Moody's

Rating Action: Moody's assigns P-1 to Louisville & Jefferson County MSD, KY's Subordinated Program Notes, Series 2023 Commercial Paper & A1 subordinate lien CP bank bonds; outlook stable

08 Jun 2023

New York, June 08, 2023 -- Moody's Investors Service has assigned P-1 short-term ratings to the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (the District), KY's \$250 million Sewer and Drainage System Subordinated Program Notes, Commercial Paper Subseries 2023A-1 & \$250 million Subseries 2023A-2 (the Notes). We have also assigned an A1 rating to the district's subordinate lien bank bonds. The outlook is stable.

RATINGS RATIONALE

The Notes are supported by standby bond purchase agreements (SBPAs or liquidity facilities) provided by Bank of America, N.A. for sub-series 2023A-1 and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. for sub-series 2023A-2 (collectively the Banks). The short-term ratings are derived from (i) the credit quality of the applicable Bank as providers of the SBPAs and (ii) the likelihood of termination of the liquidity facilities without payment of the principal due on the Notes at maturity. Events which would cause the liquidity facilities to terminate are directly related to the credit quality of the District. The Bank's current short-term Counterparty Risk (CR) Assessments are both P-1(cr).

The one-notch rating distinction between the bank bond rating and the district's Aa3 senior lien revenue bond rating reflects the subordination of the reimbursement obligation of the bank bond senior lien bonds. The rating also incorporates our expectation that the district will issue long-term senior bonds to redeem any outstanding commercial paper notes prior to an advance on the SBPAs and bank bonds.

RATING OUTLOOK

The stable outlook reflects the expectation that the district's financial metrics will remain sound, despite capital needs, given conservative budgeting practices and a demonstrated willingness to raise rates.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OF THE RATINGS

- Upgrade of the district's senior lien rating (bank bond rating only)

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO A DOWNGRADE OF THE RATINGS

- Downgrade of the short-term CR Assessment of the applicable Bank or downgrade of the long-term rating of the District (CP rating only)

- Downgrade of the district's senior lien rating (bank bond rating only)

The Bank's obligations under the SBPAs can be immediately terminated or suspended as a result of the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (i) the District shall fail to pay principal and interest on any Loan or Bank Note when due;
- (ii) The District shall fail to pay when due any principal or interest on any debt on parity with the bank note;
- (iii) the bankruptcy or insolvency of the District;

(iv) The District shall impose, declare or announce a debt moratorium, debt restructuring or comparable extraordinary restriction on the repayment of any of the District's parity debt;

(v) Any Governmental Authority with jurisdiction over the District shall impose, declare or announce a debt moratorium, debt restructuring or comparable extraordinary restriction on the repayment of the Commercial Paper Notes, the Loans or Bank Note, all of the District's parity debt or all of the District's debt;

(vi) Any provision of applicable law or the SBPAs, the Commercial Paper Notes, the Bank Note, the IPA agreement, the Resolution or any other related document related to the payment of principal or interest on the Commercial Paper Notes, bank note or loans or the pledge of an lien on the revenues shall at any time cease to be valid and binding or enforceable on the District or shall be declared null and void, invalid or unenforceable by a Governmental Authority with jurisdiction over the District;

(vii) each rating agency then rating the Bonds of the District shall have downgraded the rating on the Bonds to belo investment grade or each rating agency then rating the Bonds shall withdraw or suspend the rating on the Bonds; or

(viii) the entry or filing of a final and non-appealable judgment in excess of \$15 million against the District and failure of the District to pay or satisfy such judgment within 60 days.

The Issuing and Paying Agent (IPA), will issue Notes and deposit proceeds thereof upon receipt of issuance instructions from the District, its agent, or a dealer. The amount of Notes issued may not exceed the amounts provided for under the SBPAs.

The Notes shall be issued on an interest-bearing basis. Additionally, each Note issued shall mature no later than: (a) 270 days from the date of issuance; and (b) the business day prior to the expiration date of the applicable SBPA. The IPA is instructed to stop issuing Notes following its receipt of a no-issuance notice from a Bank if an event of default under an SBPA shall have occurred. When a no-issuance notice is sent, the applicable SBPA will terminate upon payment at maturity of the principal amount of all outstanding Notes of such sub-series.

The SBPAs are each sized at \$250 million, the maximum amount of principal plus interest of each sub-series of Notes. The IPA cannot issue Notes exceeding the amount covered by the applicable SBPA.

Draws made on the SBPAs received by the Banks by 11:30 a.m. (New York time) will be honored by 2:00 p.m. (New York time) on the same business day. The IPA, on behalf of the District, will draw on the applicable SBPA in order to pay principal and interest on maturing Notes to the extent roll-over proceeds or funds of the District are insufficient. The commitment will be reinstated upon repayment by the District of the amount drawn.

Substitution of the SBPAs are permitted if all Notes of such sub-series outstanding prior to the substitution have matured.

LEGAL SECURITY

The bank bonds are payable from a subordinate lien on general revenues of the district.

PROFILE

The Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District was created and established in 1946 and is responsible for the sewer and drainage system that serves Louisville & Jefferson County Metro Government, KY (Aa1 stable). Th district collects and treats wastewater from more than 256,000 customers in Jefferson County, and portions of Oldham County and Bullitt County through interlocal agreements. In addition, the district is responsible for stormwater collection, drainage and flood protection for over 223,000 customers within Jefferson County.

METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in the short-term ratings was US Municipal Short-term Debt Methodology published in May 2023 and available at https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/398329. The principal methodology used in the bank bond ratings was US Municipal Utility Revenue Debt Methodology published in April 2022 and available at https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/386721. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on https://ratings.moodys.com for a copy of these methodologies.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions in the disclosure form. Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions can be found on https://ratings.moodys.com/rating-definitions.

For ratings issued on a program, series, category/class of debt or security this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to each rating of a subsequently issued bond or note of the same series, category/class of debt, security or pursuant to a program for which the ratings are derived exclusively from existing ratings in accordance with Moody's rating practices. For ratings issued on a support provider, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to the credit rating action on the support provider and in relation to each particular credit rating action for securities that derive their credit ratings from the support provider's credit rating. For provisional ratings, this announcement provides certain regulatory disclosures in relation to a definitive rating that may be assigned subsequent to the final issuance of the debt, in each case where the transaction structure and terms have not changed prior to the assignment of the definitive rating in a manner that would have affected the rating. For further information please see the issuer/deal page for the respective issuer on https://ratings.moodys.com.

The ratings have been disclosed to the rated entity or its designated agent(s) and issued with no amendment resulting from that disclosure.

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