

Central Florida Expressway Authority
Interest Rate Risk Management Policy

FIN-7

Department: Finance

Supersedes: FIN-7 adopted 9/26/2012 and 7/24/2013

Date of Board Approval: 4/9/2015

**A RESOLUTION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY AMENDING THE
INTEREST RATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Central Florida Expressway Authority (“CFX”) previously adopted an “Interest Rate Risk Management Policy” on July 24, 2013 establishing the protocol for management of interest rate risk; and

WHEREAS, CFX Finance Committee has approved refinements to the Interest Rate Risk Management Policy regarding CFX’s liquidity to make swap termination payments and changing the ratings needed by a swap dealer/counterparty; and


WHEREAS, CFX’s governing Board concurs in the revised Interest Rate Risk Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY as follows:


Section 1. ADOPTION. The current “Interest Rate Risk Management Policy” shall be amended in accordance with the attached “Interest Rate Risk Management Policy” attached hereto as Exhibit “A”

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This policy shall take effect upon adoption by the CFX governing board.

ADOPTED this 9th day of April, 2015.



Welton G. Cadwell
Chairman

ATTEST: 
Darleen Mazzillo
Executive Assistant

Approved as to form and legality



Joseph L. Passiatore
General Counsel

CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY

Interest Rate Risk Management Policy

The Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) currently has a number of interest rate exchange agreements (Swaps) with a number of counterparties. As used herein, "Swap" shall mean a "swap," as defined in the Section 1a(47) of the Commodity Exchange Act and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") Regulations. This policy will govern how the Swaps, together with the associated variable rate demand bonds, will be managed to provide the optimal balance of costs and risk. This policy should be read and interpreted in the context of CFX's Debt Policy.

I. Goals and Objectives

The overall objective in managing CFX's debt portfolio and interest rate risk is to balance the cost of capital with the management of risk. CFX's risk tolerance is low and therefore, opportunities to cost-effectively reduce existing or potential risks should be constantly evaluated for feasibility.

CFX has set a limit of synthetic fixed rate debt at 25% of the total outstanding debt. This goal should be considered as CFX manages its Swap portfolio and its overall debt program. New Swaps will only be considered where the overall exposure to like transactions is not increased beyond the stated limit. New, novated or amended Swaps may also be considered where a reduction in actual or potential risks may be accomplished.

It is also CFX's goal to limit exposure to individual swap dealers/counterparties to no more than 30% of the total notional amount of CFX's active Swap portfolio. Although this requirement shall not require CFX to terminate, novate or amend existing Swaps absent of other risk considerations, it does prohibit new Swaps to be considered if the new Swap would cause CFX's exposure to any individual swap dealer/counterparty to increase beyond 30% of the then existing total notional value of CFX's active Swap portfolio.

II. Monitoring and Reporting of Existing Transactions

As part of the semi-annual debt report provided to the Board (in accordance with CFX's Debt Policy), the CFO will report the current credit ratings of each swap dealer/counterparty with which it has an existing Swap and the mark-to-market value of each Swap. In addition to reporting the weekly rates on the variable rate bonds in the semi-annual debt report, the CFO will provide the Finance Committee with a quarterly remarketing report and review the results at the next scheduled meeting. As necessary, the CFO, in consultation with CFX's financial advisors, will make recommendations to address any rate dislocation including, but not limited to, changing remarketing agents or credit providers, depending on the underlying cause of the dislocation.

III. Exit Strategies

The CFO and CFX's financial advisors and designated QIR (as defined herein) should constantly monitor market rates, termination values, counterparty credit ratings, and other relevant factors to determine if voluntary termination is warranted. Generally, a voluntary early termination will be warranted if it is economically advantageous and/or if a reduction in CFX's current or anticipated risk can be accomplished at no cost. CFX shall seek to maintain sufficient liquidity, including without limitation through balances in CFX's Swap/Debt Management Contingency, short term financing capacity, and/or other borrowing capacity, to make any Swap termination payments that may become due, to the extent not paid or payable from other sources.

IV. Evaluation of Proposed Transactions

While CFX's current goals would exclude contemplation of new derivative products, the replacement of existing Swap transactions with new ones may be the most cost-beneficial method of managing risks. For that reason, this section outlines the process for evaluating and executing new transactions.

A. Review and Analysis

The proposed use of structured products must comply with all goals and provisions of CFX's existing policies. Each Swap transaction will be evaluated as an alternative to traditional, intermediate, or long-term financing options. Consideration should be given to their comparable cost, ease of entry and exit provisions, and degree of potential risk exposure, quantified to the greatest extent possible. Any proposed Swap transaction must fit into CFX's goals to limit the percentage of variable rate debt and exposure to individual counterparties.

CFX's designated QIR will provide independent analysis of any proposed Swap transaction, including an analysis of the relevant benefits and risks of such transaction. CFX's cost of the transaction and any ongoing costs, such as remarketing, credit enhancement and/or liquidity, swap advisors, financial advisors, attorney fees and other necessary costs will be included in the cost/benefit evaluations. A review of provisions required by bond and/or swap insurance providers and the cost/benefit of such insurance will also be included in an evaluation of the Swap transaction.

B. Legal Analysis

The documentation of the swap shall be in the form of an enforceable written contract. Whenever possible, those contracts shall be transacted using Florida law or, as an alternative New York law with Florida law as to CFX's authority and Orange County Florida as to jurisdiction or venue. Review of compliance with existing law and regulation (including but not limited to the Internal Revenue Code and CFTC Regulations) bond indentures and bond covenants should be completed before implementation of a Swap transaction.

V. Transaction Management and Execution

Swap transactions will:

- Comply with all applicable outstanding bond resolutions, insurance covenants, and Florida

law.

- Contain terms and conditions as set forth in the International Swap and Derivatives Association, Inc. ("ISDA") Master Agreement, Schedules to the Master, Credit Support Annex and confirmation.
- Be a market transaction for which competing good faith market quotations may be obtained and with the advice and recommendation of CFX's designated QIR, and other financial professionals.
- Include a provision for the right to early termination at market under the guidelines of the ISDA Agreement. The transaction should allow for CFX to exercise the right to optionally terminate the agreement, at the then prevailing market value of the Swap.
- Produce material economic or risk management benefit believed to not otherwise be attainable under the currently existing market conditions, or existing conventional debt structures, and improve the flexibility of debt management strategies.
- Not introduce leverage solely for the means of producing economic benefit. Transactions will not be speculative in nature.
- Not unduly impair CFX's utilization of call features on outstanding bonds.
- Employ structures that will attempt to minimize existing risks and do not substantially add new risks, including but not limited to, any additional floating rate basis risk, tax-law risk or credit risk to CFX.
- Not cause the total amount of Swap transactions to exceed the debt management limitations for fixed or floating debt.

VI. The Swap Dealer/Counterparty

The following criteria will be used when considering swap dealer/counterparties for a Swap transaction:

- I. The swap dealer/counterparty must fully disclose all costs. All fees and expenses paid by the swap dealer/counterparty and to designated third parties, will be fully disclosed in writing to CFX.
- II. CFX will consider acquiring downgrade protection when possible including collateral or credit support.
- III. The assignment of a Swap agreement will not be permitted without the consent of CFX.
- IV. CFX will attempt to utilize domestically domiciled swap dealer/counterparties and/or utilize ISDA documentation which employs local currency-single jurisdiction status.
- V. The swap dealer/counterparty shall disclose relationships with other third parties which may affect the transaction, such as broker dealers, insurance companies and other swap providers.
- VI. The swap dealer/counterparty shall provide its financial statements showing the economic capability of the entity, the amount of its swaps outstanding and credit ratings, all of which shall be acceptable to CFX. At the time of entering into the Swap transaction, swap dealer/counterparties (or their guarantor) shall (i) be rated at least AA-/ Aa3/ AA- by at least one of the three nationally recognized credit rating agencies and not be rated lower than A/A2/A by any of the three nationally recognized credit rating agencies. Collateral should be required upon a downgrade from these levels.

VII. Authority's Representations with Respect to Swaps and QIR

Solely for purposes of the rules adopted by the CFTC governing business conduct standards for swap dealers and other parties as they apply to communications regarding Swaps, the Executive Director or CFO may make substantially the following representations in writing on behalf of CFX when requested by the swap dealer/counterparty.

- 1) CFX will not rely on any "recommendation" (as such term is used in CFTC Regulations §23.434 and §23.440) provided by a swap dealer/ counterparty with respect to a Swap;
- 2) CFX will rely on advice from a "qualified independent representative" designated by CFX and that it has complied in good faith with written policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that it has designated a "qualified independent representative" that satisfies the applicable requirements of CFTC Regulation §23.450(b);
- 3) CFX will exercise independent judgment in evaluating any "recommendations" made by the swap dealer/counterparty with regard to a Swap; and
- 4) CFX understands that the swap dealer/counterparty is not expressing any opinion as to whether CFX should enter into or terminate a Swap.

VIII. Use of Qualified Independent Representative

In compliance with the CFTC Regulations promulgated under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, as amended (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), CFX will designate a "qualified independent representative" ("QIR") for all Swap related transactions, including terminations. The QIR must be capable of independently evaluating the risks of the Swap, independently evaluating the fair pricing of the Swap (including termination payments), and of making timely and effective disclosures to CFX (including with regard to material conflicts of interest that could reasonably affect the judgment or decision making or the QIR with respect to its obligations to CFX). The QIR must represent to CFX that:

- A. The QIR has sufficient knowledge and expertise to independently evaluate the Swap, the risks of the Swap, the fair pricing of the Swap (including termination payments) and the appropriateness of the Swap for CFX (taking into consideration the written policies of CFX);
- B. The QIR is not subject to a statutory or regulatory disqualification or any final disciplinary action that would prevent it from effectively serving as a representative to CFX in such capacity.
- C. The QIR, by accepting such designation by CFX, is undertaking a duty to act in the best interests of CFX;

- D. The QIR has written policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that it satisfies the applicable requirements of CFTC Regulation §23.450(b)(1);
- E. The QIR will exercise independent judgment in evaluating any “recommendations” (as such term is used in CFTC Regulations §23.434 and §23.440) presented to it by the swap dealer/counterparty with regard to a Swap;
- F. The QIR is not and, within one year of representing CFX in connection with the Swap has not been, an “associated person,” as such term is defined in Section 1a(4) of the Commodity Exchange Act, of the swap dealer/counterparty;
- G. There is no “principal relationship” (as that term is defined in CFTC Regulations §23.450(a)(1)) between the QIR and the swap dealer/counterparty;
- H. The QIR (a) will provide timely and effective disclosures to CFX of all material conflicts of interest that could reasonably affect the judgment or decision making of the QIR with respect to its obligations to CFX and (b) will comply with policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage and mitigate such material conflicts of interest;
- I. The QIR is not directly or indirectly, through one or more persons, controlled by, in control of, or under common control with the swap dealer/counterparty;
- J. To the best of the QIR’s knowledge, the swap dealer/counterparty did not refer, recommend, or introduce the QIR to CFX within one year of QIR’s representation of CFX in connection with the Swap;
- K. The QIR is legally obligated to comply with the applicable requirements of CFTC Regulation §23.450(b)(1) by agreement, condition of employment, law, rule, regulation, or other enforceable duty; and
- L. The QIR has registered with the CFTC as a commodity trading advisor and/or with the Securities Exchange Commission as an investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

The QIR must also agree to promptly notify CFX in writing if any representations made by the QIR referenced above became incorrect or misleading in any material respect. For any representation that would be incorrect or misleading in any material respect if repeated on any date following the date on which the representation was last repeated, the QIR shall timely amend such representation by giving written notice of such amendment to CFX. The designated QIR must annually reaffirm in writing to CFX by delivery to the CFO on each July 1st the representations outlined in A through L above.

The QIR will be retained by CFX through CFX’s implemented procurement procedures (i.e. RFP, RFQ, etc.) using selection criteria that ensure the designated QIR possesses the capabilities

necessary to independently evaluate the risks of the Swap, to independently evaluate the fair pricing of the Swap (including termination payments), and to make timely and appropriate disclosures to CFX. The procurement of the QIR may be done in conjunction with CFX's procurement of its financial advisor. If CFX's financial advisor, or its registered commodity trading advisor or investment advisor affiliate, possesses the requisite capabilities and, by written contract, makes the representations set forth above, then CFX may designate its financial advisor, or its registered investment advisor affiliate, as the QIR.

To ensure compliance with the provisions above, CFX will designate the QIR in writing. The QIR must provide evidence of its registration with the CFTC as a commodity trading advisor and/or with the Securities Exchange Commission as an investment advisor prior to being designated as CFX's QIR. The designation can be done in the context of the financial advisor contract or amendment thereto with the financial advisor or its registered commodity trading advisor or investment advisor affiliate, or in a separate contract with a different firm. Prior to executing a Swap transaction, termination or novation, CFX will obtain from the designated QIR the written representations outlined in A through L above. If the designated QIR is unable to provide such representations in a timely manner, CFX may utilize an expedited quote process to select a new designated QIR to facilitate a time and market sensitive transaction. The CFO will monitor the performance of the designated QIR and that the designated QIR demonstrates on each transaction that (1) it has the knowledge and expertise to independently evaluate the Swap, the risks of the Swap, the fair pricing of the Swap (including termination payments) and the appropriateness of the Swap for CFX, (2) it is independent of the swap dealer/counterparty, (3) it is acting in the best interest of CFX and (4) it makes timely and appropriate disclosures to CFX, when applicable.

IX. Transaction Pricing

When procuring financial derivative products, every effort shall be made to ensure competitive pricing. The complexity of circumstances surrounding transactions and meeting goals to limit exposure to individual counterparties may be valid reasons to negotiate a particular derivative product transaction. The CFO, upon the advice of the financial advisor, will make a recommendation to the Finance Committee as to the method of pricing and counterparty selection. The financial advisor will evaluate prices and rates to ensure transactions are at or below market. Similarly, CFX will make every effort to competitively price swap unwind transactions. The CFO, upon the advice of the financial advisor will make a recommendation as to the method of selecting counterparties for unwinding swaps when not selecting all swaps in a series. Offers from counterparties to unwind transactions below market is an example of a reason to negotiate with specific counterparties.

X. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD ON _____.