ADDITIONAL (VOLUNTARY) DISCLOSURE
RATING AFFIRMED

Dated: November 23, 2015


Attached to this notice is the report from S&P, including the full analysis for the ratings.

City of Sacramento

Brian Wong
Debt Manager

Attachment: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, California Sacramento City Financing Authority; Tax Increment
Summary:
Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, California
Sacramento City Financing Authority; Tax Increment

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Unenhanced Rating A-(SPUR)/Stable Affirmed

Sacramento City Fincg Auth (Sacramento Redev Agy) Tax Alloc Bnds (Merged Downtown Project-Oak Park) (MBIA) (MBIA of Illinois)
Unenhanced Rating A-(SPUR)/Stable Affirmed

Many issues are enhanced by bond insurance.

Rationale

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'A-' underlying rating (SPUR) on the Sacramento City Financing Authority, Calif.'s 2005A and B tax allocation bonds, issued on behalf of the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. The outlook is stable.

The bonds are secured by a pledge of tax increment, including the former housing set-aside revenues, collected from two project areas—the Merged Downtown Project Area's (MDPA) and Oak Park Project Area (OPPA)—with no cross-collateralization between areas on a weak link basis. As such, based on our criteria, the rating on bonds backed by two separate revenue streams reflects our assessment of the revenue stream that we consider of lower credit quality. The rating on the bonds reflects our assessment of the MDPA, which we consider of weaker credit quality.

The rating reflects our view of the following credit factors:

- The MDPA's 430-acre project area in downtown Sacramento that has experienced good assessed value (AV) growth over the past two years, and has access to the broad and diverse Sacramento County economy;
- Adequate coverage from pledged revenues generated by the MDPA with a maximum annual debt service (MADS) of 1.38x; and
- Low base-to-total AV volatility ratio of 0.07; and
- Closed lien except for refunding purposes.

Partly offsetting these foregoing strengths is our view of the project area's high taxpayer concentration with the top ten taxpayers making up roughly 46% of incremental AV.

The MDPA is a small project area geographically, encompassing just 430 acres of primarily commercial properties in downtown Sacramento, though total AV is what we consider sizable at $2.56 billion as of fiscal 2016. AV has increased over the past two years for the project area, reflecting a stabilization of property values after a few years of declines.
Most recently, AV grew by 3.2% in fiscal 2016. The project area's base-to-total AV volatility ratio is, in our opinion, a low 0.07, suggesting very limited sensitivity in tax-increment revenues to fluctuations in overall AV. Coverage of MADS as of fiscal 2016 reached 1.38x, which we view as adequate. The project area has diversified slightly, but remains concentrated, in our view, with the 10 leading taxpayers representing 46% of incremental value in fiscal 2016. According to our calculations, at the current coverage levels and the volatility ratio, the project area could withstand a 25% decline in overall AV (the top four taxpayers) and still achieve 1x coverage of MADS on the bonds.

The OPPA encompasses 1,305 acres in the historic Oak Park community, south of downtown. The community is home to Sacramento's first suburb, settled in the 1850s. While the area is generally less affluent than the rest of incorporated Sacramento, it has benefited recently from redevelopment activity and property appreciation. AV for the project area has increased in each of the past four fiscal years, most recently rising by 7.8% in fiscal 2016. The project area's tax base remains diverse, in our view, with the leading 10 taxpayers accounting for only 13% of incremental AV. The base-to-total AV volatility ratio is also what we consider low at only 0.11, suggesting to us limited sensitivity in tax-increment revenues to overall fluctuations in AV. Coverage of MADS attributable to the OPPA remains good, in our opinion, at 1.79x. According to our calculations, at the current coverage levels and the volatility ratio, the project area could withstand a 39% decline in overall AV (the top ten taxpayers) and still achieve 1x coverage of MADS on the bonds.

California's redevelopment agency (RDA) dissolution law requires successor agency (SA) and oversight officials to adhere to deadlines for requesting debt service payment amounts on recognized obligation payment schedules (ROPS) to receive tax revenue. Because the law limits the SA revenue to payment on enforceable obligations on its ROPS, and because it requires more proactive management than under the pre-dissolution flow of funds, we believe an SA's debt management practices after dissolution become more important to credit quality. We understand that the city SA has historically been requesting sufficient reserves on its ROPS to account for the outstanding bonds' uneven debt service payment schedule. With the State of California's recent passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 107, SAs are now required to request money for debt service annually instead of semiannually on their ROPS.

Sacramento is acting as SA to the former RDA after the state legislature and a subsequent court ruling dissolved all RDAs in California in February 2012, pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) x1 26 and subsequent amending legislation, AB 1484. ABx1 26 and AB 1484 require SA and oversight officials to adhere to deadlines for requesting debt service payment amounts on ROPS. Because the law limits the SA revenue to payment on enforceable obligations on its ROPS and because it requires more proactive management than under the pre-dissolution flow of funds, we believe an SA's debt management practices after dissolution become more important to credit quality. The SA has received its finding of completion, which allows it to reinstate previously rejected loans, spend bond proceeds, and create a long-range property management plan. We understand the agency does not need to transfer any money back to the state Department of Finance. Additionally, we understand the lien is closed except for refunding purposes.

Sacramento, with an estimated population of 482,381, is in Sacramento County in the Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade metropolitan area, which we consider broad and diverse. The city has a projected per capita effective buying income of 86% of the national level and per capita market value of $81,933. Overall, market value grew by 7% over the past year to $39.5 billion in 2015. The county unemployment rate was 5.4% as of
Outlook

The stable outlook reflects our view of the bonds’ adequate DSC that has increased in each of the past two years. The outlook also reflects our view of the MDPA’s low volatility ratio. Given the agency’s limited ability to issue additional debt and the past increases in project area AV, we do not anticipate changing the rating during the two-year outlook horizon.

Upside scenario
If coverage continues to strengthen, taxpayer concentration diversifies further, and the local economy improves, leading to stronger incomes that are no longer comparable with those of similarly rated peers, then we could raise the rating.

Downside scenario
However, if AV declines, substantially resulting in coverage no longer comparable with that of similarly rated peers or if taxpayer concentration worsens over the next two years, then we could lower the rating.

Related Criteria And Research

Related Criteria
- USPF Criteria: Special-Purpose Districts, June 14, 2007

Related Research
- Revisiting The Dissolution Of California Redevelopment Agencies, June 11, 2013

Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at www.globalcreditportal.com. All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on Standard & Poor’s public Web site at www.standardandpoors.com. Use the Ratings search box located in the left column.