

One California Street, 31st Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-5432 tel 415 371-5000 reference no.: 1396329

August 17, 2015

County of Monterey 168 West Alisal, 3rd Floor Salinas, CA 93901

Attention: Mr. Ron Holly, Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller

Re: US\$47,190,000 Monterey County Public Improvement Corporation, (Monterey County), California, Certificates of Participation, Series 2015, dated: Date of delivery, due: October 01, 2046

Dear Mr. Holly:

Pursuant to your request for a Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("Ratings Services") rating on the above-referenced obligations, Ratings Services has assigned a rating of "AA". Standard & Poor's views the outlook for this rating as stable. A copy of the rationale supporting the rating is enclosed.

This letter constitutes Ratings Services' permission for you to disseminate the above-assigned ratings to interested parties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. However, permission for such dissemination (other than to professional advisors bound by appropriate confidentiality arrangements) will become effective only after we have released the rating on standardandpoors.com. Any dissemination on any Website by you or your agents shall include the full analysis for the rating, including any updates, where applicable.

To maintain the rating, Standard & Poor's must receive all relevant financial and other information, including notice of material changes to financial and other information provided to us and in relevant documents, as soon as such information is available. Relevant financial and other information includes, but is not limited to, information about direct bank loans and debt and debt-like instruments issued to, or entered into with, financial institutions, insurance companies and/or other entities, whether or not disclosure of such information would be required under S.E.C. Rule 15c2-12. You understand that Ratings Services relies on you and your agents and advisors for the accuracy, timeliness and completeness of the information submitted in connection with the rating and the continued flow of material information as part of the surveillance process. Please send all information via electronic delivery to: <a href="mailto:pubfin\_statelocalgovt@standardandpoors.com">pubfin\_statelocalgovt@standardandpoors.com</a>. If SEC rule 17g-5 is applicable, you may post such information on the appropriate website. For any information not available in electronic format or posted on the applicable website,

Please send hard copies to:

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services
Public Finance Department

55 Water Street New York, NY 10041-0003

The rating is subject to the Terms and Conditions, if any, attached to the Engagement Letter applicable to the rating. In the absence of such Engagement Letter and Terms and Conditions, the rating is subject to the attached Terms and Conditions. The applicable Terms and Conditions are incorporated herein by reference.

Ratings Services is pleased to have the opportunity to provide its rating opinion. For more information please visit our website at <a href="www.standardandpoors.com">www.standardandpoors.com</a>. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you for choosing Ratings Services.

Sincerely yours,

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services

Hudard & Poor's

tw enclosures

cc: Mr. Ahmad Thomas

Mr. Ron L. Holly



## Standard & Poor's Ratings Services Terms and Conditions Applicable To Public Finance Credit Ratings

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August 7, 2015

Mr. Ron Holly Chief Deputy Auditor Controller Monterey County 168 West Alisal Street 1st Floor - Treasury Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Mr. Holly:

Fitch Ratings has assigned one or more ratings and/or otherwise taken rating action(s), as detailed in the attached Notice of Rating Action.

In issuing and maintaining its ratings, Fitch relies on factual information it receives from issuers and underwriters and from other sources Fitch believes to be credible. Fitch conducts a reasonable investigation of the factual information relied upon by it in accordance with its ratings methodology, and obtains reasonable verification of that information from independent sources, to the extent such sources are available for a given security or in a given jurisdiction.

The manner of Fitch's factual investigation and the scope of the third-party verification it obtains will vary depending on the nature of the rated security and its issuer, the requirements and practices in the jurisdiction in which the rated security is offered and sold and/or the issuer is located, the availability and nature of relevant public information, access to the management of the issuer and its advisers, the availability of pre-existing third-party verifications such as audit reports, agreed-upon procedures letters, appraisals, actuarial reports, engineering reports, legal opinions and other reports provided by third parties, the availability of independent and competent third-party verification sources with respect to the particular security or in the particular jurisdiction of the issuer, and a variety of other factors.

Users of Fitch's ratings should understand that neither an enhanced factual investigation nor any third-party verification can ensure that all of the information Fitch relies on in connection with a rating will be accurate and complete. Ultimately, the issuer and its advisers are responsible for the accuracy of the information they provide to Fitch and to the market in offering documents and other reports. In issuing its ratings Fitch must rely on the work of experts, including independent auditors with respect to financial statements and attorneys with respect to legal and tax matters. Further, ratings are inherently forward-looking and embody assumptions and predictions about future events that by their nature cannot be verified as facts. As a result, despite any verification of current facts, ratings can be affected by future events or conditions that were not anticipated at the time a rating was issued or affirmed.

Fitch seeks to continuously improve its ratings criteria and methodologies, and periodically updates the descriptions on its website of its criteria and methodologies for securities of a given type. The criteria and methodology used to determine a rating action are those in effect at the time the rating action is taken, which for public ratings is the date of the related rating action commentary. Each rating action commentary provides information about the criteria and methodology used to arrive at the stated rating, which may differ from the general criteria and methodology for the applicable security type posted on the website at a given time. For this reason, you should always consult the applicable rating action commentary for the most accurate information on the basis of any given public rating.

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Ratings are not a recommendation or suggestion, directly or indirectly, to you or any other person, to buy, sell, make or hold any investment, loan or security or to undertake any investment strategy with respect to any investment, loan or security or any issuer. Ratings do not comment on the adequacy of market price, the suitability of any investment, loan or security for a particular investor (including without limitation, any accounting and/or regulatory treatment), or the tax-exempt nature or taxability of payments made in respect of any investment, loan or security. Fitch is not your advisor, nor is Fitch providing to you or any other party any financial advice, or any legal, auditing, accounting, appraisal, valuation or actuarial services. A rating should not be viewed as a replacement for such advice or services.

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It is important that you promptly provide us with all information that may be material to the ratings so that our ratings continue to be appropriate. Ratings may be raised, lowered, withdrawn, or placed on Rating Watch due to changes in, additions to, accuracy of or the inadequacy of information or for any other reason Fitch deems sufficient.

Nothing in this letter is intended to or should be construed as creating a fiduciary relationship between Fitch and you or between us and any user of the ratings.

In this letter, Fitch means Fitch Ratings, Inc. and any successor in interest.

We are pleased to have had the opportunity to be of service to you. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Jeff Schaub Managing Director, Operations U.S. Public Finance / Global Infrastructure & Project Finance

JS/mb

Enc: Notice of Rating Action (Doc ID: 199891)

## **Notice of Rating Action**

Bond Description	Rating Type	<u>Action</u>	<u>Rating</u>	Outlook/ <u>Watch</u>	Eff Date	<u>Notes</u>
Monterey County (CA) (Public Facilities Financing) COPs ser 2015	Long Term	New Rating	AA-	RO:Sta	06-Aug- 2015	
Key: RO: Rating Outlook, RW: Rating Watch; Pos: Positive, Neg: Negative, Sta: Stable, Evo: Evolving						

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