CASE STUDY

FINANCING FOR PENSIONS | APRIL 1, 2021



\$363,645,000 | TAXABLE PENSION BONDS | SERIES 2021

City of Huntington Beach, California

PENSION BONDS

Client Profile

Huntington Beach is a seaside city in Orange County, California, with a population of just under 200,000, making it the fourth most populous city in the county. The City adjacent to the Cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Newport Beach, Seal Beach and Westminster and is approximately 40 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 90 miles northwest of San Diego.

Prior to the bond issuance, the City had a total Unfunded Actuarial Liability of \$435 million and a funded ratio of 69%, with payments to peak in 2031.

The Project & Structure

Stifel served as lead manager for the City of Huntington Beach Pension Obligation Bonds. The Bonds were issued to pay a portion of the City's unfunded accrued liability to the California Public Employees Retirement System, which resulted in an 85% funded ratio. The Bonds were rated "AA+" by both S&P and Fitch.

The issue was structured with serial bonds through 2036 and two term bonds maturing in 2040 and 2044. The payments were structured as level and matching the existing amortization schedule of each pension plan.

The Bonds are secured by any legally available funds, including Pension Tax Override revenues, which represent approximately \$7 million annually (roughly 25% of the projected debt service).

Pricing Results

Investor participation was exceptional, with nearly \$1.2 billion in orders (3.3x subscription) from 62 orders that included a mix of municipalities, insurance companies, SMAs, banks and bond funds. Ultimately, the Bonds achieved a TIC of just 2.92% for this 23-year debt with an average life of 12.9 years.

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