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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **ORANGE COUNTY INVESTMENT POOL FIRST IN NATION TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AAAM RATING**

*Standard & Poor's Gives Highest & Best Rating to Orange County Investments*

(Santa Ana, CA) – The Orange County Treasurer’s \$3.6 billion money market funds were today awarded the prestigious **AAAm rating** by Standard & Poor’s. **Orange County is the first municipality in the State of California and the first County in the United States** to have ever been awarded this highest rating.

The AAAM rating is reserved for money market funds with the highest level of principal and stability protection. The new rating from S&P reflects the money market fund’s “extremely strong capacity to maintain principal losses due to credit, market and/or liquidity risk.” As part of their ongoing review, pertinent fund information and portfolio reports are delivered weekly to Standard & Poor’s.

“Orange County has always been a leader,” said County Treasurer Chriss W. Street. “Our office strives to be first and best in all things, and this rating is evidence of our success. During these times of economic challenge Orange County taxpayers must be assured that their hard-earned dollars are being invested in a prudent and thoughtful manner by a team of well-trained professionals. This validation by Standard & Poor’s gives taxpayers yet another layer of comfort.”

Under the leadership of Chriss Street, the County investment portfolio has been restructured to concentrate on ultra conservative investments backed by the US government. The Orange County Treasurer’s office currently manages \$5.7 billion for the county, schools, cities and agencies. Investments made by the Treasurer’s office returned \$13.9 million for the month of October and have earned over \$317 million for the 2007 calendar year.

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