

**New Issue: Moody's assigns a Aaa rating to California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Clean Water State Revolving Fund Refunding Revenue Series 2012 Bonds; Outlook is stable**

Global Credit Research - 10 Oct 2012

**\$69.3 million of debt affected**

CALIFORNIA INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK  
State Revolving Fund  
CA

**Moody's Rating**

ISSUE	RATING
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Refunding Revenue Bond, Series 2012	Aaa
<b>Sale Amount</b>	\$69,295,000
<b>Expected Sale Date</b>	10/15/12
<b>Rating Description</b>	Revenue: Government Enterprise

**Moody's Outlook** TA

**Opinion**

NEW YORK, October 10, 2012 --Moody's Investor Service has assigned a Aaa rating to \$69.3 million of California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank) Clean Water State Revolving Fund Refunding Revenue Series 2012 Bond. The outlook is stable.

**RATING RATIONALE**

The rating is primarily based on cash flow projection which demonstrate the program's ability to withstand a default on 42% of the pledged loan portfolio over the life of the bond. Assuming no pledged loan default, the minimum debt service coverage is strong - 1.73x in the year 2014. Additionally, the Series 2012 Bond will be issued under a new Master Indenture which offers the obligor, State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB or the Board), with more flexibility and provides bondholders with a solid legal framework.

The refunding is estimated to generate approximately \$10 million in present value savings for the Board.

**Credit Strength:**

- \* High default tolerance of 42%.
- \* Strong minimum debt service coverage of 1.73x.
- \* Strong (Aa-range) credit quality of pledged loan portfolio
- \* In the unlikely event that a pledged loan does not perform as expected, management is willing and able to substitute it with a performing loan from the Board's balance sheet.
- \* The Master Indenture offers the Board with more flexibility and provides bondholders with a solid legal framework.

**Credit Challenge:**

- \* There is high concentration and limited diversity among 16 unique borrowers that comprise the pledged loan portfolio, but this risk is mostly mitigated by the credit strength mentioned above.

## DETAILED CREDIT DISCUSSION

**USE OF PROCEEDS:** The proceeds of the Erie 2012 Bond will be used to refund all of the outstanding Erie 2002 Bond, and to pay cost of issuance of the Erie 2012 Bond. A portion of the proceeds of the Erie 2012 Bond, together with amount on deposit in certain funds with respect to the Erie 2002 Bond, will be deposited in the Erie 2002 E-Crow Fund established pursuant to E-Crow Instructions from the I-Bank to the Treasurer of the State of California, as E-Crow agent.

**LEGAL SECURITY:** The Erie 2012 Bonds are special limited obligation of the I-Bank, generally payable from and secured by the pledged revenue derived from the pledged loan, investment earnings on deposit, and any other amount that the Board may elect to apply, including any amount transferred from the Restricted Asset Fund.

### ERIE 2012 BOND EXHIBIT ROBUST DEFAULT TOLERANCE

The 2012 Bonds are secured by 24 pledged loans from 16 unique borrowers; the repayment of which are derived from clean water, sewer, and related revenue. Pledged loan principal is \$394.8 million, and of that, \$143.1 million is maturing prior to the maturity of the bond. Cash flow projections demonstrate that the minimum debt service coverage throughout the life of the bond is 1.73x in the year 2014. Thereafter, the debt service coverage reaches a maximum of 3.41x in the bond's final year of payment.

A default tolerance cash flow scenario, which measures the maximum level of pledged loan default over the life of the bond without disrupting debt service obligations, is a key credit factor of the rating on the bond. The Program's default tolerance scenario demonstrated a robust level of 42% pledged loan default, assuming that the proportion of the pledged loan portfolio defaulted immediately and the Board did not benefit from any recovery.

The Erie 2012 Bonds utilize a cash flow model, and therefore do not maintain a debt service reserve as did the Erie 2002 Bonds that are being refunded.

### PLEGGED LOAN PORTFOLIO FEATURE

The pledged loan portfolio exhibits limited diversity characteristics. It is small (16 unique borrowers), the top 5 borrowers comprise a significant amount of the pool (66%), and there are no borrowers comprising less than 1% of the loan portfolio. High level of concentration is a credit negative because the RF is more susceptible to the nonperformance of one borrower. However, the RF exhibits several features that mitigate this risk. First, the weighted average pool rating is strong (Aa-range), and therefore we rate this pool more favorably than one of similar unfavorable diversity attributes but of lower credit quality. The strong weighted average pool rating is driven by 59% of the portfolio being rated A1 or above. In particular, the largest borrower, Orange County Water District (comprising about 28% of the pool) is rated Aa1 (stable outlook). Secondly, as discussed above, the pool exhibits a robust default tolerance level that provides bondholders with superior credit protection from nonperformance of pledged loans. Lastly, the Board has the willingness and ability to substitute nonperforming pledged loans, if any, from its large inventory of performing loans.

### 2012 MASTER INDENTURE EXHIBIT SOLID LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The 2012 master indenture exhibits key provisions that offer the Board flexibility and provide bondholders with a solid legal framework.

The master indenture permits the substitution of pledged loans at the Board's discretion, and management communicated its willingness and ability to substitute a nonperforming or distressed pledged loan with one(s) from the unpledged portfolio if appropriate. As of June 30, 2012, the Board maintained \$3.1 billion of loans (of which \$2.8 billion were amortizing, and \$394 million are pledged to the 2012 Bonds). We view this as a very strong feature of the legal framework because, although unlikely, it mitigates the risk associated with the nonperformance of a pledged borrower. The strength of this feature however could deteriorate if the amount of unpledged loans available for substitution is materially reduced.

The 2012 indenture utilizes an open structure - meaning additional parity revenue bonds may be issued under the indenture in the future provided that the additional bonds are tied. With this feature, all bonds issued under the indenture can be cross-collateralized with program-level assets, as opposed to having a specific flow of funds available as in the 2002 indenture. The 2012 indenture maintains a closed-loop structure which retains pledged assets unless released per the Coverage Test at the Board's discretion. The Coverage Test must demonstrate that program assets are not less than 105% of debt service for each bond year, and that the debt

service reserve, if any, is fully funded and in compliance with the minimum requirement. (The 2012 Bonds are not required to maintain a reserve). If the above two conditions are met, pledged assets may be released from the lien of the indenture and transferred to the Clean Water RF (outside of the indenture) free and clear. Furthermore, the legal framework establishes the opportunity to potentially cross-collateralize with the Drinking Water RF, which is administered by California's Department of Public Health, in the future. There are no drinking water loans in the program at this time.

## OUTLOOK

The outlook on the bond is stable to reflect sufficient additional resources and ability to mitigate the risks associated with nonperforming loans, including: high default tolerance, strong credit quality of the loan portfolio, and the ability to substitute loans under the Master Indenture.

What could change the rating up:

- \* Not applicable

What could change the rating down:

- \* Material deterioration of the loan portfolio credit quality
- \* Significant decline in minimum debt service coverage or default tolerance

## KEY INDICATOR

- \* Bond program type - Cash flow
- \* Default tolerance - 42%
- \* Minimum debt service coverage - 1.73x
- \* Pool weighted average rating range - Aa
- \* Unique borrower - 16
- \* Borrower with less than 1% of the total portfolio - 0%
- \* Top 5 borrower - 66%

1. Orange County Water District (Aa1) - 28%

2. City of Hayward (NR) - 12%

3. Yucaipa Valley Water District (A1) - 10%

4. City of Chico (NR) - 10%

5. Inland Empire Utilities Agency (Aa2) - 7%

The principal methodology used in this rating was U.S. State Revolving Fund Debt published in July 2010. Please see the Credit Policy page on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) for a copy of this methodology.

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