



San Bernardino County

**Ensen Mason CPA, CFA • Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector**

NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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## **Mason Reports Highest Possible “AAAf’/’S1” County Investment Pool Ratings Affirmed by Fitch Ratings**

**San Bernardino, CA** — San Bernardino County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector (ATC) Ensen Mason announced that Fitch Ratings has affirmed the Fund Credit Quality Ratings (FCQR) and Fund Market Risk Sensitivity Ratings on San Bernardino County Investment Pool at 'AAAf'/'S1'. The ratings reflect Fitch's review of the pool's investment and credit guidelines, and the portfolio's credit quality and diversification. The 'AAAf' FCQR indicates the highest underlying credit quality (or lowest vulnerability to default). The 'S1' rating indicates a very low sensitivity to market risk.

Fitch noted, “The main driver of the fund credit quality rating is the fund’s high credit quality. As per the pool's investment policy, the objectives include the safety of capital, maintenance of liquidity and optimization of investment returns.”

ATC Mason commented on this rating, “We safeguard our tax dollars and invest wisely to earn the maximum possible return on those dollars that we provide for schools, public safety, and all the other local government services. We are the financial foundation for public services County residents depend on.”

“We’ve managed our Investment Pool to Fitch’s highest ratings guidelines both for credit quality and sensitivity to market risk,” said John Johnson, Assistant Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector. “Our investment mandates are Safety, Liquidity, and Yield. We continue to use our successful strategy,” said Johnson.

The San Bernardino County Treasurer’s Office is the official custodian of investments for the San Bernardino County Investment Pool. The Office provides banking services for the County, K-12 Schools, Community Colleges, and Special Districts. The Treasury adheres to conservative investment policies that have maintained an 'AAAf'/'S1' rating from Fitch Ratings, the highest attainable ratings assigned by the agency for an investment pool of its type.

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