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# Herlong Public Utility District

## **POLICY HANDBOOK – SERIES 2000**

**POLICY TITLE: Debt Management**

**POLICY NUMBER: 3155**

This Debt Policy is intended to comply with Government Code Section 8855(i), and shall govern all debt issued by the District. The District hereby recognizes that a fiscally prudent debt policy is required to:

- a) Maintain the District's sound financial position.
- b) Ensure the District has the flexibility to respond to changes in future service priorities, revenues, and operating expenses.
- c) Protect the District's credit-worthiness.
- d) Ensure that all debt is structured to protect current and future taxpayers, ratepayers and constituents of the District.
- e) Ensure that the District's debt is consistent with the District's planning goals and objectives and capital improvement program or budget, as applicable.

### 3155.1. Purposes for Which Debt May Be Issued

3155.1.1 Long-Term Debt. Long-term debt may be issued to finance the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of capital improvements and facilities, equipment and land to be owned and operated by the District. Long-term debt financings are appropriate:

- a) When a project to be financed is necessary to provide District services.
- b) When the project to be financed will benefit constituents over several years.
- c) When total debt does not constitute an unreasonable burden to the District and its taxpayers or ratepayers.
- d) When the debt is used to refinance outstanding debt to reduce the total cost of the debt or to realize other benefits of a debt restructuring, such as increased flexibility in the use of cash and reserves.

3155.1.1.2 Long-term debt financings will not generally be considered appropriate for current operating expenses and routine maintenance expenses. The District may use long-term debt financings subject to the following conditions:

- a) The project to be financed must be approved by the District Board.
- b) The weighted average maturity of the debt (or the portion of the debt allocated to the project) will not exceed the average useful life of the project to be financed by more than 20%.
- c) The District estimates that sufficient revenues will be available to service the debt through its maturity.
- d) The District determines that the issuance of the debt will comply with the applicable state and federal law.

3155.1.2 Short-term debt. Short-term debt may be issued to provide financing for the District's operational cash flows to maintain a steady and even cash flow balance as in anticipation of periodic receipts of property taxes and other revenues. Short-term debt may also be used to finance short-lived capital projects; for example, the District may undertake lease-purchase financing for equipment consistently with debt limit requirements of article XVI of the California Constitution, article XVI, § 18.

3155.1.3 Financings on Behalf of Other Entities. The District may also find it beneficial to issue debt on behalf of other governmental agencies or private third parties to further the public purposes of District. In such cases, the District shall take reasonable steps to confirm the financial feasibility of the project to be financed and the financial solvency of any borrower and that the issuance of such debt is consistent with this policy.

3155.2. Types of Debt - The following types of debt are allowable under this Debt Policy:

- a) General obligation bonds (GO Bonds)
- b) Bond or grant anticipation notes (BANs)
- c) Lease revenue bonds, certificates of participation (COPs) and lease-purchase transactions
- d) Other revenue bonds and COPs
- e) Tax and other revenue anticipation notes (TRANS)
- f) Land-secured financings, such as special tax revenue bonds issued under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, as amended, and limited obligation bonds issued under applicable assessment statutes
- g) Tax increment financing to the extent permitted under State law
- h) Refunding Obligations
- i) State Revolving Loan Funds
- j) Lines of Credit

3155.2.1 The District Board may from time to time find that other forms of debt would be beneficial to further its public purposes and may approve such debt without an amendment of this Debt Policy. Debt shall be issued as fixed rate debt unless the District makes a specific determination as to why a variable rate issue would be beneficial to the District in a specific circumstance.

3155.3 Relationship of Debt to Capital Improvement Program and Budget

3155.3.1 The District is committed to long-term capital planning. The District intends to issue debt for the purposes stated in this Debt Policy and to implement policy decisions incorporated in the District's capital budget and capital improvement plan.

3155.3.2 The District shall strive to fund the upkeep and maintenance of its infrastructure and facilities due to normal wear and tear through the expenditure of available operating revenues ("pay as you go"). The District shall seek to avoid the use of debt to fund infrastructure and facilities improvements that are the result of normal wear and tear.

3155.3.3 The District shall integrate its debt issuances with the goals of its capital improvement program by timing the issuance of debt to ensure that projects are available when needed in furtherance of the District's public purposes.

#### 3155.4. Policy Goals Related to Planning Goals and Objectives

3155.4.1 The District is committed to long-term financial planning, maintaining appropriate reserves and employing prudent practices in governance, management and budget administration. The District intends to issue debt for the purposes stated in this Debt Policy and to implement policy decisions incorporated in the District's annual operations budgets.

3155.4.2 It is a policy goal of the District to protect taxpayers, ratepayers and constituents by using conservative financing methods and techniques so as to obtain the highest practical credit ratings (if applicable) and the lowest practical total borrowing costs.

3155.4.3 The District will comply with applicable state and federal law as it pertains to the maximum term of debt and the procedures for levying and imposing any related taxes, assessments, rates and charges.

3155.4.4 When refinancing debt, it shall be the policy goal of the District to realize, whenever possible, and subject to any overriding non-financial policy considerations, (i) minimum net present value debt service savings approximately 3.0% of the refunded principal amount, and (ii) present value debt service savings equal to or greater than any escrow fund negative arbitrage. The cost of refinancing will always be less than the savings.

3155.4.5 The District shall seek to avoid the use of debt to fund infrastructure and facilities improvements in circumstances when the sole purpose of such debt financing is to temporarily reduce annual budgetary expenditures. Capital investments intended to reduce District operating costs indefinitely, as by improving the efficiency of its operations, are appropriate for long-term debt.

3155.4.6 The District shall seek to time debt issues to avoid need for unplanned general fund expenditures for capital improvements or equipment.

#### 3155.5. Internal Control Procedures

3155.5.1 When issuing debt, in addition to complying with the terms of this Debt Policy, the District shall comply with any other applicable policies regarding initial bond disclosure, continuing disclosure, post-issuance compliance, and investment of bond proceeds. Without limiting the foregoing, the District will periodically review the requirements of and will remain in compliance with the following:

- a) Any continuing disclosure undertakings entered into by the District in accordance with SEC Rule 15c2-12.
- b) Any federal tax compliance requirements, including, without limitation, arbitrage and rebate compliance.
- c) The District's investment policies as they relate to the use and investment of bond proceeds.

3155.5.2 Proceeds of debt will be held either (a) by a third-party trustee or fiscal agent, which will disburse such proceeds to or upon the order of the District upon the submission of one or more written requisitions by the Finance Director of the District (or his or her written designee), or (b) by the District, to be held and accounted for in a separate fund or account to ensure debt proceeds are expended only for the purposes for which the debt was issued, the expenditure of which will be

carefully documented by the District in records compliance with current accounting standards and subject to the District's annual audit.