

June 9, 2012
Niche for an individual investor:
Low Risk California Muni Bond Strategy

Roddy Sloss, Individual Investor

California Muni Bond Market

Finding Bonds

Performing the Credit Evaluation

Buying the Bond

Monitoring your Investments

#### PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

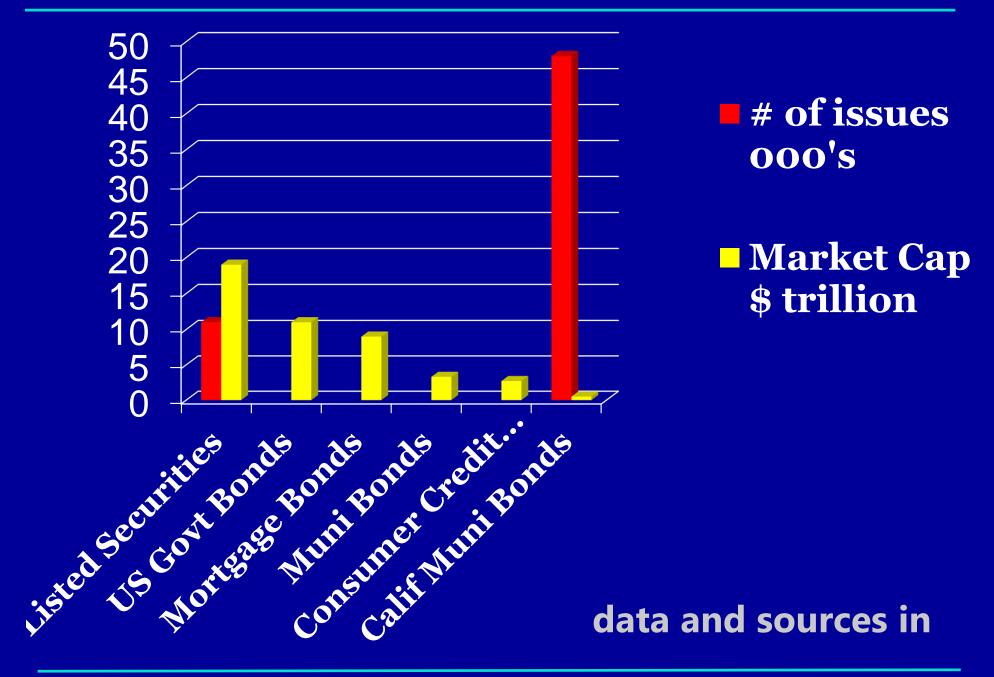
- Roddy Sloss: Individual Investor
  - BS, Business University of California, Berkeley (1966)
  - CPA California (inactive)
  - PricewaterhouseCoopers, Financial Auditor (1966-1979)
  - Kaufman & Broad (NYSE), Director Controls Evaluation & Audit (1979-1983)
  - Cordura (NYSE), CFO / Secretary (1983-1987)
  - Daisy Systems (NASDAQ), CFO / Secretary (1987-1990)
  - Sigoloff & Associates, Consultant (1990-1994)
  - Lattice Semiconductor Corporation (NASDAQ), VP Finance (1994-2005)
  - Retired (2005 present)
  - Los Altos Hills town finance committee (2008 present)

#### **DISCLAIMER**

- Information presented or discussed during this meeting is neither confidential nor proprietary, was developed by the presenter and may contain inaccuracies, oversights and errors as it has not been subjected to a third party review or fact check.
- The presenter is neither a professional investor, public speaker, nor a practicing accountant.
- The presentation is based on market conditions at this time and for the three years ending in June 2012. This strategy is unlikely to work if market conditions substantially change.
- Transactions and investments in this presentation are characterized as tax free meaning income tax free for California income tax payers. Alternative minimum tax, capital gains tax and income tax related to original issue discount may or may not be applicable in determining the income tax status of these transactions. Tax Free characterization may or may not be applicable to all recipients of this presentation and may change over time.

# CALIFORNIA MUNI BOND MARKET

### California Muni Bond Market - Market Size



# NICHE MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

**Small issues** 

Low turnover

No exchange to resell securities

No institutional research

Legal foundation varies by state

**Unrated securities common** 

# California Muni Bond Market - Market Segments

#### TWO MARKETS

I. INITIAL OFFERING - Better disclosure and more risk

For institutional and individual investors

**Invitation only** 

**Boutique local brokers** 

- II. SECONDARY MARKETS Worse disclosure and less risk
  - 2 sub SEGMENTS:
  - 1) \$100,000+ for institutional investors (Bloomberg)
  - 2) > \$100,000 online bulletin boards for individual investors

# FINDING BONDS

# **FINDING BONDS - Getting Started**

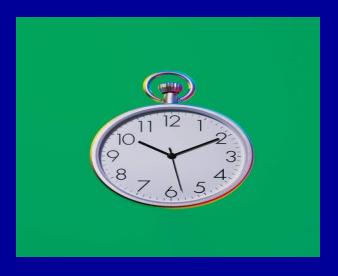
# Pre requisites:











# **Finding the Market - Free Internet Tools**



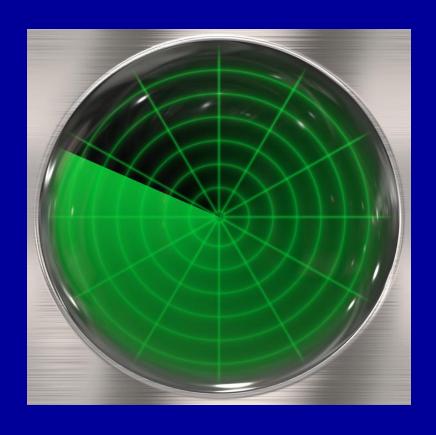




# Finding the Bonds – Free Internet Tools

# **Use Advanced Search Tool**

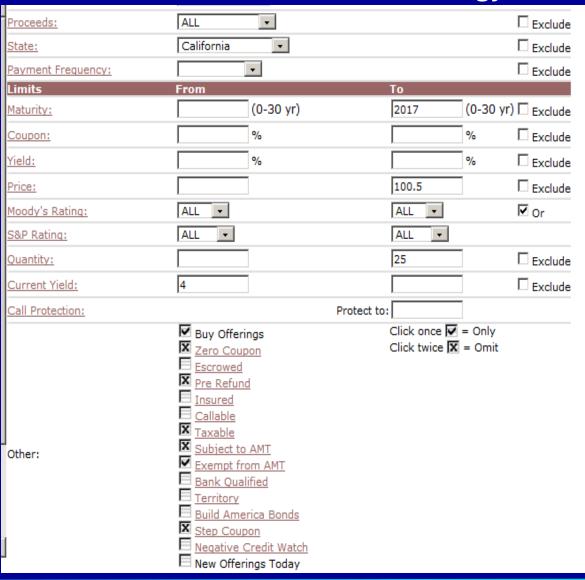
Vanguard's is nested
5 levels down





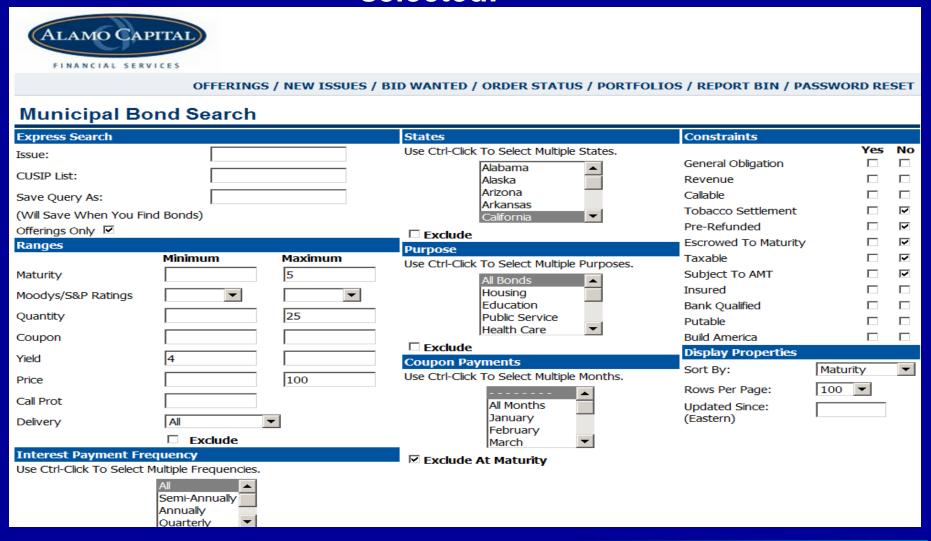
# Finding Bonds – Free Internet Tools

#### Vanguard Advanced Search Screen with strategy criteria selected:



### Finding Bonds - Free Internet Tools

# Alamo Advanced Search Screen with Strategy Criteria selected:



# Finding Bonds – Free Internet Tools

# - Vanguard search results: bonds offered for sale (5/1/12)

Depth	Qty	Min Qty	ST	CUSIP	Issue	Coupon	Maturity	Price	Yield	Moody/ S&P	Credit Watch
	5	5	CA	861407BS2	Stockton Calif Rev Ctfs P Callable 09/13@100 - OID - Extraordinary Calls - Redev/Ld Clearance Use - Material Events - AMBAC insured	3.7	09/01/2017	81.419	8	WR/ CC	/ (NEG)
more	115	5	CA	861395DV0	Stockton Calif Pub Fing A Exempt From State & Local Income Taxes - Material Events - RADIA insured	5	09/01/2016	91.3	7.345	-/ B+	/
	150	25	CA	317077AK1	Fillmore Calif Redev Agy H OID - Material Events	5	05/01/2016	94.192	6.65	-/ -	/
	50	5	CA	861402CY9	Stockton Calif Redev Agy Callable 09/14@100 - OID - Extraordinary Calls - Civic/Conventn Ctrs Use - Material Events - FGIC insured	3.6	09/01/2017	89.054	6	WR/ BBB	/
	10	5	CA	250419DH8	Desert Hot Springs Calif  Material Events -  AMBAC insured	4	09/01/2014	98	4.89	-/ B	/ (NEG)
	10	5	CA	861394AH7	Stockton Calif Pub Fing A  OID - Material Events - FGIC insured	4	09/01/2013	99	4.741	WR/ BBB	/
	15	15	CA	861394BG8	Stockton Calif Pub Fing A Callable 08/14@100 - Exempt From State & Local Income Taxes - Extraordinary Calls - Gen Purp/Pub Impt Use - Material Events - NATL insured	4	08/01/2015	98	4.655	Baa2/ BBB	/
	25			861394BH6	Stockton Calif Pub Fing A  Exempt From State & Local Income Taxes - Extraordinary Calls - Gen Purp/Pub Impt Use - Material Events - NATL insured  Call (a) Yield to Par Call (w) Yield to Middle Call		08/01/2016		4.254	ВВВ	/

(n) Floating/Variable rate - (c) Yield to Call - (p) Yield to Par Call - (w) Yield to Middle Call - (u) Yield to Put - (dis) Discount Yield - (mmy) Money Market Yield - (r) Pre-Refund - (t) Mandatory Put - (f) Called in Full

# A Case Study – Stockton's threatened bankruptcy opportunity



# **BANKRUPTCY NEWS**

THE LATEST INFORMATION

Bankruptcy News » Filing Bankruptcy

Stockton, California Weighs the Possibility of Chapter 9
Bankruptcy

May 25, 2012

By: John Clark

The city of Stockton, California is reportedly weighing whether to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy in order to remedy its \$26 million budget shortfall, according to a recent report from the Stockton Record.

This week, City Manager Bob Deis released a proposed budget that includes a \$26 million gap, and he offered three potential solutions to cover the difference, including filing for municipal bankruptcy.

# PERFORMING THE CREDIT EVALUATION

## Performing the credit evaluation - What is Safe?

- Attributes of a good credit risk:
  - High ratio of collateral to bond value
  - Borrower able to make timely payments
  - Borrower reports periodically
  - History of ethical and responsible behavior
  - Payment source is observable and verifiable







# **MARKET CATEGORIES OF BONDS:**

- General obligation (aka GO)
- Revenue (aka certificate of participation)
- Community facility (aka Mello Roos)
- Redevelopment (aka tax increment)

# General Obligation bonds

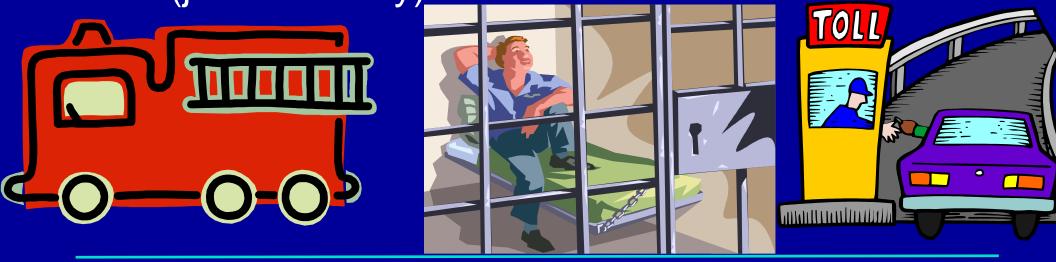
- + Issuer's credit reputation is at risk
- Most General Fund revenue sources
  - Hard to evaluate credit



# Revenue (certificate of participation) bonds

+ /- May or may not be similar to GO
 e.g. building lease payable from General
 Fund vs. dedicated revenue from toll road

+ /- Asset financed may or may not be critical (jail vs. library)



Community facility (aka Mello Roos) bonds

- + Easy to evaluate
- + Often have high value to loan ratio
- + Usually not redeemed early
- Be careful where property not built out



# Redevelopment (tax increment) bonds

- + sometimes have high value to loan ratio
- hard to evaluate
- collateral is often diluted
- subject to abuse





# Where does your information come from?

	Information Source								
		WEBS	CON	TACT					
Question	Broker	EMMA	Issuer	Other	Issuer	Broker			
Bond terms	X	Χ							
Bond type		Χ							
Credit evaluation		X	X	X	X	Χ			
Trading history		X							
News		X	X	X	X	Χ			
Buyers	X	X			X	Χ			

# Performing the Credit Evaluation – Free Research Tools

# **EMMA**



EMMA® - Electronic Municipal Market Access

The Official Source for Municipal Disclosures and Market Data

About EMMA

Muni Search

Market Activity

Education Center

EMMA Dataport

Home > Muni Search > Search Results > Issuer Details > Issue Details > Security Details

#### **Security Details**

EL DORADO CNTY CALIF SPL TAX CMNTY FACS DIST NO 2005-2 (CA)\*

CUSIP: 283113DJ4 \*

Dated Date: 04/20/2006 Maturity Date: 09/01/2016

Interest Rate: 4.7 %

Principal Amount At Issuance: \$90,000

Initial Offering Price: 99.185

Official Statement

Continuing Disclosure

Trade Activity

Ratings new

View the official statement, which is the most complete source of information about the securities as of the time of initial issuance.

### **Performing the Credit Evaluation – Initial Disclosure**

Official Statement project description deal terms risk factors taxes initial expectations early retirement

NEW ISSUE-RULL BOOK ENTRY

NOT RATED

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# \$3,750,000 COUNTY OF EL DORADO COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2005-2 (Laurel Oaks) SPECIAL TAX BONDS, SERIES 2006

Dated: Date of Delivery

Due: September Las shown below

The hends coptioned above (the 'Donzis'), are being sensed by Jip County of FI Donzolo (the 'Limity') by and through its Community Profilines. Permitt No. 2005.2 (in and Chick) (the 'District'). The Hends are special task obligations of the County, authorized possession of the Millor-Roop Community Health as Act in 1982, as unneceded being Cultifornia Covernment. On Section 3531, it is seen that Act and permitted the Act and A

The Bands are being issued as fully registered bonds registered is the atoms of Case & Co. as nomines of the Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (DTC), and will be seasible to infurnate proclaser to the decompanion of \$5,000 or say integer institute thereof, make the book-may agreen reginated by 0.11. See "APPENDIX OF DOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM".

The Bonds are secured by and asyable from a pickage of Special Taxes for defined herein for the eventh with County on excelled end property width. It boundary of the Derrice, it on the processor of any forestrooms cross brought Folkowing a delinguage, with the processor of the Special Taxes, and from annuments held in certain forces under the Fiscal Agent Agreement, all as more fully described became. Lapid Special Taxes do not constitute a personal undebredness of the owners of the parcels widthin the Derrice. In the excess of destinguency, proceedings must be conducted only against the pracel of end property securing the delinguage feed in Tax. There is no assurance feed on where will the indistribution in Jay 100 Special Tax or that they will pay a Special Tax even the temped financingly able to do so. To growing funds for purpose of the standard the interest versions as aresalt of any definition of the County will explain that the Reserve Fund from proceeds of the Hands, as described herein. Sec SECURITY AND SURFICES OF PRAYMENT LOST OF HER BONDS.

Propagy in the District subject to the Special on comprises approximately 40.01 goes sent in the western portion of the Councy shrand for 99 single-thindly homes. The land is contrastly being developed and is controlled by the Distriction defauld having) Not THE DISTRICT's most SWNITESHIP OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE DISTRICT'S MOST SWNITESHIP OF T

The Bonds are subject to optional, extraordinary and mandatory widemption prior to maturity as described berein. See "THE BONDS - Redemption."

SETTIFE THE PARTH AND CREDIT NOR THE TAXING POWER OF THE COURTY, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THERETO A PRETABLED TO THE DAYMENT OF THE BOYDS. THE BOYDS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A DEBT OF THE COUNTY WITHIN THE MEANING OF ANY STATINGRY OR CONSTITUTIONAL DEBT LIMITATION, THE GENERAL STANDOR THE COUNTY IS NOT L'ABILITIONAL DEBT LIMITATION, THE GENERAL STANDOR THE COUNTY IS NOT L'ABILITIONAL DEBT LIMITATION, THE GENERAL STANDOR THE COUNTY IS NOT L'ABILITIONAL DESTRUCTION OF THE COUNTY OR ANY OF ITS DECOME OR RECEIPTS. PAYER THE MIDHAY IN THE SECTION DESCRIBED HERDEN, THE DOTORNATION SET FORTH THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT, DESCRIBED HERDEN, THE DOTORNATION SET FORTH THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT, DESCRIBED HERDEN, THE DOTORNATION SET FORTH THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT, DESCRIBED HERDEN, THE DOTORNATION OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

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#### MATERITY SCHEDULE

Maturity					Vancrity				
Date	Principal.	Interest	Pricy or	CHISTP	Dare	Princ-pal	Interest	Price or	CUSIP
(Sept. 11	Amount	R.tre	Yleld	(283113)	(Sept 1)	Amuuni	Rane	Yield	$(283113)^{\circ}$
2007	\$25,000	3.8:H/95	100000%	1:29	2014	270,000	4.600%	4,700%	DG0
2008	30,000	\$300H	100,000	DAO	2015	80,000	4 635	4.750	DER
2009	35,000	4.000	4, 900	1981	2016	90 000	4,700	4.800	D)1
2010	40,000	4.100	4.200	DCA	3017	300,000	4.750	48.90	DKT
2011	39,000	4.750	43550	1207	2018	190,000	4.500	4,900	DL9
2012	55,000	4.375	4.450	DES	2019	205,000	4.890	5,000	DM7
2013	65,000	4.500	4.600	DF2	2020	110,000	4.373	3,000	DM2

N800,000 5,000% Term Bond Day September 1, 2026 Price: 99,000% CUSIP, 283113 FQR 31,095/003 N100%. Team Band Dise September 1, 2026 Price: 99,000% CUSIP: 283113 DR6

#### WESTHOFF, CONE & HOLMSTEUT

The else of this Official Statement is April 5, 2006

The Bonds, are offered often, us and if issued, subject to approval as to their legality by Ornel, Hardogon & Steeliffs LLP. Sin Francisco, Cultimine, Band-Caussed. Cartain topal across will be passed on to drow [Fed.] is Projectional Lim Congruents, or Obstaver Caussed. Across legal matter will be passed upon for the Caussed by Congruent Caussed. Across Caussed. Across legal matter will be passed upon for the Caussed by Congruent Caussed. Across Caussed Across Caussed Caus

# **Credit Evaluation – Ongoing Disclosure Responsibility**

Continuing Disclosure

current performance problems new developments



County of El Dorado CFD 2005-2 Special Tax Bonds, Series 2006

**Continuing Disclosure Annual Report** 

Fiscal Year Ending: June 30, 2011

## **Performing the Credit Evaluation – Looking For Problems**

# **Skim Continuing Disclosure:**

- CAFR
- Budgets (issuer website)
- Continuing Disclosure Report
   Mello Roos? Check for
   Teeter Plan

(Checklist in the Appendix)



# **Performing the Credit Evaluation - Drilling Down**

# Peruse:

### **Official Statement**

- Risk factors
- Description of project

**CAFR** 

**Budget** 

(Checklist in the Appendix)



### **Performing the Credit Evaluation – more free resources**

# The issuers website



- most recent budgets and financials
- governing board's meeting agendas and minutes

# Other





- Google maps
- Zillow .com
- local press
- telephone the issuer's financial officer
- ask a bond trader familiar with the security





# **BUYING THE BOND**

AAII

# **Buying the Bond - Things to Remember**

**Confirm the CUSIP#** 

\$ in account?

**Price flexible?** 

Pay par or less

Set up alerts



# MONITORING YOUR INVESTMENTS

AAII

#### MONITORING YOUR INVESTMENTS

# Retain key data in a spreadsheet (appendix)

# Summarize by year of maturity

Investment Name	Type	Formal Name	cusip	Maturity	Bonds
LA HUD Office HQ	go	LOS ANGELES C	54456pad2	6/1/2012	15
Fontana Heritage Village	rev	Calif Spl Tax Ref-	344630gw2	9/1/2012	5
LA HUD Office HQ	go	LOS ANGELES C	54456pad2	6/1/2013	5
SanJose Off Ind Shop Hous	rev	SAN JOSE CA RI	798147f58	8/1/2013	15
Calif Statewide Commercia	mello	CALIFORNIA ST	13078YBP9	9/2/2013	10
Vacaville Library	go	VACAVILLE CAI	918559DR3	12/1/2013	20
LA Bunker Hill OfficeShop	redev	LOS ANGELES C	544389z36	3/1/2014	15
Montebello Industrial	redev	Montebello Calif Co	612280kf3	9/1/2014	25
Modesto Ca Water	rev	MODESTO CALI	607769ED4	9/1/2014	10
San Diego Centre City	redev	San Diego Calif R	797300UT5	9/1/2014	5
Turlock Ca Emanuel Hosp	rev	TURLOCK CA H	900173BG9	10/15/2014	10
Foothill Eastern Toll Rd (C	rev	Foothill Easter Co	345105DZ0	1/15/2015	25

	<u>Total</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total	\$232,580	\$20,051	\$39,915	\$39,746	\$79,295	\$43,594	\$9,979
%	100.0%	8.6%	17.2%	17.1%	34.1%	18.7%	4%
Maturity	2.8	0.4	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.1

#### **MONITORING YOUR INVESTMENTS – Free Tools**

- Check broker calculated unrealized gain/loss often
- Use EMMA Alert service for news (see appendix)
- If there is a concern, use EMMA Alert service to report new trades (see appendix)



# MONITORING YOUR INVESTMENTS - Selling

# If you have to sell:

- Review EMMA data (including other maturities)
- Find dealers who know the bond and credit (usually found in issuers geographic area)
- Contact several dealers (phone / email)
- Explain why you are selling (no one wants a lemon)
- If there is bad news, don't sell in a panic.

- Research skills improve quickly
- Don't buy if in doubt
- Persistence is rewarded mining for value
- Selling can be expensive take your time
- Interest rates will go up stay short term

# THANK YOU

# **APPENDIX**

AAII

#### **APPENDIX - California Muni Bond Market – Market Size**

- MUNI BOND MARKET OVERVIEW (\$ = market cap)
  - -NYSE & NASDAQ \$19 trillion (9,000 securities)
  - -US Treasuries and Agencies \$11 trillion
  - Mortgage securities \$ 9 trillion
  - -Corporate Bonds \$ 7 trillion
  - -Muni Bonds \$ 3 trillion (30,000 securities / ~300,000 maturities – CA 16%, Tx 10%, NY 9%)
  - Asset backed notes (credit cards / car loans) \$3 trillion

Data from SIFMA 2012 website; NYSE & NASDAQ from Co.website and 10k; e Trade primer; Bnod Desk 7/11 monogragh, MSRB 2010 Data book.

#### MARKET ATTRIBUTES

45% of transactions are \$25,000 or less (66% <\$50,000)

60% of trades are buyers

90% tax free securities

80% of transactions are in secondary market

51% of transactions are fixed rate securities (vs. variable or zero coupon)

17% of trades are for securities that mature in 5 yrs or less

Source and more details: www.msrb.org/msrb1/pdfs/MSRB2010FactBook.pdf

#### MARKET ATTRIBUTES

#### **Maturity**

- -17% 5 years or less
- -20% 5-10 years
- -18% 10-15 years
- -24% 20-30 years

#### **Market**

- 20% New issue
- 80% Secondary

information source: www.msrb.org/msrb1/pdfs/MSRB2010FactBook.pdf

#### MARKET ATTRIBUTES

#### **Buyers v Sellers**

- **Buyers** = 60%
- **Sellers** = 40%

#### **Purpose of Financing**

- State and local Gen Obligation 30%
- Special tax, utilities, leasing 35%
- Hospital 9%
- Schools 7%
- Transportation 15%
- Other 4%

#### Non taxable v taxable

- 90% tax free
- 10% taxable

information source:

www.msrb.org/msrb1/pdfs/MSRB2010FactBook.pdf

#### MARKET ATTRIBUTES

New issues v secondary market

- New Issues = 17%
- Secondary market = 83%

#### Interest calculation method

- Fixed rate = 51%
- Variable rate = 46%
- Zero coupon = 3%

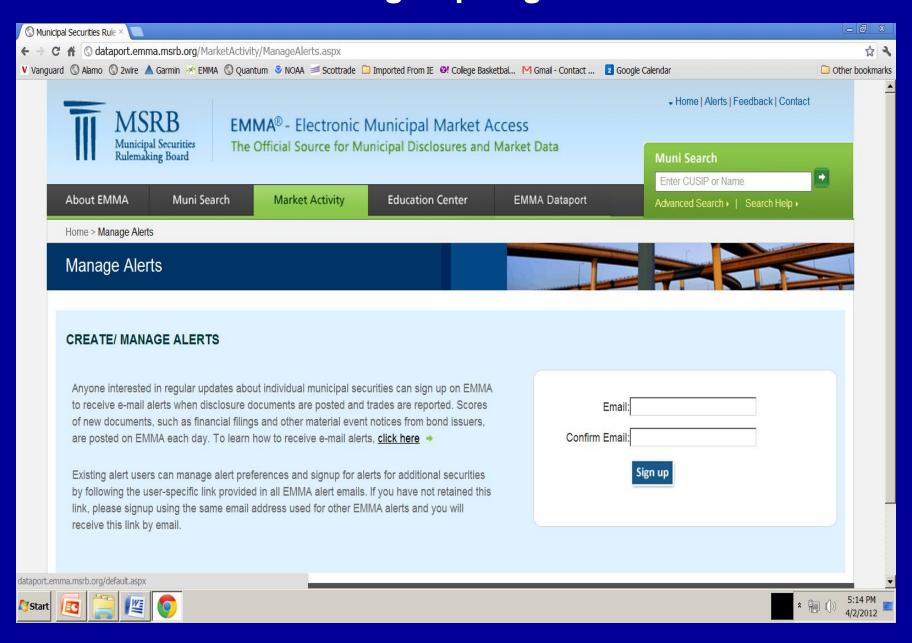
#### Transaction size

- under \$25,000 = 45%
- \$25,000 \$50,000 = 21%
- **-** \$50,000 **-** \$75,000 **=** 5%
- \$75,000 \$100,000 = 9%
- more than \$100,000 = 20%

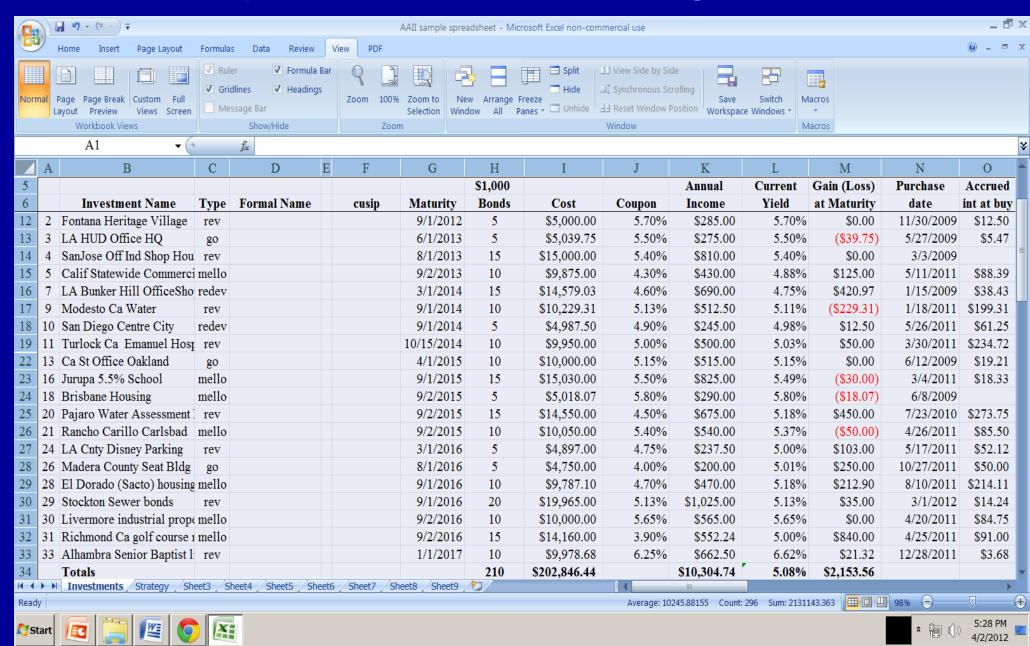
#### information source:

www.msrb.org/msrb1/pdfs/MSRB2010FactBook.pdf

## **APPENDIX EMMA Alert Sign Up Page**



## **APPENDIX Spreadsheet format for tracking investments**



### **APPENDIX – Looking for Problems - CHECKLIST**

# EMMA - Continuing Disclosure

- GO and Revenue bonds:

```
Audit report – going concern – other issues?
```

Financial Stat's – mgt's discussion – big variances?

Balance Sheet assets – low investment balances?

Balance Sheet equity – negative reserves?

Footnotes – inter-fund borrowing arms length?

Footnotes – Subsequent events

Budget – cutbacks? (found on Town's website)

Reports – filed timely?

# - Community Development (Mello Roos) bonds:

Value to lien ratio too low?

Underdeveloped property?

Teeter Plan?

# APPENDIX - Credit Evaluation - Drilling Down CHECKLIST Using EMMA:

- Continuing Disclosure
  - -GO/Rev/Bonds: F/S footnotes
    - Debt- Overlapping credit? Large near term maturities? Commitments/Contingencies Expiring leases? Lawsuits?
- Official Statement Descrip of Property, Risk Factors
- Current credit rating? Read report
- Past trading activity price drop below 95?

## **APPENDIX - Buying the Bond - CHECKLIST**

- Check EMMA for dealers cost and holding period
- Describe the bond to the dealer by CUSIP #
- Ask Some dealers will accept less than asking price
- Avoid paying more than par including commission
- Have the funds at the broker before you buy the bond
- Note the CUSIP # (hard to find later)
- Where do you want the bond parked?

Want a copy of slides with speaker notes?

**Email:** 

califmuniaaii@gmail.com



