



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PR 20:65  
November 18, 2020

Contact: [Mark DeSio](#)  
(916) 926-1167

## State Treasurer Announces Sale of \$100 million of Variable Rate General Obligation Bonds and Use of Innovative Electronic Trading Platform

**SACRAMENTO** – California State Treasurer Fiona Ma today announced the sale of \$100 million of variable rate General Obligation bonds to fund projects authorized by the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act, which was approved by voters in 2014.

The bonds will bear interest at a variable interest rate which will be determined weekly. The initial interest rate was set on the pricing date by the Underwriter, Siebert Williams Shank & Co. Following the initial weekly interest rate period, the weekly interest rate for the bonds will be determined by the Clarity BidRate Alternative Trading System (Clarity).

Clarity is an innovative electronic trading platform that enables a centralized marketplace for bidding, pricing, trading, and analyzing data for municipal variable rate securities. Investors in the bonds participate in a competitive bid process where they are able to directly bid each week for the bonds. Bonds are then allocated to investors based on their bid level and the final clearing rate.

“I strongly support Clarity’s goals to democratize the variable rate market by creating an investor controlled marketplace that maximizes transparency, leverages technology, and helps to promote a broader and deeper distribution of bonds which could lead to improving overall risk for issuers and investors alike,” said Treasurer Ma.

The bonds are secured by an irrevocable direct-pay letter of credit from State Street Bank and Trust Company and rated are rated AAA/A-1+ by S&P Global Ratings, AA/F1+ by Fitch Ratings and Aa1/VMIG 1 by Moody’s Investors Service.

The calendar of all upcoming state bond sales is available at [BuyCaliforniaBonds.com](http://BuyCaliforniaBonds.com)

*Fiona Ma is California’s 34th State Treasurer. She was elected on November 6, 2018 with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state’s history. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer’s Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads,*

*housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Her office processes more than \$2 trillion in transactions within a typical year. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio of about \$109.2 billion, \$32.4 billion of which are local government funds. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds, and is trustee on outstanding debt of \$94 billion.*

**For More News About The State Treasurer's Office, Visit Us:**

