# Refunding an Issue KNN Public Finance, LLC 

September 2022

## INTRODUCTIONS | PRESENTERS

## NOTIONS OF REFUNDING

## PAYING OFF A LOAN WITH A NEW LOAN

MORTGAGE EXAMPLE:

- Mortgages can be prepaid at any time
- Considerations:
» Transaction cost
» Term of new loan (e.g., a new 30year loan would extend overall repayment).

BOND EXAMPLE:

- Bond investor has call protection, most commonly for 10 years
- Borrower has call option


## OPTIONAL REDEMPTION

SAMPLE PROVISION:
The Series 2022 Bonds maturing on and after August 1, 2033, are subject to redemption prior to their respective stated maturity dates, at the option of the County, ... on or after August 1, 2032 at the principal amount of the Bonds called for redemption, together with interest accrued thereon, without premium......

First 10 years call protected

## First optional

 call date
## Call price at par in this case

## PURPOSE OF REFUNDING BONDS



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## TYPES OF REFUNDING \& TIMING

- Refunding bonds are characterized as either current refunding or advance refunding

CURRENT REFUNDING:

- New bond proceeds are used to call refunded bonds within 90 days
- Tax-exempt bonds can be issued to currently refund outstanding taxexempt bonds
- Refunding bonds are issued more than 90-days before call date
- Proceeds sized to be sufficient to fund an escrow that, along with interest earnings, will pay debt service until the call date and then call the bonds
- Advance refundings are typically less efficient, especially when the interest rate earned on escrow is less than the borrowing rate (negative arbitrage)

Tax-exempt advance refunding eliminated in 2017
Some agencies have issued taxable bonds to advance refund, still generating savings.

## CAPTURING SAVINGS

- What goes up, must(?) go down
- When to examine a bond for a refunding?
- Nine months to a year before the optional call date
- More frequently if market and policies might support a taxable advance refunding
- When evaluating a bond for refunding savings, the coupon rate of existing debt is compared to the true interest cost of the refunding bonds


## CYCLICALITY OF INTEREST RATES



0.00\%


## WHAT CREATES SAVINGS?

ROLLING DOWN THE YIELD CURVE

- Because of the typical shape of the yield curve, the passage of time alone may create savings
- At the optional call date, there is a "roll down" for corresponding maturities (e.g., years 10-30 are now years 0-20)
- The common use of "premium couponing" (e.g., 5\% coupons to yield $3 \%$ to the investor) creates higher likelihood of future refunding: creates "optionality"

- Savings typically presented as "present value savings"
- Future cashflows typically discounted by the arbitrage yield on the refunding bonds (the current cost of funds)
- Most common measurement is present value savings divided by par amount of refunded bonds, shown as a percent
- Net-to-net refunding takes into account other factors, such as investment earnings on debt service reserve fund
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SAVINGS SUMMARY:
» \$845,073 Avg. Annual Cash Flow Savings
» $\$ 11,540,160$ NPV Savings
» $\mathbf{2 6 . 4} \%$ Savings of Refunded Bonds (Par Amount of \$35.7M)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATE | PRIOR | REFUNDING |  | PRESENT |
| DEBT | DEBT | SAVINGS | VALUE |  |
|  | SERVICE | SERVICE |  |  |



[^0]| 2/1/2022 | \$806,356 | \$631,283 | \$158,806 | \$158,409 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2/1/2023 | \$1,551,063 | \$1,498,350 | \$43,827 | \$43,141 |
| 2/1/2024 | \$4,629,263 | \$3,623,350 | \$997,027 | \$970,601 |
| 2/1/2025 | \$4,629,263 | \$3,622,100 | \$998,277 | \$960,388 |
| 2/1/2026 | \$4,629,263 | \$3,625,600 | \$994,777 | \$945,783 |
| 2/1/2027 | \$4,628,013 | \$3,623,350 | \$995,777 | \$935,413 |
| 2/1/2028 | \$4,627,263 | \$3,625,350 | \$993,027 | \$921,455 |
| 2/1/2029 | \$4,630,700 | \$3,626,100 | \$995,714 | \$912,793 |
| 2/1/2030 | \$4,630,500 | \$3,625,350 | \$996,264 | \$902,251 |
| 2/1/2031 | \$4,629,700 | \$3,622,850 | \$997,964 | \$892,861 |
| 2/1/2032 | \$4,628,100 | \$3,623,350 | \$995,864 | \$880,214 |
| 2/1/2033 | \$4,630,500 | \$3,622,750 | \$998,864 | \$872,113 |
| 2/1/2034 | \$4,630,500 | \$3,624,800 | \$996,814 | \$859,936 |
| 2/1/2035 | \$4,630,500 | \$3,623,850 | \$997,764 | \$850,488 |
| 2/1/2036 | \$4,630,500 | \$1,884,900 | \$515,334 | \$434,014 |

## REFUNDING SAVINGS: WHEN TO PULL THE TRIGGER?



## A MOVING TARGET:

- Rule of thumb was often $3 \%$ PV savings
- "Conservative" polices called for $5 \%$ savings
- Prior to recent interest rate run-up, double-digit savings were common



## CITY\& COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEBT POLICY

Absent any significant non-economic factors, it is the policy of the City that a refunding should produce minimum debt service savings of at least $3 \%$ of the par value of the refunded bonds on a net present value basis, using the refunding issue's True Interest Cost ("TIC") ${ }^{1}$ as the discount rate.


FORMAL POLICY VS. WISE PRACTICE

- Policies typically set a "minimum" goal
» Risk of losing an opportunity
» Risk of leaving significant savings on the table
- Refunding options have value; in practice, only can be exercised every ten years
- Prior to the call date, the challenge of a forward or advance
- Bird in the hand vs. potential future savings
- After the call date, the call option is a 'wasting asset'


## TAXABLE ADVANCE REFUNDING

- Can generate significant savings when interest rates are low
- Federal tax law restrictions on tax-exempt debt don't apply to taxable debt
- When evaluating a taxable advance refunding, it is helpful to calculate the break-even rate as compared to a future current refunding

| SUMMARY OF REFUNDING SAVINGS: |
| :--- |
| True Interest Cost (TIC): |
| Escrow Size |
| Negative Arbitrage |
| Net Present Value (PV) Savings: |
| \% Savings of Refunded Bonds: |
| Escrow Efficiency |


| TAXABLE | TAX-EXEMPT | BREAKEVEN |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ADVANCE | CURRENT | ANALYSIS |
| REFUNDING | REFUNDING |  |
| $12 / 15 / 2021$ | $12 / 01 / 2023$ |  |
| SEPTEMBER 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020 | +156 BASIS POINTS |
| RATES | RATES |  |
| $1.92 \%$ | $0.93 \%$ | $2.49 \%$ |
| $\$ 233,864,124$ | $\$ 213,912,804$ | $\$ 213,912,804$ |
| $\$ 7,255,650$ | $\$ 140,882$ | $\$ 417,508$ |
| $\$ 31,221,695$ | $\$ 49,548,834$ | $\$ 31,154,833$ |
| $\mathbf{1 4 . 7 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 3 . 3 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 . 6 \%}$ |
| $\mathbf{8 1 . 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{9 9 . 7 \%}$ | $\mathbf{9 8 . 7 \%}$ |

- Negative arbitrage is the dollar cost of the escrow above what the dollar cost if invested at the arbitrage yield
- Escrow efficiency measures the relationship of this cost to savings


## Escrow Efficiency



## WHEN TO PULL THE TRIGGER?



|  | ANALYSIS AS OF DECEMBER 2020 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | TAXABLE ADVANCE | TAX EXEMPT | TAX EXEMPT |
| SCENARIO | NOW | CURRENT <br> @ CALL | CURRENT <br> @ CALL |
| Market Cushion Closing Date | None March 15, 2021 | None Dec 1, 2023 | 211 bps <br> Dec 1, 2023 |
| True Interest Cost | 2.04\% | 0.81\% | 2.93\% |
| Net Present Value Savings | \$25,171,000 | \$49,654,000 | \$25,216,000 |
| Present Value Savings \% | 11.82\% | 23.31\% | 11.84\% |



## MATURITY BY MATURITY ANALYSIS

## MMA FINE TUNES THE POTENTIAL SAVINGS ON AN ADVANCE REFUNDING

- When a partial refunding is possible, no need to refund maturities that don't meet goals

MATURITY-By-MATURITY tAXABLE ADVANCE REFUNDING MONITOR

| REFUNDED MATURITY | REFUNDED COUPON | REFUNDED PAR | $\begin{aligned} & \text { CALL } \\ & \text { DATE } \end{aligned}$ | CALL PRICE | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ESCROW } \\ & \text { RATE } \end{aligned}$ | REFUNDING YIELD | REFUNDING PAR | NPV SAVINGS | SAVINGS <br> AS \% OF REFUNDED PAR | NEGATIVE ARBITRAGE | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ESCROW } \\ & \text { EFFICIENCY } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8/1/2025 | 4.00\% | \$2,090,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 1.54\% | \$2,222,072 | \$28,223 | 1.35\% | \$7,952 | 78\% |
| 8/1/2026 | 4.00\% | 2,440,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 1.77\% | 2,594,189 | 68,798 | 2.82\% | 18,930 | 78\% |
| 8/1/2027 | 3.00\% | 2,815,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 1.92\% | 2,936,953 | 38,995 | 1.39\% | 28,753 | 58\% |
| 8/1/2028 | 4.00\% | 3,185,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.07\% | 3,386,268 | 165,324 | 5.19\% | 41,038 | 80\% |
| 8/1/2029 | 4.00\% | 3,615,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.22\% | 3,843,440 | 212,836 | 5.89\% | 55,801 | 79\% |
| 8/1/2030 | 4.00\% | 4,070,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.18\% | 4,327,193 | 313,378 | 7.70\% | 60,056 | 84\% |
| 8/1/2031 | 4.00\% | 4,555,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.28\% | 4,842,841 | 381,061 | 8.37\% | 74,945 | 84\% |
| 8/1/2032 | 4.00\% | 5,080,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.38\% | 5,401,017 | 448,020 | 8.82\% | 92,188 | 83\% |
| 8/1/2033 | 4.00\% | 5,635,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.53\% | 5,991,089 | 482,587 | 8.56\% | 116,540 | 81\% |
| 8/1/2034 | 4.00\% | 6,225,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 2.68\% | 6,618,372 | 500,516 | 8.04\% | 144,467 | 78\% |
| 8/1/2039 | 4.00\% | 41,455,000 | 8/1/2024 | 100 | 1.32\% | 3.05\% | 44,074,639 | 2,500,909 | 6.03\% | 1,217,266 | 67\% |

## FORWARD DELIVERY REFUNDING

- Tax-exempt current refunding will always generate greater savings than taxable advance, all else equal... but waiting until near the call date entails risk of interest rates rising
- Forward delivery refunding is a middle-ground approach: locks in the bulk of the economics, at the expense of leaving a slice of potential savings on the table
» Refunding bonds are priced, locking-in savings, well ahead of the call date (e.g., a year)
» Bonds settle within 90 days of call date, allowing for tax-exempt status
» Pricing premium for delayed settlement -- typically $\sim 5$ bps per month between pricing and delivery but can vary
» A relatively short "forward" usually more favorable than issuing advance refunding bonds at taxable rates
- Additional considerations:
» Some potential incremental effort (updating OS)
» Savings begin only after the call date
» Practical limit to how far ahead of the call date a forward is feasible
- If a forward is not feasible, more exotic strategies (e.g., "Cinderella" refunding) can accomplish similar objectives

|  | EXAMPLE: OPTIONS IN FALL 2022 |
| ---: | :--- |
| BONDS CALLABLE IN SUMMER 2023 |  |

## OTHER REFUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

## CASH FLOW RESTRUCTURE:

- Restructuring debt payments with a modified amortization schedule and/or repayment term can help issuers better align with annual cash flows.


## RISK REDUCTION:

- Refunding bonds can help to take advantage of enhanced credit profile and/or valuation if there has been improvement since the original issuance.
- Replacing variable-rate debt with fixed-rate debt.



## RATE MANAGEMENT:

- Front-loading savings can help to reduce and/or stabilize rates for escalating debt service.


## AMEND OR REMOVE RESTRICTIVE COVENANT:

- Onerous covenants may be revisited and potentially removed, particularly when replacing a short-term note with longer term debt.


## CONCLUSION

## (1)

- Remember that the option to call bonds has a value
- It can only be exercised once every ten years
- Use it wisely!!


## ,

- Question debt policy refunding targets
- Rules-of-thumb: they may not be well informed


## 4

- With the common use of $5 \%$ or higher coupons (premium bonds), municipal bond loans can be thought of as bullet loans (effectively "coming due" in ten years), but with an interest rate cap of $5 \%$ if you don't refund


## 5

- Approach refunding opportunities with caution
- Virtually everybody advising you regarding a refunding only makes money if you refund your bonds.


## MSRB Rule G-42: Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest \& Legal or Disciplinary Events

 things, Conflicts of Interest and any Legal or Disciplinary events of KNN Public Finance, LLC ("KNN Public Finance") and its associated persons.

## Conflicts of Interest



 mitigates such conflicts through dealing honestly and with the utmost good faith with its clients.


 KNN Public Finance's ability to render unbiased and competent advice or to fulfill its fiduciary duty to the Issuer


## Legal or Disciplinary Events

 Bank or Zions Public Finance, Inc.


 following website: www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html.

 such BrokerCheck information, the Municipal Advisor's CRD number is 4457537.



[^0]:    ■PRIOR DEBT SERVICE ■REFUNDING DEBT SERVICE

