San Mateo County Libraries

Agenda Item IV. B.

To:	JPA Governing Board
From:	Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services
	Paniz Amirnasiri, Interim Director of Finance and Performance
Date:	September 10, 2025
Meeting:	September 15, 2025
Re:	Investment Report for FY 2024-25

Background

On September 12, 2009, the Governing Board adopted the Library Joint Power Authority (JPA) Investment Policy. The purpose of the Investment Policy is to provide guidance and protection to the Library JPA's cash and investments and promote prudent financial stewardship. It is also the policy of the Library JPA to diversify its investment portfolio to ensure the maximum safety of the Library's assets. The Library JPA shall have funds not required for immediate expenditure invested in compliance with state law and this policy.

The criteria for selecting investments in order of priority are:

- Safety of Principal
- Liquidity
- Yield

In order to minimize risk, the Library JPA's portfolio includes:

- The San Mateo County Investment Pool (SMCIP)
- The State of California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

As outlined in the Library JPA Investment Policy, the Library Director shall submit an annual investment report to the Governing Board on the status of the Library JPA's investment portfolio. The report will provide information as to the types of investment, the amount of money invested within the two investment instruments, maturity dates, and interest rate yield on investments in accordance with the Government Code. The report shall also state if the Library JPA investments are in compliance with this policy and able to meet its cash flow obligation. The investment policy is reviewed periodically and was last approved by the Governing Board on September 18, 2023.

Discussion

The Library JPA is a voluntary participant in the San Mateo County Investment Pool which is regulated by California Government Code Section §53600 under the oversight of the County Treasurer. Included in SMCIP's investment portfolio as outlined in its Investment Policy are: U.S. Treasury Securities, U.S. Government Agency/Government Sponsored Enterprises, Commercial Paper, Negotiable Certificates of Deposit, Bankers Acceptances,

Collateralized Certificates of Deposit, Mortgage and Asset Backed Securities, US Instrumentalities, CA Municipal Obligations, Repurchase Agreements, Local Agency Investment Fund, Mutual Funds and Local Government Investment Pools.

In FY 2024-25, Library JPA funds averaging $47,331,722 were invested with the San Mateo County Investment Pool, producing an average yield of 3.97 percent. Interest earnings in FY 2024-25 totaled $1,856,566.

The Library JPA is a voluntary participant in the Local Agency Investment Fund, which is regulated by California Government Code Section §16429 under the oversight of the Treasury of the State of California. Included in LAIF's investment portfolio as outlined in its Investment Policy are: U.S. Treasury Securities, Federal and Supranational Agency Securities, Bankers Acceptances-Domestic/Foreign, Certificates of Deposit, Collateralized Time Deposits, Commercial Paper, Corporate Bonds/Notes, Repurchases and Reverse Repurchases, and Negotiable Orders of Withdrawal.

In FY 2024-25, Library JPA funds averaging $2,417,163 were invested with the Local Agency Investment Fund, producing an annual average yield of 4.41 percent. Interest earnings totaled $108,617.

Both SMCIP and LAIF maintain a large percentage of their investments in U.S. Treasury Securities representing obligations issued by the U.S. Government for which the full faith and credit of the United States is pledged for the payment of principal and interest. Neither SMCIP nor LAIF invest in derivative products. In order to minimize risk, the average length of maturity of the funds with the pools (duration a financial asset is held) is limited and outlined in their respective Investment Policies. As a participant in both SMCIP and LAIF, Library JPA funds are always liquid and available.

On an ongoing basis, cash flow requirements are reviewed to ensure that the investment portfolio remains sufficiently liquid to enable the Library JPA to meet all reasonably anticipated operating requirements. Library JPA investments are in compliance with the Library JPA Investment Policy, and the portfolio contains enough liquidity to meet expected expenditures.

Fiscal Impact

Combined SMCIP and LAIF interest earnings for FY 2024-25 totaled $1,965,182. Library JPA investments are in compliance with the Library JPA Investment Policy, and the portfolio contains enough liquidity to meet expected expenditures.

Recommendation

Recommend JPA Governing Board accept the Investment Report for FY 2024-25 and review and approve the Investment Policy with no revisions. Operations Committee members present at the September 9, 2025 meeting concurred with this recommendation.

Attachment

Investment Policy

INVESTMENT POLICY

The purpose of this investment policy is to provide guidance and protection to the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority's (Library JPA) cash and investments and promote prudent financial stewardship.

The basic premise underlying the Library JPA's Investment Policy is to ensure that money is always available when needed. It shall also be the policy of the Library JPA to diversify its investment portfolio to ensure the maximum safety of Library JPA assets. The Library JPA shall have funds not required for immediate expenditure invested in compliance with state law and this policy.

Investment Criteria

The criteria for selecting investments in order of priority are:

1. Safety of Principal: Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Cash and all investments should be undertaken in a manner that seeks primarily to ensure the preservation of capital.
2. Liquidity: Sufficient cash balances and investments amounts shall remain liquid to meet the required timing of all operating requirements that may be reasonably anticipated including cash outflows for operating expenses and funding of capital projects.
3. Yield: The cash investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a reasonable or market rate of return, taking into account the primary objectives of safety and liquidity.

Prudent Investor Standard

The Library JPA adheres to the guidance provided by the "prudent investor standard," which obligates a fiduciary to ensure that investments shall be made with the exercise of that degree of judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of individual business matters, not for speculation but for investment. Exercise of prudence considers the probable safety of capital as well as the probable income to be delivered.

This standard of prudence shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Investment officials 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 that the deviations from expectation are reported in a timely fashion, and appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

Acceptable Investment Instruments

Investments will be made in several instruments to lessen risk by diversifying the Library JPA's portfolio. The Library JPA's investment portfolio may include the following instruments:

1. The San Mateo County Investment Pool (SMCIP)
2. The State of California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

Reporting

The Director of Library Services shall submit an annual investment report to the JPA Governing Board on the status of the Library JPA's investment portfolio. The report will provide information as to the type of investment, the amount of money invested with various institutions, purchase and maturity dates and interest rate yield on investments in accordance with the Government Code. The report shall state if the Library JPA investments are in compliance with this policy and able to meet its cash flow obligation.

Delegation of Authority

Pursuant to Government Code 53600 et. Seq., with the annual adoption of this Investment Policy, the JPA Governing Board assigns the responsibility of determining the portion of surplus funds to invest in the State of California Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) to the Director of Library Services. Daily management responsibility of the investment program may be delegated to the Financial Services Manager, who shall establish procedures for the operation consistent with this investment policy. Business controls shall be established within the organization that utilizes adequate signature controls, separation of duties and adequate audit trail of cash disbursements and transfers of cash balances.

Adoption

This policy shall be reviewed periodically with the JPA Governing Board to ensure adequacy related to the objectives of safety, liquidity and yield and its adherence to applicable laws. The JPA Governing Board will review and approve all changes to this policy.

Approved by the Library JPA Governing Board on September 16, 2024