maintained in an investment pool to be available for debt service payments.

- **Capital Project and Special Purpose Funds:** These funds will have as their primary objective to assure that anticipated cash outflows are matched with adequate investment liquidity. These portfolios should have liquid securities to allow for unanticipated project expenditures or accelerated project outlays due to a better than expected or changed construction schedule. The stated final maturity dates of securities held should not exceed the estimated project completion date.

5. *PRUDENCE*

Investments shall be made with judgment and care-under circumstances then prevailing-which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable income to be derived.

- The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the “Prudent person” standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Investment officers acting in accordance with written procedures and the investment 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 adverse developments.
- The Investment Officer, acting in accordance with written procedures and exercising due diligence, shall not be held personally responsible for a specific investment’s credit risk or market price changes, provided that these deviations are reported immediately and the appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

6. *OBJECTIVE*

The primary objectives, in priority order of the City of Seabrook’s investment activities shall be:

- **Safety:** Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the City of Seabrook 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.
- **Liquidity:** The City of Seabrook’s investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the City of Seabrook to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.
- **Public Trust:** All participants in the investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. Investment Officials shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the City's ability to govern effectively. The governing body recognizes that in a diversified portfolio, occasional measured losses due to market volatility are inevitable, and must be considered within the context of the overall portfolio's investment return, provided that adequate diversification has been implemented.

- **Return of Investment:** The City of Seabrook’s investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a rate of return throughout the budgetary and economic cycles, commensurate with the City of Seabrook’s investment risk constraints and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio.

7. *DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY*

Authority to manage the City of Seabrook’s investment program is derived from the following: Ordinances, Resolutions and other acts of Council. Management responsibility for the investment program is hereby delegated to the Investment Officer, who shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program consistent with this policy.

8. *TRAINING*

Investment Officers shall attend at least one investment training session within 12 months after taking office or assuming duties, and shall attend an investment training session not less than once in a two-year period and receive not less than 8 hours of instruction relating to investment responsibilities from an independent source to insure the quality and capability of investment management in compliance with Public Funds Investment Act. For the purposes of this policy, an "independent source" is defined as a professional organization, an institute of higher learning or any other sponsor other than a Business Organization with whom the City may engage in investment transactions. Independent sources that may provide investment training include the Government Treasurer's Organization of Texas, the University of North Texas, the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas, or the Texas Municipal League. Training shall be in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act and shall include education in investment controls, security risks, market risks, and compliance with statutes governing the investment of public funds. No person may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the Investment Officer. The Investment Officer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials. The Finance Director is the designated Investment Officer.

9. *ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST*

Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. Employees and investment officials shall disclose to the City Council any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business within this jurisdiction, and they shall further disclose any large personal financial or investment positions that could be related to the performance of the City of Seabrook, particularly with regard to the time of purchases and sales.

10. *AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL DEALERS AND INSTITUTIONS*

The Finance Officer will maintain a list of financial institutions authorized to provide investment services. In addition, a list will also be maintained of approved security broker/dealers selected by credit worthiness who are authorized by the State of Texas. They may include “primary” dealers or regional dealers that qualify under Securities & Exchange Commission Rule 15C3-1 (uniform net capital rule). No public deposit shall be made except in a qualified public depository as established by state laws.

All financial institutions and broker/dealers who desire to become qualified bidders for investment transactions must supply the Finance Officer with the following: audited financial statements, proof of National Association of Security Dealers certification, trading resolution, proof of state registration and certification of having read the City of Seabrook's investment policy and depository contracts.

An annual review of financial condition and registrations of qualified bidders will be conducted by the Finance Officer.

A current audited financial statement is required to be on file for each financial institution and broker/dealer in which the City of Seabrook invests.

11. AUTHORIZED AND SUITABLE INVESTMENTS

The City of Seabrook is empowered by statute to invest in the following types of securities:

- U.S. Treasury Bills, Notes or Bonds, and other securities which are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the State of Texas or the United States of America or their respective agencies and instrumentalities.
- Collateralized or fully insured certificates of deposit and/or approved savings instruments at FDIC insured banks in the State of Texas, consistent with the City's current bank depository agreement.
- Repurchase agreements, if secured by U.S. Treasury Bills, Notes or Bonds
- Public Funds Investment Pool as set forth under the Interlocal Corporation Act, Article 4413 (34C).

12. PROCUREMENT

Authorized investments may be made only after competitive bids are solicited from at least three sources, with the exception of a) transactions with local government investment pools, and b) treasury and agency securities purchased at issue through an approved broker/dealer or financial institution.

13. MONITORING

Monitoring shall be conducted quarterly when investment reports are compiled to ensure investments are in compliance with credit rating requirements according to PFIA and the liquidation of such investments if the minimum rating during this period is not satisfied.

Affected obligations under "Authorized and Suitable Investments" in this policy and their minimum rating requirements are:

- **Investment Pools:** Rated not less than AAA or an equivalent rating by at least one nationally recognized rating service.

14. COLLATERALIZATION

Collateralization will be required on three types of investments: certificates of deposit, other approved savings instruments at an FDIC insured bank and repurchase (and reverse) agreements.

In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be 102% of market value of principal and accrued interest.

The City of Seabrook chooses to limit collateral to the following:

- Obligations of the United States or its agencies and instrumentalities;
- Direct obligations of the State of Texas or its agencies;
- Other obligations, the principal of and interest on which are unconditionally guaranteed or insured by the State of Texas or the United States;
- Obligations of states, agencies, counties, cities and other political subdivisions of any state having been rated as investment quality by nationally recognized investment rating firms and having received a rating of not less than “A” or its equivalent.
- Certificates of deposit issued by state and national banks domiciled in this state that are:
 - Guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor; or
 - Secured by obligations that are described by subdivisions A-D of this subsection, which are intended to include all direct agency or instrumentality issued mortgage-backed securities rated “AAA” by a nationally recognized rating agency and that have a market value of not less than the principal amount of the certificate;
- Fully collateralized direct repurchase agreements having a defined termination date, secured by obligations described in subdivision 1 of this subsection, pledged with a third party selected or approved by the City of Seabrook and placed through a primary government securities dealer, as defined by the Federal Reserve, or a bank domiciled in this state;
- Certificates of deposit issued by savings and loan associations domiciled in this state that are:
 - Guaranteed or insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation or its successor; or
 - Secured by obligations that are described by subdivisions A-D of this subsection which are intended to include all direct federal agencies or instrumentality issued mortgage-backed securities that have a market value of not less than the principal amount of the certificates; and
- Such other investments as may be authorized by Texas Revised Civil Statutes, article 842a -2, as amended.

15. SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODY

All security transactions including collateral for repurchase agreements, entered into by the City of Seabrook shall be conducted on a delivery-versus-payment (DVP) basis. Securities will be held by a third party custodian designated by the Finance Director and evidenced by safekeeping receipts.

16. DIVERSIFICATION

The City of Seabrook will diversify its investments by security type and institution. With the exception of U.S. Treasury securities and authorized pools, no more than 50% of the City's total investment portfolio will be invested in a single security type or with a single financial institution. The City may invest up to 100% of its investment portfolio in U.S. Treasury securities, CD's and authorized investment pools.

17. MAXIMUM MATURITIES

To the extent possible, the City of Seabrook will attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the City will not directly invest in securities maturing more than two (2) years from the date of purchase. However, the City may collateralize its repurchase agreements using longer dated investments not to exceed five (5) years to maturity.

Reserve funds may be invested in securities exceeding two (2) years if the maturity of such investments is made to coincide as nearly as practicable with the expected use of the funds.

18. INTERNAL CONTROL

The Finance Officer shall establish an annual process of independent review by an external auditor. This review will provide internal control by assuring compliance with policies and procedures. The controls shall be designed to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by employees or Investment Officers of the City. Controls and managerial emphasis deemed most important that shall be employed where practical are:

- Control of collusion.
- Separation of duties.
- Separation of transaction authority from accounting and record keeping.
- Custodian safekeeping receipts records management.
- Avoidance of physical delivery securities.
- Clear delegation of authority.
- Documentation on investment bidding events.
- Written confirmation of telephone transactions.
- Reconciliation and comparisons of security receipts with the investment subsidiary records.
- Compliance with investment policies.
- Accurate and timely reports.
- Validation of investment maturity decisions with supporting cash flow data.
- Adequate training and development of Investment Officers.
- Verification of all interest income and security purchase as sell computations.
- Review of financial condition of all brokers, dealers and depository institutions.
- Staying informed about market conditions, changes, and trends that require adjustments in investment strategies.

19. PERFORMANCE STANDARD

The investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of obtaining a rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, commensurate with the investment risk constraints and the cash flow needs.

20. PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK

The City of Seabrook's investment strategy is passive. Given this strategy, the basis used by the Finance Officer to determine whether market yields are being achieved, shall be by the (e.g. six-month U.S. Treasury Bill and the average Fed Funds rate.)

21. REPORTING

The Director of Finance is charged with the responsibility of submitting to City Council a report no less than quarterly detailing the investment activity and returns for all funds and investments.

Reports will:

- Describe in detail the investment position of the entity on the date of the report;
- Be prepared and signed by all investment officers of the entity;
- Contain a summary statement of each pooled fund group that states the beginning and ending market value for the reporting period and fully accrued interest.
- State the book value and market value of each separately invested asset at the end of the reporting period by the type of asset and fund type invested;
- State the maturity date of each separately invested asset that has a maturity date;
- State the account or fund or pooled group fund in the state agency or local government for which each individual investment was acquired; and
- State the compliance of the investment portfolio as it relates to the investment strategy stated in the City's investment policy and relevant provisions of the Public Funds Investment Act.