

#### THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO:

# MAKING SENSE OF CORPORATE NOTES AND BONDS

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### INTRODUCTION

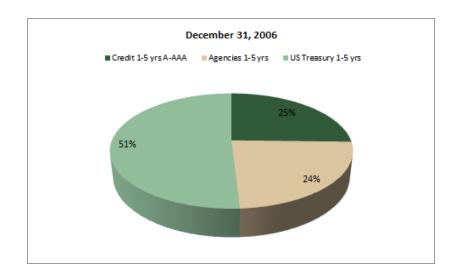
### Benefits Provided by Corporate Notes

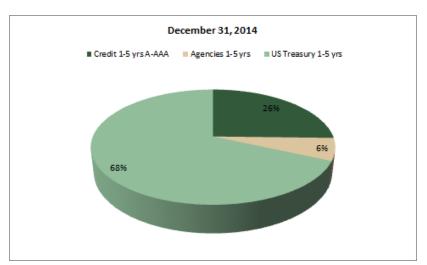
- Safety
  - Corporate notes have seniority in the capital structure
  - A diversified mix of corporate notes helps mitigate issuer risk and credit risk
- Liquidity
  - Corporate notes have a wide maturity range to help meet cash flow requirements
  - Corporate notes have an active secondary market
- Return
  - Corporate notes generally have attractive yields and returns over time relative to Treasury and Agency securities

## Corporate Notes As An Alternative to Agencies

### Pre-Crisis Agency Sector was larger and more attractively priced

## Post-Crisis Agency Sector has contracted and valuation is less attractive

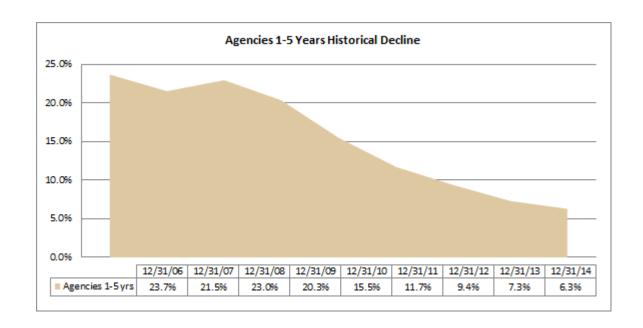




Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch Indices

### The Agency Sector Continues to Contract

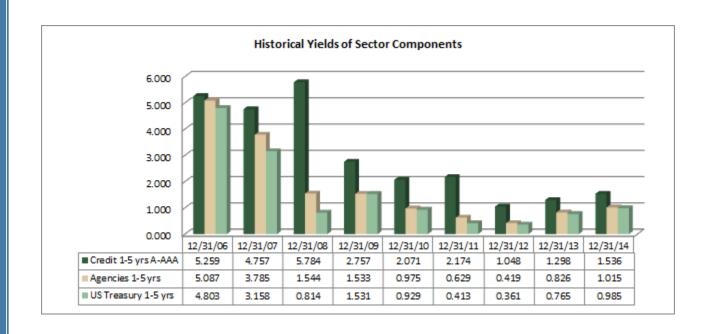
Fannie Mae
and Freddie
Mac have
been
mandated to
contract as
part of the
financial
bailout



Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch Indices

### Adding Value With Corporate Notes

Spread and yield narrowing between the Treasury and Agency sector has investors seeking additional ways to invest consistent with safety, liquidity, and yield



Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch Indices

### Section 1

What are corporate notes and bonds, medium-term notes and the differences beyond the definition?

### What is a Corporate Bond?



#### A corporate bond is a debt security issued by a corporation

- Two Primary Types of Capital
  - Debt
    - Security representing a contractual loan with a stated interest rate and fixed payment due dates of interest and principal
    - Claim on assets is senior to equity holders
    - Asymmetric risk for investors
  - Equity
    - Security representing ownership interest in a company
    - Claim on assets is subordinate to debt holders
    - Upside unlimited and downside is zero

### Corporate Bonds: The Basics

- **PURPOSE:** Corporate bonds are issued by corporations for a variety of purposes including purchasing new equipment, investing in research and development, stock buybacks, paying shareholder dividends, refinancing debt and financing mergers and acquisitions
- □ **CREDIT RATING:** Corporate bonds can be described as either investment grade (high grade) or non-investment grade (high yield or junk), as determined by the bond's associated credit rating
- CASH FLOW: Corporate bonds pay back principal at maturity (a.k.a. bullet security) and periodic interest (typically semi-annually) specified at initial pricing

### Corporate Bond Sectors

- Corporate bond issuers can be split into various sectors. The current Global Industry Classification Standards (GICS) classifications include:
  - Telecommunications
  - Consumer discretionary (Autos, Consumer Durables, Media, Retail)
  - Consumer staples (Food, Beverage, Household, Staples Retailing)
  - Energy
  - Financials (Banks, Diversified Financials, Insurance, Real Estate)
  - Healthcare (Equipment, Pharmaceuticals, Biotech, Life Sciences)
  - Industrials (Capital Goods, Comm & Prof. Services, Transportation)
  - Materials
  - Information Technology (Software, Hardware, Semiconductors)
  - Utilities

### Corporate Bond Registrations

- Corporations are subject to the Securities Act of 1933 when issuing public securities.
   However, certain securities can be exempt from registration under 144A/Reg S
- Securities Act of 1933
  - Requirement that an issuer provide the SEC and potential investors with all relevant information pertaining to an offering through a prospectus and registration statement
- 144(a)
  - Allows for the resale of securities without the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 to qualified institutional buyers ("QIBs") ONLY
    - A QIB is an investor (not an individual) that owns and invests, on a discretionary basis, at least \$100 million in securities; for a broker-dealer the threshold is \$10 million
- Reg S
  - Allows for the sale of securities without the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 to international buyers



### Corporate Bond: Issuance Trends

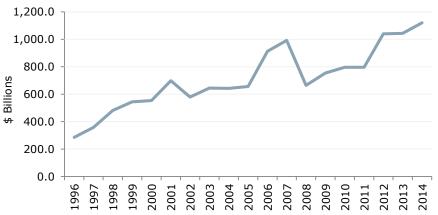
 New issuance in credit markets has reached historical levels as firms have capitalized on

the low interest rate environment.

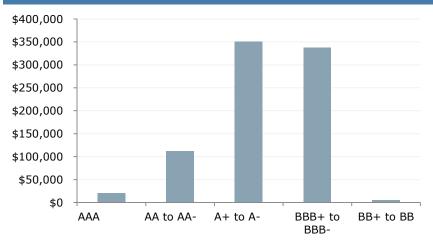
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According to data as of August 7, 2015, corporate bond issuance YTD totaled \$1.05 trillion, a \$105 billion increase over 2014.

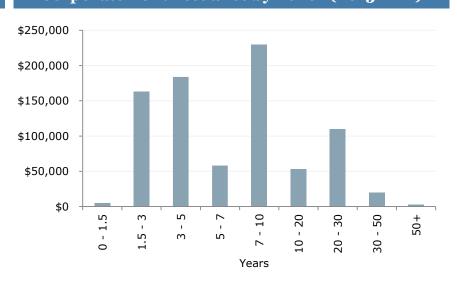
#### **Corporate Bond Issuance**



#### Corporate Bond Issuance by Rating (2015 YTD)



#### Corporate Bond Issuance by Tenor (2015 YTD)



Source: Wells Fargo Securities, SIFMA, data as of June 2015

### Largest Corporate Bond Offerings





Proceeds used to finance acquisition of its wireless unit from Vodafone

Offering was issued with the following maturities:

3Year, 5Year, 7Year, 10Year, 20Year and 30Year



Proceeds used to finance acquisition of Botox maker Allergan Inc.

Offering was issued with the following maturities:

■ 1 Year, 2 Year, 3 Year, 5 Year, 7 Year, 10 Year, 20 Year, and 30 Year



- Proceeds used to finance purchase of DirecTV
- Offering was issued with the following maturities:
  - 5Year, 7Year, 10Year, 20Year and 30Year

### Primary versus Secondary



Corporate bonds trade in both the primary and secondary market.

#### **Primary**

- When bonds are initially offered to the public, they are brought to market via a syndicate process
- An issuer chooses a broker-dealer to price and offer its bonds to the public
- Orders are received by those investors who express interest in purchasing the bonds and the broker-dealer will then allocate bonds to investors accordingly
  - Investors that are fully allocated receive the number of bonds requested
  - Investors that are partially allocated receive only a portion of the bonds requested
  - Investors that are unallocated do not receive any of the bonds requested

#### Secondary

- After bonds have been publicly issued, they then trade in the secondary market
- Liquidity for a corporation's bonds can be determined by:
  - How often the bonds trade in the secondary market
  - The bid/ask spread
  - The deal size and type of investor (s) who hold the security
  - How many bonds trade in the market at any given time

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Corporate bonds can be issued as either fixed, floating or zero coupon. The structure refers to the coupon payment.

#### **Fixed**

- A fixed-rate coupon bond pays a consistent interest payment at a specified interval over the life of the bond.
  - Coupon payments are usually paid on a semi-annual basis

#### **Floating**

- A floating-rate bond pays a variable interest payment at a specified interval over the life of the corporate bond. This variable interest payment will consist of an underlying benchmark plus a spread.
  - Investment grade corporate bonds typically reset at 3-month intervals, but may reset monthly, semi-annually or annually

#### **Zero Coupon**

A zero coupon bond does not pay any interest over the life of the bond. Instead, with this structure, the investor receives all owed principal plus accrued interest at the bond's final maturity.

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Corporate bonds can be issued in a variety of sub-types beyond traditional categories.

#### **Commercial Paper**

- Commercial paper is a negotiable, short-term promissory note issued for a specific amount and matures on a specific date. CP is flexible and can be issued with maturities ranging from 1 day to 397 days.
  - CP is generally issued as a zero coupon security (discount security)

Commercial paper offerings are subject to investor qualification

#### **Convertible Bond**

Convertible bonds can be converted into a predetermined amount of the company's equity after a specific point in time (the bond's call date). This option can be exercised by the bond holder or the issuer, depending on the conversion structure

#### Yankee Bond

A bond that is issued by a foreign issuer in the U.S. market, denominated in U.S. dollars. Often issued as 144(a) and/or Regulation S private placements.

### Issuance Types: Support

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 A consideration for corporate investors is where a particular bond structure ranks in terms of its claims on a company's assets. This ranking determines which investors get paid first in the event of default.

#### Secured / Covered (Senior)

Secured bonds, otherwise known as **covered** or **collateralized** bonds, are backed by specific pledged assets such as a specific piece of real estate, equipment or guarantee which can be sold to pay the bond's principal and interest should the company be unable to pay bond holders

#### **Unsecured (Senior)**

 Unsecured bonds are not secured by collateral but are instead backed by the promise to pay and the general credit worthiness of the company

#### **Subordinated (Junior)**

A type of unsecured debt that is paid only after higher-ranking debt's are paid

### Issuance Types: Call Options

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There are three major types of call options that exist in bonds. None of the options are mandatory, but give either the issuer or investor the "right" to redeem bonds prior to maturity.

#### Callable

- A bond can have a call option associated with either one future date or a series of whereby the issuer can **call** the bonds away from investors. The call date is typically associated with a predetermined call price that the issuer must pay to call
- An issuer will exercise a call for many reasons including, but not limited to:
  - Economic reasons (i.e. if call price at the call date is lower than the current market price)
  - To remove restrictive bond covenants
  - Debt can be reissued at lower all in cost (lower rates)

#### **Puttable**

- Bonds may also have a puttable feature allowing the investor to redeem their bonds prior to maturity, demanding repayment of principal, at one specific date or at periodic time intervals
- An issuer may exercise this puttable feature if rates rise shortly after the initial purchase of a fixed-rate bond to achieve a higher return
- Puttable options are more prevalent in floating-rate bonds versus fixed-rate bonds

#### **Make Whole Call**

A make-whole call option is specific to corporate bonds. A corporate bond can be issued with a make-whole call which gives the issuer the option to redeem the bonds prior to maturity based on a spread over the appropriate treasury rate

Source: Wells Fargo Securities

### Issuance Types: Make Whole Call Options



Corporate bonds can be issued with make-whole calls which give the issuer flexibility to call a bond prior to maturity.

#### **Make Whole Call**

- A make-whole call is usually set at a spread over a Treasury rate. The issuer must pay the price implied by this spread over the appropriate treasury rate, making the investor "whole", in order to redeem the bonds
- Make-whole calls make economic sense to an issuer if the treasury spread results in a bond price that is lower than the current market price. This situation would be beneficial to the issuer and would be an "in-the-money" option for the issuer, but disadvantageous to the investor.

#### **In The Money**

If the credit spread over the associated treasury leads to a market price that is below the current market price, then the option is in the money and the make-whole call can potentially be exercised and hence the bond called away from the investor

#### **Out of the Money**

If the credit spread over the associated treasury leads to a market price that is above the current market price, then the option is out of the money and the make-whole call will not be exercised for economic reasons. The bond will continue to be available for the investor to either hold or trade.

### Corporate Bond Ratings

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- There are both long and short-term bond ratings
- Investment-grade bonds are rated Baa3/BBB- or better, whereas noninvestment grade bonds are rated Ba1/BB+ or lower
- Short-term investmentgrade bonds are rated P-3/A-3/F3 or better

#### **Long Term Bond Ratings**

Investment Grade	Moodys	S&P	Fitch
	Aaa	AAA	AAA
	Aa	AA	AA
nvest	A	Α	A
Non-Investment Grade	Ваа	ВВВ	ВВВ
	Ва	ВВ	ВВ
	В	В	В
	Caa	CCC	ccc
	Са	СС	CC
	С	С	С

#### **Short Term Bond Ratings**

Grade	Moodys	S&P*	Fitch*
	P-1	A-1	F1
	P-2	A-2	F2
vestment	P-3	A-3	F3
Inv	NP	В	В

### Corporate Bond Ratings

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Numbers 1-3 or + / - may accompany a bond to denote its relative riskiness within a rating category, with 1 / + as a better rating than a 2 or 3 / -.

#### **Rating Watch**

- A rating watch indicates a heightened probability of a rating change and the likely direction of such a change, defined as
  - Positive
  - Negative
  - Evolving
- A rating watch is typically event-driven and generally resolved over a relatively short period of time
- A rating watch may also exist to communicate implications for certain events should they occur, or otherwise known as triggering events (i.e. shareholder or regulatory approval)
- A rating change may not always be precipitated by a rating watch change

#### **Rating Outlook**

- A rating outlook indicates the direction that a rating is likely to move over a one to two-year period and reflects trends that have not yet triggered a rating action, but that may do so if the trend continues
- Outlooks can be defined as
  - Stable
  - Positive
  - Negative
- Outlooks are associated with long-term ratings
- An outlook change does not necessarily mean that a bond rating will change nor does a stable outlook mean that the rating will not change

### Corporate Bond Ratings



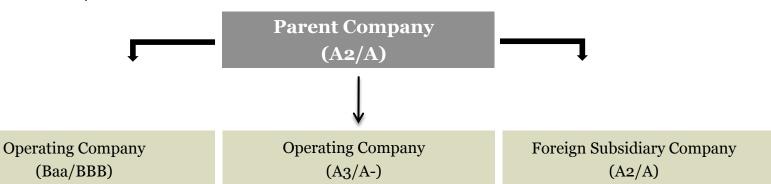
**Parent Company** 

(A2/A+)

**Operating Company** 

(Aa3 / AA)

- A parent company /subsidiary relationship can take on multiple structures as demonstrated in the figures. A parent can have one or multiple operating companies associated with it in addition to varying percentages of ownership.
- Parent companies and their operating companies/subsidiaries can have different ratings depending on a variety of factors, including:
  - Access to liquidity (i.e. Central Banks)
  - Leverage
  - Tax advantages (operations in multiple countries)
  - Cross Guarantees / Support Agreements
  - Industry Outlook



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Maturities, yield and duration risk of corporates.

## Maturity, Yield, and Duration Risk of Corporates



- Most fixed rate bonds pay interest semiannually and at maturity
  - Interest on corporate bonds is based on a year of 360 days made up of twelve 30 day months
  - The corporate calendar day count convention is referred to as 30/360
- In general, the longer the maturity, the higher the additional spread over a similar maturity treasury
- In general, the lower the quality of the issuer, the higher the spread over a similar maturity treasury

### Corporate Bond Terminology

	A corporation or legal entity that issues securities. The fundamentals and credit quality of an issuer will have an			
Issuer	impact on bond ratings and valuation.			
Ticker	A symbol representing a particular security. Investors typically consolidate tickers when considering maximum			
licker	exposure to a particular issuer.			
Coupon	The interest rate stated on a bond at issuance. Higher coupon notes trade at a higher spread in the secondary			
Соорон	market, all else the same.			
Maturity	The length of time that a security remains outstanding. The longer the maturity, the higher the spread, all else the			
Maiority	same.			
Tenor	The amount of time left on the bond contract. Investors should consider the debt maturity distribution of each issuer.			
	The spread over the Treasury yield curve that equates the present value of a bond's cash flows to its market price.			
Option adjusted	It is a measure of a bond's additional return over the return of a comparable Treasury bond, net of the cost of any			
spread (OAS)	embedded options. A higher relative OAS may signal that a security is undervalued, while a lower relative OAS may signal that a security is overvalued.			
	New issues are typically offered at a higher spread than similar securities in the secondary market, depending on			
New Issue Spread	the market environment. Frequency of issuance does not necessarily lead to higher spreads.			
Yield to Worst at New				
Issue Price	The yield earned on a bond, depending on prevailing market rates.			
Treasury Benchmark	Government bond yields are used for comparison, in order to evaluate relative valuation.			
Duration	The sensitivity of a bond price to a change in interest rates. Lower coupon bonds will have a higher duration, all			
Doralion	else the same.			
Amount Issued	Smaller size deals may clear the new issue market at spreads tighter than they should due to supply/demand			
Amount issued	imbalances			
Moody's	An NRSRO (Nationally recognized statistical rating organization)			
Standard & Poor's An NRSRO (Nationally recognized statistical rating organization)				
Fitch	An NRSRO (Nationally recognized statistical rating organization)			

### Relative Valuation of Corporate Bonds

Maturity, Yields, and Risk affect bond pricing

- Credit quality and bond maturity should be considered when analyzing relative valuation
- Upward sloping credit curves depict the additional yield an investor can earn for owning a bond with a longer maturity
- Investors may also earn an additional yield spread for owning a note with lower credit quality

### John Deere Capital Corp vs CVS Health Corp



Comparing Investment Grade Corporate Bonds

- John Deere (DE) is a higher-quality issuer than
   CVS Health (CVS). DE is rated A2/A while
   CVS is rated Baa1/BBB+
- Investors may earn a higher spread for owning CVS vs. DE
- Investors may earn a higher spread for owning a 5-year bond of a particular issuer vs. a 3-year bond









Credit Curve is upward sloping with an additional 15 basis points in spread for purchasing a five year note versus a three year note

Issuer	John Deere Capital Corp	John Deere Capital Corp
Ticker	DE	DE
Coupon	1.600	2.375
Maturity	07/13/18	07/14/20
Tenor	3 year	5 Year
New Issue Spread	68	83
YTW at New Issue Price	1.61%	2.39%
Treasury Benchmark	0.875 7/15/18	1.625 6/30/20
Duration	2.93	4.75
Amount Issued	500mm	500mm
Moody's	A2	A2
S&P	Α	А
Fitch	NA	NA







## Maturity, Duration and Yield of Corporates



## Maturity, Duration and Yield of Corporates

Issuers with lower credit quality typically have a steeper spread curve. In this case CVS 3s/5scurve is 25 basis points versus 15 basis points for John Deere Capital Corp

Issuer	CVS Health Corp	CVS Health Corp
Ticker	CVS	CVS
Coupon	1.900	2.800
Maturity	07/20/18	07/20/20
Tenor	3 year	5 year
New Issue Spread	85	110
YTW at New Issue Price	1.92%	2.82%
Treasury Benchmark	0.875 7/15/18	1.625 6/30/20
Duration	2.92	4.69
Amount Issued	2,250mm	2,750mm
Moody's	Baal	Baal
S&P	BBB+	BBB+
Fitch	NA	NA

## Maturity, Duration and Yield of Corporates

CVS cleared the market 17 basis points wider compared to John Deere at the three year maturity point and 27 basis points wider at the five year maturity point

Issuer	John Deere Capital Corp	CVS Health Corp	John Deere Capital Corp	CVS Health Corp
Ticker	DE	CVS	DE	CVVS
Coupon	1.600	1.900	2.375	2.800
Maturity	07/13/18	07/20/18	07/14/20	07/20/20
Tenor	3 year	3 year	5 year	5 year
New Issue Spread	68	85	83	110
YTW at New Issue Price	1.61%	1.92%	2.39%	2.82%
Treasury Benchmark	0.875 7/15/18	0.875 7/15/18	1.625 6/30/20	1.625 6/30/20
Duration	2.93	2.92	4.75	4.69
Amount Issued	500mm	2,250mm	500mm	2,750mm
Moody's	A2	Baal	A2	Baal
S&P	A	BBB+	A	BBB+
Fitch	NA	NA	NA	NA

# Section 3



Credit criteria for public investments in corporates.

# Selected State Requirements for Corporates

State	Credit Quality	Maturity
Oregon	In State: A/A, A-2/P-2 Out of State: Aa/AA, A-1, P-1	18 months
Utah	A-rated by at least 2 agencies	Fixed: 15 months Float: 3 years
Ohio	Rated in one of the two highest categories by at least two ratings agencies	2 years
Illinois	Rated in one of the three highest ratings categories by at least two rating agencies	180 days
Colorado	Not rated below Aa3/AA- by any rating agency	3 years
California	A or higher by at least one rating agency	5 years

# Section 4

Government Code 53601(k) regarding issuer restrictions and rating requirements.

# Government Code 53601(k) – issuer restrictions and rating requirements

Eligible
investments
are
determined
by California
State Code

## **Medium Term Notes**

All corporates and depository institution debt securities with a maximum remaining maturity of five years or less

Issued by corporations organized and operating within the United States or by depository institutions licensed by the United States or any state operating within the United States

Notes eligible for investment under this subdivision shall be rated "A" or better by an NRSRO

Instruments authorized by this section shall not exceed 30% of the agency's moneys that may be invested pursuant to this section

Refer to CDIAC Issue Brief on Foreign Issuers:

http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cdiac/reports/53601k.pdf

# California Code 53601(k) – issuer restrictions and rating requirements

California Code only stipulates an "A" or better rating from a NRSRO. The three primary NRSRO's are listed; others also qualify to meet the requirement

Standard & Poor's	Moody s	Fitch
AAA	Aaa	AAA
AA+	Aal	AA+
AA	Aa2	AA
AA-	Aa3	AA-
A+	Al	A+
Α	A2	А
A-	А3	A-
BBB+	Baal	BBB+
ВВВ	Baa2	ВВВ
BBB-	Baa3	BBB-
BB+	Bal	BB+
ВВ	Ba2	ВВ
BB-	Ba3	BB-
B+	B 1	B+
В	B2	В
B-	В3	B-
CCC+	Caa1	CCC
CCC	Caa2	DDD
CCC-	Caa3	DD
	Са	D
	С	

# California Code 53601(k) – issuer restrictions and rating requirements



**NRSROs** define the eligible investment set but best practices to have an internal process to determine appropriate corporate notes based on risk

tolerance of

organization

- Rating requirements based on time of purchase
- Split rated securities are allowed but arguably outside of the spirit of the requirement
- Code is silent on the requirements of an agency if a security is downgraded
- 144a securities inconsistent with California
   Code
- □ Refer to CDIAC Issue Brief
  <a href="http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cdiac/issuebriefs/201307.pdf">http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cdiac/issuebriefs/201307.pdf</a>

# California Code 53601(k) – issuer restrictions and rating requirements



Private
Placement
securities are
inconsistent
with
California
Code

- 144a securities are not registered with the SEC
- Not subject to same disclosure requirements as registered securities
- The SEC rule limits who can buy private placement securities to certain Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs)

# California Code 53601(k) – issuer restrictions and rating requirements

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**RDSALN** 2.125 5/11/20 - Ahigh quality issuer but isn't consistent with California Code because the country of incorporation is the **Netherlands** (NL)



# California Code 53601(k) – issuer requirements and rating requirements

PEP 1.85 4/30/20 -Highly Rated, U.S. Domiciled, Medium-Term Bond (Fundamentals, Event Risk, and Relative Valuation should be considered)



# Section 5

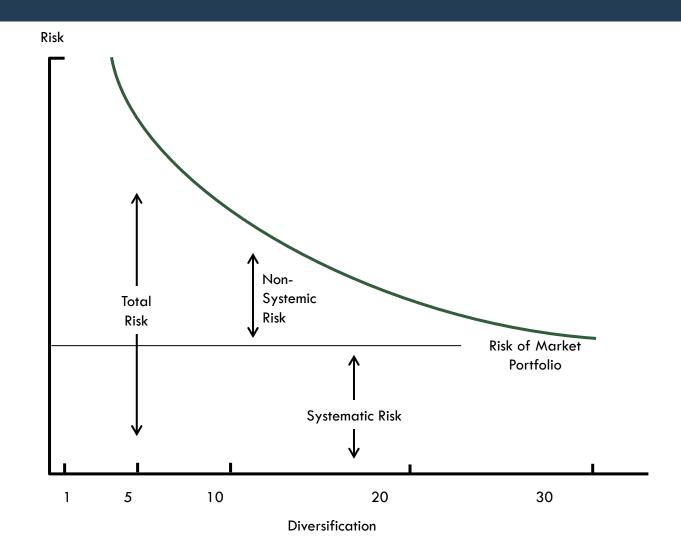
How investing in corporates addresses the need for safety, liquidity and yield in the public investment portfolio.

## Diversification

Diversification may provide additional safety, liquidity, and yield

- A diversified portfolio is one that holds a variety of securities with different characteristics
- Diversification can reduce risk, but cannot eliminate risk
- Diversification can reduce volatility
- The idea of diversification is to create a portfolio with the best combination of risk and expected return

Total risk is comprised of market risk and issuer-specific risk. As portfolio diversification increases, total risk declines



Diversification can help to reduce issuer-specific risk

- Systematic or market risk cannot be diversified
  - Market risk impacts all securities

- Idiosyncratic risk can be diversified
  - Asset type
  - Industry
  - Issuer

A well diversified portfolio has the potential to provide a greater level of safety and reduce the volatility of returns

# Section 6

The analysis required prior to investing in corporates.

# Corporate Bond Analysis: Credit Outlook



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While both top-down and bottom-up approaches have a similar goal, their methodologies are markedly different

Top Down	Bottom Up
Macroeconomic	Cashflow, EBITDA, Debt, etc.
Geopolitical Landscape	Revenue / Earnings Growth Expectations
Sector/Industry Outlook	Peer Analysis Within Sector
Ratings Categories	Sub / Senior / Guarantees
Maturity/Liquidity Profile	Outlook for Industry



## Credit Research & Analysis



- Thorough research and analysis of corporate issuers and industry fundamentals can also help to mitigate risk
- Issuers should be monitored to help anticipate changes in credit quality
- Credit ratios help determine credit quality
- Credit ratios can be evaluated in the context of historical trends and relative to industry peers

# Issuer Specific Research & Analysis



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There are a variety of useful topics to explore when analyzing corporate bond issues

Earnings	<ul><li>Current and historical earnings to evaluate trends</li><li>Compare to peers</li></ul>
Sales/Revenue	<ul> <li>Current and historical sales growth to evaluate trends</li> <li>Compare to peers</li> <li>Are sales cyclical? What point in growth cycle are sales?</li> </ul>
Balance Sheet	<ul> <li>Analyzing a company's balance sheet varies depending on industry as certain line items may or may not exist for the particular industry</li> <li>i.e. physical stores to measure sales per square foot</li> </ul>
Cash Flow Analysis	<ul> <li>Assessing cash inflows and outflows</li> <li>Are there unexpected or sudden cash outflows?</li> <li>What is the company's main source of cash inflow? Is it sales? Or is it debt issuance?</li> </ul>

Source: Wells Fargo Securities

# Issuer Specific Research & Analysis



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There are a variety of useful topics to explore when analyzing corporate bond issues

There are various ratios that can used to assess a company's value as well as its efficiency of operations, etc. Ratio Analysis Important to pay attention to the "make-up" of management (i.e. How long have professionals been in Management & management/leadership role? Have there been any recent changes to the "make-up"?) Corporate Read management presentations/letters Governance What kind of checks and balances are in place? Analysis to determine a company's value. Through determining a company's value, an investor can assess if the current offered equity price is properly valued **Equity Analysis** If the company is overvalued, its debt / equity ratio may be overly optimistic How restrictive are covenants? What type of covenants exist?

**Bond Covenants** 

- Is the company at risk for breaching a covenant?
  - Generally bonds have few covenants, but loans and revolving lines of credit, which are valuable sources of capital have covenants which, if breached, would have an influence on corporate bonds

Source: Wells Fargo Securities

# Issuer Specific Research & Analysis



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There are a variety of useful topics to explore when analyzing corporate bond issues

NRSRO Ratings	<ul> <li>Nationally recognized statistical rating organizations – NRSROs. Ratings from NRSROs can help assess the credit worthiness of an investment, however ratings should not be the only determinant to assess value in a corporate bond</li> <li>For a list of NRSROs, visit the Office of Credit Ratings on the SEC website at http://www.sec.gov/ocr</li> </ul>
Capital Structure	<ul> <li>What does the company's capital structure (how it finances itself) look like?</li> <li>What are the main sources of financing?</li> </ul>
Liquidity	<ul> <li>Does the company have access to cash or assets which can be converted to cash relatively quickly?</li> <li>How much liquidity does the company current have relative to its amount of liabilities?</li> <li>How does the company's liquidity compare to industry standards (peers)?</li> </ul>
Event Risk	<ul> <li>There are situations that can negatively affect a company, these situations are referred to as Event Risk.</li> <li>These situations can refer to actual events such as a terrorist attack or corporate takeover (i.e. merger &amp; acquisition) or potential events that can affect a company's rating or liquidity (i.e. if certain covenants are breached)</li> </ul>

Source: Wells Fargo Securities, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

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Ratio analysis is used to help evaluate a corporation's financial and operating trends which are useful for investment decisions

investment decisio	ns.		
Interest Coverage	Total Debt/Capital	Return on Equity	Free Cash Flow/Debt
<ul> <li>Used to determine how easily a company can pay interest on outstanding debt</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Measures a company's financial leverage</li></ul>	The amount of net income returned as a percentage of shareholders equity	<ul> <li>Debt coverage ratio –         estimates the amount of time         it would take to repay debt         if all FCF was devoted to         debt repayment</li> </ul>
$= \frac{EBIT}{Interest\ Expense}$	$= \frac{\textit{Debt}}{\textit{Shareholders Equity} + \textit{Debt}}$	$= \frac{Net\ Income}{Shareholders\ Equity}$	$=\frac{Free\ Cash\ Flow}{Debt}$
Debt/EBITDA	Debt/Equity	Short term Debt/Total Debt	
<ul> <li>Measures a company's ability to pay off its incurred debt</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Measures a company's financial leverage</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Measures a company's reliance on short-term debt</li> </ul>	
Debt	Total Liabilities	$Short-term\ Debt<1YR$	
$={EBITDA}$	$={Shareholders\ Equity}$	=	

# Ratio Analysis



Efficiency ratios are an overall category that include specific measures of how well a company is using various resources.

Asset Turnover	Accounts Receivable Turnover	Days Sales in Inventory	Working Capital Ratio
<ul> <li>Measures a company's ability to generate sales from its assets</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Measures how many times a business can turn its accounts receivable into cash during a period</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Measures the number of days it will take a company to sell all of its inventory</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Also called the current ratio or liquidity ratio. Measures a company's ability to pay off its current liabilities with current assets</li> </ul>
$= \frac{\textit{Net Sales}}{\textit{Avg Total Assets}}$	$= \frac{\textit{Net Credit Sales}}{\textit{Avg Accounts Receivable}}$	$= \frac{Ending\ inventory}{Cost\ of\ Good\ Sold} \times 365$	$= \frac{Current\ Assets}{Current\ Liabilities}$

- Ratio analysis can be compared across peers to determine a company's relative strengths and weaknesses as well as to gauge the value of the various calculated ratios
- Ratio analysis is more useful when compared across a timeframe rather than just using a specific point in time. Through comparing values over time, one can gather intelligence on a company's current performance

## Section 7

Types of risks associated with corporates and comparison to other asset classes.

## Investment Benefits and Considerations



**Benefits** 

#### Diversification

The universe of available corporate bonds is vast, encompassing different sectors of the economy as well as a range of investment objectives (interest rate, maturity, etc), for short-term investors, diversification away from financial risk is very important

### Steady income

 Most fixed income corporate bond securities pay interest semi-annually, allowing for a steady income stream to the investor

### Attractive yields

 Corporate bonds offer a higher yield than similarmaturity government bonds

### Liquidity

The market is very large and secondary trading is quite active.

## Considerations

### Economic/Market risk

 Market and economic dynamics can affect new corporate bond issuance as well as trading spreads

#### Credit risk

 Measured by the likelihood of default. This risk is calculated in both the bond rating as well as the spread over the appropriate treasury rate

#### Interest rate risk

 Fluctuations in interest rates can cause movements in the price and subsequently, the bonds yield and return, if sold before maturity

### Liquidity risk

 Liquidity can fluctuate based on an individual issuer dynamics. An investor should not not rely on dealer liquidity as a backstop

#### Call risk

 Some corporate bonds are issued with a makewhole call which gives the issuer the option to call a bond prior to maturity.

### Inflation risk

 As inflation fluctuates, so will an investor's real return

## Investment Benefits and Considerations



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Individual issuers have their own risk profiles that must be considered before making an investment decision.

Each corporation operates in a unique manner therefore factors that affect credit risk, which include default and rating changes, can vary Credit Risk Each corporation is subject to both industry and company specific situations that may cause adverse changes to the company's financial strength **Event Risk** Liquidity risk will vary from company to company as well as across the various maturities available from a specific company Liquidity Risk Call risk can vary dramatically from company to company as well as within a corporation, as there may be economic and non-economic reasons for a company to call bonds away at any time Call Risk

Source: Wells Fargo Securities

# Managing Risk

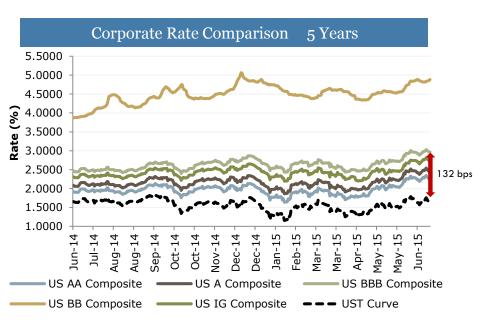


- Investors can manage and/or reduce risk in a variety of ways:
  - Diversification
    - Industries/Sectors
    - Issuers
    - Maturities
  - Credit research and analysis
    - There are a variety of resources for investors to acquire knowledge of a corporation and its debt such as rating agency reports, credit analyst reports, etc
  - Credit monitoring
    - Ongoing monitoring of corporate bonds to analyze rating changes, spread changes as well as current news, will help investors manage risk

# Corporate Bond Spread Indications



Below are spreads for the various rating categories for Corporate bonds. The current spread for BBB rated Corporate bonds, as pointed out in the chart to the left, is 132 bps



Current Rates (%)		
AA	2.2740	
Α	2.4700	
BBB	2.9660	
BB	4.8850	
IG	2.7490	
UST	1.6479	

Spreads	
AA / BB	261.1 bps
AA / BBB	69.2 bps
	·
AA / UST	62.61 bps
A / UST	82.21 bps
BBB / UST	131.81 bps

## Monitoring Corporate Issuers



Issuers should be monitored on a daily basis to help anticipate changes in credit quality

- □ Key Aspects of Credit Research:
  - Quarterly and Annual Earnings, Revenues, Cash Flows
  - Credit ratios over time and relative to peers
  - Bond Covenants and Changes to Issuer's Capital Structure
  - **■** Equity Performance
  - Event Risk
  - NRSRO Ratings Changes
  - Industry Trends and Economic Cycles
  - Overall news flow (issuer-specific, industry, and economic)

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## Resources

- There are a variety of sources in which to obtain information for analyzing corporate bonds, including:
  - SEC filings
  - Press releases
  - Credit research reports
  - Equity research reports
  - Bloomberg
  - News publications, ie. Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Reuters
  - Management presentations
  - Investor/analyst meetings

# Key Terms

**Collateral** - Assets pledged by a borrower to secure repayment of a loan or bond.

**Coupon** - A bond's stated interest rate.

<u>Default</u> – A borrower's failure to make timely payments of interest and principal when due or to meet other requirements related to the bonds.

<u>Face Value</u> – The value that appears on the front, or face, of a bond, which represents the amount the issuer promises to repay at maturity. Also known as par or principal amount.

<u>Interest</u> – Compensation paid or to be paid for the use of money, generally expressed as an annual percentage rate. The rate may be constant over the life of the bond (fixed-rate), or may change from time to time by reference to an index (floating-rate).

<u>Liquidity</u> – Capacity of a market to absorb a reasonable level of buying/selling without significant movements in the price.

<u>Maturity</u> – The date when the principal amount of a bond becomes due and payable.

**Security** - Collateral pledged by a bond issuer (debtor) to an investor (lender) to secure repayment of the loan.

**Volatility** - The propensity of a security's price to rise or fall.

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