

One Market Steuart Tower, 15th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105-1000 tel 415 371-5000 reference no.:654134

June 29, 2012

City of El Mirage 12145 NW Grand Ave El Mirage, AZ 85335

Attention: Mr. Robert Nilles, Finance Director

Re: US\$14,900,000 El Mirage, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012, dated: Date of delivery, due: July 01,2036

US\$3,240,000 El Mirage, Arizona, General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012, dated: Date of delivery, due: July 01,2024

Dear Mr. Nilles:

Pursuant to your request for a Standard & Poor's rating on the above-referenced issuer, we have reviewed the information submitted to us and, subject to the enclosed *Terms and Conditions*, have assigned a rating of "A+". Standard & Poor's views the outlook for this rating as stable. A copy of the rationale supporting the rating is enclosed.

The rating is not investment, financial, or other advice and you should not and cannot rely upon the rating as such. The rating is based on information supplied to us by you or by your agents but does not represent an audit. We undertake no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information. The assignment of a rating does not create a fiduciary relationship between us and you or between us and other recipients of the rating. We have not consented to and will not consent to being named an "expert" under the applicable securities laws, including without limitation, Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933. The rating is not a "market rating" nor is it a recommendation to buy, hold, or sell the obligations.

This letter constitutes Standard & Poor's permission to you to disseminate the above-assigned rating to interested parties. Standard & Poor's reserves the right to inform its own clients, subscribers, and the public of the rating.

Standard & Poor's relies on the issuer/obligor and its counsel, accountants, and other experts for the accuracy and completeness of the information submitted in connection with the rating. This rating is based on financial information and documents we received prior to the issuance of this letter. Standard & Poor's assumes that the documents you have provided to us are final. If any subsequent changes were made in the final documents, you must notify us of such changes by sending us the revised final documents with the changes clearly marked.



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To maintain the rating, Standard & Poor's must receive all relevant financial information as soon as such information is available. Placing us on a distribution list for this information would facilitate the process. You must promptly notify us of all material changes in the financial information and the documents. Standard & Poor's may change, suspend, withdraw, or place on CreditWatch the rating as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information. Standard & Poor's reserves the right to request additional information if necessary to maintain the rating.

Please send all information to:

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services Public Finance Department 55 Water Street New York, NY 10041-0003

Standard & Poor's is pleased to be of service to you. For more information on Standard & Poor's, please visit our website at <a href="www.standardandpoors.com">www.standardandpoors.com</a>. If we can be of help in any other way, please call or contact us at <a href="maybublicfinance@standardandpoors.com">nypublicfinance@standardandpoors.com</a>. Thank you for choosing Standard & Poor's and we look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely yours,

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services

a Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC business.

Hudard & Poor's

pp enclosures

cc: Mr. Logan K. McKenzie, Assistant Vice President

Piper Jaffray & Co.





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

You understand and agree that:

General. The ratings and other views of Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("Ratings Services") are statements of opinion and not statements of fact. A rating is not a recommendation to purchase, hold, or sell any securities nor does it comment on market price, marketability, investor preference or suitability of any security. While Ratings Services bases its ratings and other views on information provided by issuers and their agents and advisors, and other information from sources it believes to be reliable, Ratings Services does not perform an audit, and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification, of any information it receives. Such information and Ratings Services' opinions should not be relied upon in making any investment decision. Ratings Services does not act as a "fiduciary" or an investment advisor. Ratings Services neither recommends nor will recommend how an issuer can or should achieve a particular rating outcome nor provides or will provide consulting, advisory, financial or structuring advice.

All Rating Actions in Ratings Services' Sole Discretion. Ratings Services may assign, raise, lower, suspend, place on CreditWatch, or withdraw a rating, and assign or revise an Outlook, at any time, in Ratings Services' sole discretion. Ratings Services may take any of the foregoing actions notwithstanding any request for a confidential or private rating or a withdrawal of a rating, or termination of this Agreement. Ratings Services will not convert a public rating to a confidential or private rating, or a private rating to a confidential rating.

<u>Publication</u>. Ratings Services reserves the right to use, publish, disseminate, or license others to use, publish or disseminate the rating provided hereunder and any analytical reports, including the rationale for the rating, unless you specifically request in connection with the initial rating that the rating be assigned and maintained on a confidential or private basis. If, however, a confidential or private rating or the existence of a confidential or private rating subsequently becomes public through disclosure other than by an act of Ratings Services or its affiliates, Ratings Services reserves the right to treat the rating as a public rating, including, without limitation, publishing the rating and any related analytical reports. Any analytical reports published by Ratings Services are not issued by or on behalf of you or at your request. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, Ratings Services reserves the right to use, publish, disseminate or license others to use, publish or disseminate analytical reports with respect to public ratings that have been withdrawn, regardless of the reason for such withdrawal. Ratings Services may publish explanations of Ratings Services' ratings criteria from time to time and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as limiting Ratings Services' ability to modify or refine its ratings criteria at any time as Ratings Services deems appropriate.

Information to be Provided by You. For so long as this Agreement is in effect, in connection with the rating provided hereunder, you warrant that you will provide, or cause to be provided, as promptly as practicable, to Ratings Services all information requested by Ratings Services in accordance with its applicable published ratings criteria. The rating, and the maintenance of the rating, may be affected by Ratings Services' opinion of the information received from you or your agents or advisors. You further warrant that all information provided to Ratings Services by you or your agents or advisors regarding the rating or, if applicable, surveillance of the rating, as of the date such information is provided, (i) is true, accurate and complete in all material respects and, in light of the circumstances in which it was provided, not misleading and (ii) does not infringe or violate the intellectual property rights of a third party. A material breach of the warranties in this paragraph shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

<u>Confidential Information</u>. For purposes of this Agreement, "Confidential Information" shall mean verbal or written information that you or your agents or advisors have provided to Ratings Services and, in a specific and particularized manner, have marked or otherwise indicated in writing (either prior to or promptly following such disclosure) that such information is "Confidential". Notwithstanding the foregoing, information disclosed by you or your agents or advisors

to Ratings Services shall not be deemed to be Confidential Information, and Ratings Services shall have no obligation to treat such information as Confidential Information, if such information (i) was known by Ratings Services or its affiliates at the time of such disclosure and was not known by Ratings Services to be subject to a prohibition on disclosure, (ii) was known to the public at the time of such disclosure, (iii) becomes known to the public (other than by an act of Ratings Services or its affiliates) subsequent to such disclosure, (iv) is disclosed to Ratings Services or its affiliates by a third party subsequent to such disclosure and Ratings Services reasonably believes that such third party's disclosure to Ratings Services or its affiliates was not prohibited, (v) is developed independently by Ratings Services or its affiliates without reference to the Confidential Information, (vi) is approved in writing by you for public disclosure, or (vii) is required by law or regulation to be disclosed by Ratings Services or its affiliates. Ratings Services is aware that U.S. and state securities laws may impose restrictions on trading in securities when in possession of material, non-public information and has adopted securities trading and communication policies to that effect.

Ratings Services' Use of Information. Except as otherwise provided herein, Ratings Services shall not disclose Confidential Information to third parties. Ratings Services may (i) use Confidential Information to assign, raise, lower, suspend, place on CreditWatch, or withdraw a rating, and assign or revise an Outlook, and (ii) share Confidential Information with its affiliates engaged in the ratings business who are bound by appropriate confidentiality obligations; in each case, subject to the restrictions contained herein, Ratings Services and such affiliates may publish information derived from Confidential Information. Ratings Services may also use, and share Confidential Information with any of its affiliates or agents engaged in the ratings or other financial services businesses who are bound by appropriate confidentiality obligations ("Relevant Affiliates and Agents"), for modelling, benchmarking and research purposes; in each case, subject to the restrictions contained herein, Ratings Services and such affiliates may publish information derived from Confidential Information. With respect to structured finance ratings not maintained on a confidential or private basis, Ratings Services may publish data aggregated from Confidential Information, excluding data that is specific to and identifies individual debtors ("Relevant Data"), and share such Confidential Information with any of its Relevant Affiliates and Agents for general market dissemination of Relevant Data; you confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, such publication would not breach any confidentiality obligations you may have toward third parties. Ratings Services will comply with all applicable U.S. and state laws, rules and regulations protecting personally-identifiable information and the privacy rights of individuals. Ratings Services acknowledges that you may be entitled to seek specific performance and injunctive or other equitable relief as a remedy for Ratings Services' disclosure of Confidential Information in violation of this Agreement. Ratings Services and its affiliates reserve the right to use, publish, disseminate, or license others to use, publish or disseminate any non-Confidential Information provided by you, your agents or advisors.

Ratings Services Not an Expert, Underwriter or Seller under Securities Laws. Ratings Services has not consented to and will not consent to being named an "expert" or any similar designation under any applicable securities laws or other regulatory guidance, rules or recommendations, including without limitation, Section 7 of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933. Ratings Services is not an "underwriter" or "seller" as those terms are defined under applicable securities laws or other regulatory guidance, rules or recommendations, including without limitation Sections 11 and 12(a)(2) of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933. Rating Services has not performed the role or tasks associated with an "underwriter" or "seller" under the United States federal securities laws or other regulatory guidance, rules or recommendations in connection with this engagement.

Office of Foreign Assets Control. As of the date of this Agreement, (a) neither you nor the issuer (if you are not the issuer) or any of your or the issuer's subsidiaries, or any director or corporate officer of any of the foregoing entities, is the subject of any U.S. sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("OFAC Sanctions"), (b) neither you nor the issuer (if you are not the issuer) is 50% or more owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any person or entity ("parent") that is the subject of OFAC Sanctions, and (c) to the best of your knowledge, no entity 50% or more owned or controlled by a direct or indirect parent of you or the issuer (if you are not the issuer) is the subject of OFAC sanctions. For so long as this Agreement is in effect, you will promptly notify Ratings Services if any of these circumstances change.

<u>Ratings Services</u>' <u>Use of Confidential and Private Ratings</u>. Ratings Services may use confidential and private ratings in its analysis of the debt issued by collateralized debt obligation (CDO) and other investment vehicles. Ratings Services

may disclose a confidential or private rating as a confidential credit estimate or assessment to the managers of CDO and similar investment vehicles. Ratings Services may permit CDO managers to use and disseminate credit estimates or assessments on a limited basis and subject to various restrictions; however, Ratings Services cannot control any such use or dissemination.

Entire Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent you, the issuer (if you are not the issuer) or Ratings Services from acting in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Subject to the prior sentence, this Agreement, including any amendment made in accordance with the provisions hereof, constitutes the complete and entire agreement between the parties on all matters regarding the rating provided hereunder. The terms of this Agreement supersede any other terms and conditions relating to information provided to Ratings Services by you or your agents and advisors hereunder, including without limitation, terms and conditions found on, or applicable to, websites or other means through which you or your agents and advisors make such information available to Ratings Services, regardless if such terms and conditions are entered into before or after the date of this Agreement. Such terms and conditions shall be null and void as to Ratings Services.

Limitation on Damages. Ratings Services does not and cannot guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information relied on in connection with a rating or the results obtained from the use of such information. RATINGS SERVICES GIVES NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE. Ratings Services, its affiliates or third party providers, or any of their officers, directors, shareholders, employees or agents shall not be liable to you, your affiliates or any person asserting claims on your behalf, directly or indirectly, for any inaccuracies, errors, or omissions, in each case regardless of cause, actions, damages (consequential, special, indirect, incidental, punitive, compensatory, exemplary or otherwise), claims, liabilities, costs, expenses, legal fees or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs) in any way arising out of or relating to the rating provided hereunder or the related analytic services even if advised of the possibility of such damages or other amounts except to the extent such damages or other amounts are finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in a proceeding in which you and Ratings Services are parties to result from gross negligence, intentional wrongdoing, or willful misconduct of Ratings Services. In furtherance and not in limitation of the foregoing, Ratings Services will not be liable to you, your affiliates or any person asserting claims on your behalf in respect of any decisions alleged to be made by any person based on anything that may be perceived as advice or recommendations. In the event that Ratings Services is nevertheless held liable to you, your affiliates, or any person asserting claims on your behalf for monetary damages under this Agreement, in no event shall Ratings Services be liable in an aggregate amount in excess of US\$5,000,000 except to the extent such monetary damages directly result from Ratings Services' intentional wrongdoing or willful misconduct. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the form of action, damage, claim, liability, cost, expense, or loss, whether in contract, statute, tort (including, without limitation, negligence), or otherwise. Neither party waives any protections, privileges, or defenses it may have under law, including but not limited to, the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

<u>Termination of Agreement.</u> This Agreement may be terminated by either party at any time upon written notice to the other party. Except where expressly limited to the term of this Agreement, these Terms and Conditions shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

<u>No Third-Party Beneficiaries</u>. Nothing in this Agreement, or the rating when issued, is intended or should be construed as creating any rights on behalf of any third parties, including, without limitation, any recipient of the rating. No person is intended as a third party beneficiary of this Agreement or of the rating when issued.

<u>Binding Effect</u>. This Agreement shall be binding on, and inure to the benefit of, the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.

<u>Severability</u>. In the event that any term or provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, then the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected, impaired, or invalidated, and each such term and provision shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

<u>Amendments</u>. This Agreement may not be amended or superseded except by a writing that specifically refers to this Agreement and is executed manually or electronically by authorized representatives of both parties.

<u>Reservation of Rights</u>. The parties to this Agreement do not waive, and reserve the right to contest, any issues regarding sovereign immunity, the applicable governing law and the appropriate forum for resolving any disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement.



55 Water Street, 38th Floor New York, NY 10041-0003 tel 212 438-2074 reference no.: 40385796

July 13, 2012

Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp.
31 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019
Attention: Mr. Richard Bauerfeld, Managing Director

Re: \$18,205,000 City of El Mirage, Arizona, dated: Date of Initial Delivery, consisting of: \$14,900,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012, due: July 1, 2013-2025, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2033, July 1, 2042; \$3,305,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012, due: July 1, 2013-2024, (POLICY #214985-N)

Dear Mr. Bauerfeld:

Standard & Poor's has reviewed the rating on the above-referenced obligations. After such review, we have changed the rating to "AA-" from "A+". The rating reflects our assessment of the likelihood of repayment of principal and interest based on the bond insurance policy your company is providing. Therefore, rating adjustments may result from changes in the financial position of your company or from alterations in the documents governing the issue.

The rating is not investment, financial, or other advice and you should not and cannot rely upon the rating as such. The rating is based on information supplied to us by you but does not represent an audit. We undertake no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information. The assignment of a rating does not create a fiduciary relationship between us and you or between us and other recipients of the rating. We have not consented to and will not consent to being named an "expert" under the applicable securities laws, including without limitation, Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933. The rating is not a "market rating" nor is it a recommendation to buy, hold, or sell the obligations.

This letter constitutes Standard & Poor's permission to you to disseminate the above-assigned rating to interested parties. Standard & Poor's reserves the right to inform its own clients, subscribers, and the public of the rating.

Standard & Poor's relies on the issuer and its counsel, accountants, and other experts for the accuracy and completeness of the information submitted in connection with the rating. This rating is based on financial information and documents we received prior to the issuance of this letter. Standard & Poor's assumes that the documents you have provided to us are final. If any subsequent changes were made in the final documents, you must notify us of such changes by sending us the revised final documents with the changes clearly marked.



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Standard & Poor's is pleased to be of service to you. For more information please visit our website at <a href="www.standardandpoors.com">www.standardandpoors.com</a>. If we can be of help in any other way, please contact us. Thank you for choosing Standard & Poor's and we look forward to working with you again.

Sincerely yours,

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services

a Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC business.

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

You understand and agree that:

General. The ratings and other views of Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("Ratings Services") are statements of opinion and not statements of fact. A rating is not a recommendation to purchase, hold, or sell any securities nor does it comment on market price, marketability, investor preference or suitability of any security. While Ratings Services bases its ratings and other views on information provided by issuers and their agents and advisors, and other information from sources it believes to be reliable, Ratings Services does not perform an audit, and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification, of any information it receives. Such information and Ratings Services' opinions should not be relied upon in making any investment decision. Ratings Services does not act as a "fiduciary" or an investment advisor. Ratings Services neither recommends nor will recommend how an issuer can or should achieve a particular rating outcome nor provides or will provide consulting, advisory, financial or structuring advice.

All Rating Actions in Ratings Services' Sole Discretion. Ratings Services may assign, raise, lower, suspend, place on CreditWatch, or withdraw a rating, and assign or revise an Outlook, at any time, in Ratings Services' sole discretion. Ratings Services may take any of the foregoing actions notwithstanding any request for a confidential or private rating or a withdrawal of a rating, or termination of this Agreement. Ratings Services will not convert a public rating to a confidential or private rating, or a private rating to a confidential rating.

<u>Publication</u>. Ratings Services reserves the right to use, publish, disseminate, or license others to use, publish or disseminate the rating provided hereunder and any analytical reports, including the rationale for the rating, unless you specifically request in connection with the initial rating that the rating be assigned and maintained on a confidential or private basis. If, however, a confidential or private rating or the existence of a confidential or private rating subsequently becomes public through disclosure other than by an act of Ratings Services or its affiliates, Ratings Services reserves the right to treat the rating as a public rating, including, without limitation, publishing the rating and any related analytical reports. Any analytical reports published by Ratings Services are not issued by or on behalf of you or at your request. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, Ratings Services reserves the right to use, publish, disseminate or license others to use, publish or disseminate analytical reports with respect to public ratings that have been withdrawn, regardless of the reason for such withdrawal. Ratings Services may publish explanations of Ratings Services' ratings criteria from time to time and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as limiting Ratings Services' ability to modify or refine its ratings criteria at any time as Ratings Services deems appropriate.

Information to be Provided by You. For so long as this Agreement is in effect, in connection with the rating provided hereunder, you warrant that you will provide, or cause to be provided, as promptly as practicable, to Ratings Services all information requested by Ratings Services in accordance with its applicable published ratings criteria. The rating, and the maintenance of the rating, may be affected by Ratings Services' opinion of the information received from you or your agents or advisors. You further warrant that all information provided to Ratings Services by you or your agents or advisors regarding the rating or, if applicable, surveillance of the rating, as of the date such information is provided, (i) is true, accurate and complete in all material respects and, in light of the circumstances in which it was provided, not misleading and (ii) does not infringe or violate the intellectual property rights of a third party. A material breach of the warranties in this paragraph shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

<u>Confidential Information</u>. For purposes of this Agreement, "Confidential Information" shall mean verbal or written information that you or your agents or advisors have provided to Ratings Services and, in a specific and particularized manner, have marked or otherwise indicated in writing (either prior to or promptly following such disclosure) that such information is "Confidential". Notwithstanding the foregoing, information disclosed by you or your agents or advisors to

Ratings Services shall not be deemed to be Confidential Information, and Ratings Services shall have no obligation to treat such information as Confidential Information, if such information (i) was known by Ratings Services or its affiliates at the time of such disclosure and was not known by Ratings Services to be subject to a prohibition on disclosure, (ii) was known to the public at the time of such disclosure, (iii) becomes known to the public (other than by an act of Ratings Services or its affiliates) subsequent to such disclosure, (iv) is disclosed to Ratings Services or its affiliates by a third party subsequent to such disclosure and Ratings Services reasonably believes that such third party's disclosure to Ratings Services or its affiliates was not prohibited, (v) is developed independently by Ratings Services or its affiliates without reference to the Confidential Information, (vi) is approved in writing by you for public disclosure, or (vii) is required by law or regulation to be disclosed by Ratings Services or its affiliates. Ratings Services is aware that U.S. and state securities laws may impose restrictions on trading in securities when in possession of material, non-public information and has adopted securities trading and communication policies to that effect.

Ratings Services' Use of Information. Except as otherwise provided herein, Ratings Services shall not disclose Confidential Information to third parties. Ratings Services may (i) use Confidential Information to assign, raise, lower, suspend, place on CreditWatch, or withdraw a rating, and assign or revise an Outlook, and (ii) share Confidential Information with its affiliates engaged in the ratings business who are bound by appropriate confidentiality obligations; in each case, subject to the restrictions contained herein, Ratings Services and such affiliates may publish information derived from Confidential Information. Ratings Services may also use, and share Confidential Information with any of its affiliates or agents engaged in the ratings or other financial services businesses who are bound by appropriate confidentiality obligations ("Relevant Affiliates and Agents"), for modelling, benchmarking and research purposes; in each case, subject to the restrictions contained herein, Ratings Services and such affiliates may publish information derived from Confidential Information. With respect to structured finance ratings not maintained on a confidential or private basis, Ratings Services may publish data aggregated from Confidential Information, excluding data that is specific to and identifies individual debtors ("Relevant Data"), and share such Confidential Information with any of its Relevant Affiliates and Agents for general market dissemination of Relevant Data; you confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, such publication would not breach any confidentiality obligations you may have toward third parties. Ratings Services will comply with all applicable U.S. and state laws, rules and regulations protecting personally-identifiable information and the privacy rights of individuals. Ratings Services acknowledges that you may be entitled to seek specific performance and injunctive or other equitable relief as a remedy for Ratings Services' disclosure of Confidential Information in violation of this Agreement. Ratings Services and its affiliates reserve the right to use, publish, disseminate, or license others to use, publish or disseminate any non-Confidential Information provided by you, your agents or advisors.

Ratings Services Not an Expert, Underwriter or Seller under Securities Laws. Ratings Services has not consented to and will not consent to being named an "expert" or any similar designation under any applicable securities laws or other regulatory guidance, rules or recommendations, including without limitation, Section 7 of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933. Ratings Services is not an "underwriter" or "seller" as those terms are defined under applicable securities laws or other regulatory guidance, rules or recommendations, including without limitation Sections 11 and 12(a)(2) of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933. Rating Services has not performed the role or tasks associated with an "underwriter" or "seller" under the United States federal securities laws or other regulatory guidance, rules or recommendations in connection with this engagement.

Office of Foreign Assets Control. As of the date of this Agreement, (a) neither you nor the issuer (if you are not the issuer) or any of your or the issuer's subsidiaries, or any director or corporate officer of any of the foregoing entities, is the subject of any U.S. sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("OFAC Sanctions"), (b) neither you nor the issuer (if you are not the issuer) is 50% or more owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any person or entity ("parent") that is the subject of OFAC Sanctions, and (c) to the best of your knowledge, no entity 50% or more owned or controlled by a direct or indirect parent of you or the issuer (if you are not the issuer) is the subject of OFAC sanctions. For so long as this Agreement is in effect, you will promptly notify Ratings Services if any of these circumstances change.

Ratings Services' Use of Confidential and Private Ratings. Ratings Services may use confidential and private ratings in its analysis of the debt issued by collateralized debt obligation (CDO) and other investment vehicles. Ratings Services may disclose a confidential or private rating as a confidential credit estimate or assessment to the managers of CDO and similar investment vehicles. Ratings Services may permit CDO managers to use and disseminate credit estimates or assessments on a limited basis and subject to various restrictions; however, Ratings Services cannot control any such use or dissemination.

Entire Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent you, the issuer (if you are not the issuer) or Ratings Services from acting in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Subject to the prior sentence, this Agreement, including any amendment made in accordance with the provisions hereof, constitutes the complete and entire agreement between the parties on all matters regarding the rating provided hereunder. The terms of this Agreement supersede any other terms and conditions relating to information provided to Ratings Services by you or your agents and advisors hereunder, including without limitation, terms and conditions found on, or applicable to, websites or other means through which you or your agents and advisors make such information available to Ratings Services, regardless if such terms and conditions are entered into before or after the date of this Agreement. Such terms and conditions shall be null and void as to Ratings Services.

Limitation on Damages. Ratings Services does not and cannot guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information relied on in connection with a rating or the results obtained from the use of such information. RATINGS SERVICES GIVES NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE. Ratings Services, its affiliates or third party providers, or any of their officers, directors, shareholders, employees or agents shall not be liable to you, your affiliates or any person asserting claims on your behalf, directly or indirectly, for any inaccuracies, errors, or omissions, in each case regardless of cause, actions, damages (consequential, special, indirect, incidental, punitive, compensatory, exemplary or otherwise), claims, liabilities, costs, expenses, legal fees or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs) in any way arising out of or relating to the rating provided hereunder or the related analytic services even if advised of the possibility of such damages or other amounts except to the extent such damages or other amounts are finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in a proceeding in which you and Ratings Services are parties to result from gross negligence, intentional wrongdoing, or willful misconduct of Ratings Services. In furtherance and not in limitation of the foregoing, Ratings Services will not be liable to you, your affiliates or any person asserting claims on your behalf in respect of any decisions alleged to be made by any person based on anything that may be perceived as advice or recommendations. In the event that Ratings Services is nevertheless held liable to you, your affiliates, or any person asserting claims on your behalf for monetary damages under this Agreement, in no event shall Ratings Services be liable in an aggregate amount in excess of US\$5,000,000 except to the extent such monetary damages directly result from Ratings Services' intentional wrongdoing or willful misconduct. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the form of action, damage, claim, liability, cost, expense, or loss, whether in contract, statute, tort (including, without limitation, negligence), or otherwise. Neither party waives any protections, privileges, or defenses it may have under law, including but not limited to, the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

<u>Termination of Agreement.</u> This Agreement may be terminated by either party at any time upon written notice to the other party. Except where expressly limited to the term of this Agreement, these Terms and Conditions shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

<u>No Third–Party Beneficiaries</u>. Nothing in this Agreement, or the rating when issued, is intended or should be construed as creating any rights on behalf of any third parties, including, without limitation, any recipient of the rating. No person is intended as a third party beneficiary of this Agreement or of the rating when issued.

<u>Binding Effect</u>. This Agreement shall be binding on, and inure to the benefit of, the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.

<u>Severability</u>. In the event that any term or provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, then the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected, impaired, or invalidated, and each such term and provision shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

<u>Amendments</u>. This Agreement may not be amended or superseded except by a writing that specifically refers to this Agreement and is executed manually or electronically by authorized representatives of both parties.

<u>Reservation of Rights</u>. The parties to this Agreement do not waive, and reserve the right to contest, any issues regarding sovereign immunity, the applicable governing law and the appropriate forum for resolving any disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement.



Moody's Investors Service, Inc.
7 World Trade Centre
at 250 Greenwich Street
NewYork, NY 10007
+1.212.553.0300 tel
+1.212.553.4820 fax
www.moodys.com

July 16, 2012

Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. 31 West 52nd Street New York, NY 10019

To Whom It May Concern:

Moody's Investors Service has assigned the rating of Aa3 - on review for downgrade to the \$18,205,000.00 City of El Mirage, Arizona, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012 and General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012, dated July 25, 2012 which sold through negotiation on July 11, 2012, insured by Assured Guaranty Municipal Corp. (Policy No.214985-N). The rating is the highest of (i) the guarantor's financial strength rating, (ii) any published underlying rating on the security, or (iii) any published enhanced rating based on a state credit enhancement program.

In accordance with our usual policy, assigned ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal by Moody's at any time, without notice, in the sole discretion of Moody's. For the most current rating, please visit www.moodys.com.

This letter is strictly confidential and you may not disclose it to any other person except: (i) to your legal counsel acting in their capacity as such; (ii) to your other authorized agents, acting in their capacity as such; (iii) as required by the law or regulation; or (iv) with the prior written consent of Moody's, in which case Moody's reserves the right to impose conditions upon such consent such as requiring that you only disclose this letter in its entirety and/or requiring any third party to sign a confidentiality and/or non-reliance agreement.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Vincent Guadagno Jr. at (212) 553-2948.

Sincerely Yours,

Moody's Investors Service. Inc.

Moody's Investors Service, Inc.



New Issue: Moody's assigns initial A1 rating and stable outlook to the City of El Mirage, Arizona's G.O. bonds

Global Credit Research - 02 Jul 2012

#### \$18.1 million in debt affected

EL MIRAGE (CITY OF) AZ Cities (including Towns, Villages and Townships) AZ

## Moody's Rating

General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012 A1
Sala Amount \$14,000,000

 Sale Amount
 \$14,900,000

 Expected Sale Date
 07/10/12

Rating Description General Obligation

General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012

 Sale Amount
 \$3,240,000

 Expected Sale Date
 07/10/12

Rating Description General Obligation

Moody's Outlook STA

#### **Opinion**

NEW YORK, July 02, 2012 --Moody's Investors Service has assigned an initial A1 rating to the City of El Mirage, Arizona's General Obligation and Refunding Bonds Series 2012. The current offering is secured by an unlimited property tax pledge. Proceeds from this issue will refund a portion of the city's Series 2004 G.O. bonds and the new money portion will be used for construction of a recreational facility, police facilities, and street and highway improvements.

### SUMMARY RATINGS RATIONALE

The A1 rating primarily reflects the city's moderately-sized tax base in close proximity to the Phoenix metropolitan area which continues to experience declines, low wealth levels, a trend of healthy reserve levels, and above-average debt burden.

The stable outlook reflects Moody's expectation that the city will continue to prudently manage its finances and that further tax base declines for the city will be moderate.

# **STRENGTHS**

- -History of substantial general fund reserves and liquidity
- -Moderately-sized tax base in close proximity to Phoenix

# CHALLENGES

- -Recent declines in full valuation expected to continue in the near-term
- -Weak socioeconomic indicators

-High debt burden with slow payout

#### DETAILED CREDIT DISCUSSION

## CITY LOCATED WEST OF GLENDALE; RECENT GROWTH SUBDUED AS TAX BASE DECLINES CONTINUE

The City of El Mirage is located in the northwest valley of the greater Phoenix metro area in Maricopa County (Aaa/STA), just west of the city of Glendale (Aa3/NEG). Population growth in the early part of the decade was tremendous, with growth levels of 24.8% in 2004 alone; the population grew from 7,609 in 2000 to 31,767 in 2010. The city's economy has transitioned from being dependent primarily on agriculture to a more urban and residential community. The city's moderately-sized tax base has experienced three consecutive years of decline in full value, with the highest decline of 33.2% in 2011. As a result of the nearly 18 month lag in property assessments the 2012 full value declined again by a substantial 22.3% to approximately \$861 million, but still well above the national A1 city median. Between 2007 and 2012 the city's tax base declined at an average annual rate of negative 10.2%, and estimates for 2013 reflect further declines of 10.3% to \$773 million. Tax base projections appear reasonable as recent activity indicates that new construction is modest, and the city is primarily comprised of residential properties which have been more severely affected by the housing downturn than commercial properties. The city's tax base is somewhat concentrated with the ten largest taxpayers representing 17.4% of 2012 valuation. The largest taxpayer, a long-standing utility company (Arizona Public Service Company), represents 3.6% of the 2012 valuation; the remaining largest taxpayers are a relatively diverse group and include real estate development companies, retail, rail, and an RV park. Wealth indices for the city are weak, with per capita income and median family income in the 2000 census representing 47.9% and 66.9% of the U.S., respectively. Unemployment in April 2012 also remained higher than the state (7.5%) and national (7.7%) levels at 8.5%.

# STRONG FINANCES OFFSET DEPENDENCE ON ECONOMICALLY-SENSITIVE REVENUES

Moody's views the city's practice of maintaining above average reserve levels as prudent given its heavy reliance on economically sensitive revenues. The city has historically retained very healthy general fund balances, averaging \$10.2 million (or 63.9% of general fund revenues) over the last five years (2006-2011). The general fund remained strong in 2011 ending at \$11.2 million (or 57.8% of revenues), reflecting conservative budgeting practices of the management team as well as a slight rebound in the city's economically-sensitive revenues. Maintenance of high reserves helps to offset the city's dependence on city-wide sales tax revenues which comprised 30.5% of 2011 revenues; state-shared revenues represents the majority of revenues at 47.7%, and property tax comprised only 9.8%. City sales tax and state-shared revenues (which are comprised of a sales tax, income tax, and vehicle license fees) contracted significantly in 2010 as the effects of the recession impacted much of the state, but rebounded slightly in 2011. Officials indicate that this growth in sales tax revenue has continued in 2012 and early estimates reflect an increase in ending fund balance of approximately \$2.0 million to \$13.5 million (or 69.9% of 2011 revenues). The city's financial position is expected to remain strong, as city officials budget to maintain a minimum fund balance contingency of \$6.0 million (or 31.5% of revenues) which is above the median for similarly-rated cities.

2013 sales tax revenue is budgeted to be flat to 2012, although Moody's notes this projection may be conservative as most neighboring municipalities and the state have seen a consistent trend of increased monthly collections and indications of modest new business expansion locally. State-shared income tax revenues are lagged by two years and near-term receipts reflect the economic downturn of prior years; fiscal 2012 receipts reflected the 2010 tax year which has generally been considered the lowest point in the recent recession.

## HIGH DEBT BURDEN WITH VERY SLOW PAYOUT;

Moody's expects the city's debt burden to remain high given a very slow payout of existing debt and expected further declines in the city's tax base. City officials plan to continue commercial and industrial development in the southern portion of the city through possible future general obligation and excises tax debt issues, where residential development is limited by noise contour restrictions near Luke Air Force Base. The city's direct and overall debt burdens are currently above-average at 3.7% and 5.8%, respectively. Payout is very slow with only 30.9% of principal repaid in ten years. All of the city's outstanding debt has been voter-approved and consists of general obligation debt and clean water loans; future debt issues are expected to be both general obligation and sales tax-supported.

# OUTLOOK

The stable outlook reflects Moody's expectation that the city will continue to prudently manage its finances and that

further tax base declines for the city will be moderate.

#### WHAT COULD MAKE THE RATING GO - UP

- -Trend of substantial growth in full valuation of tax base
- -Significant increase in wealth levels

#### WHAT COULD MAKE THE RATING GO - DOWN

- -Continued declines in full valuation of tax base
- -Unplanned draws on general reserves with no viable plan to replenish
- -Significant increase in debt burden

### **KEY STATISTICS**

2010 estimated population: 31,767 2012 full valuation: \$861.0 million

Average annual growth in full value, 2007-2012: (-10.2%)

2000 per capital income: \$10,342 (47.9% of the U.S.)

Direct debt burden: 3.7%

Overall debt burden: 5.8%

Payout of principal (10 years): 30.9%

FY2011 General Fund Balance: \$11.2 million (57.8% of revenues)

The principal methodology used in this rating was General Obligation Bonds Issued by U.S. Local Governments published in October 2009. Please see the Credit Policy page on www.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

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