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NFMA RELEASES FINAL WHITE PAPER ON PROJECT FINANCE RISK ASSESSMENT AND DISCLOSURE

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The National Federation of Municipal Analysts (“NFMA”) today released its White Paper on Project Finance Risk Assessment and Disclosure on its website, www.nfma.org. This is the NFMA's second white paper, following a White Paper on Disclosure for Swap Transactions released in 2004. The NFMA has also published thirteen Recommended Best Practices in Disclosure covering the following sectors: Land Secured Debt Transactions; Housing Revenue Bond Issues; Hospital Debt Transactions; Private College and University Transactions; Solid Waste Transactions; General Obligation and Tax-Supported Debt; Long-Term Care/Senior Living Debt; Variable Rate and Short-Term Securities; Tax Increment Financings; Public Power Financings; Airport Debt; Toll Road Financings; and Water and Sewer Transactions. In addition, the NFMA has published the Recommended Term Sheet and Legal Provisions for Hospital Debt Transactions. All papers can be found on the website, www.nfma.org under “Disclosure Guidelines.”

The NFMA chose to focus on Project Finance as it has become clear that issuers of these securities would welcome guidance as to what investors and potential investors are seeking in terms of both primary and secondary market disclosure. This White Paper was undertaken to discuss issues unique to project finance. Even though many sectors of the municipal market involve project finance, this White Paper covers topics such as construction risk and feasibility studies that may not be addressed in other best practices or white papers previously issued by the NFMA.

The papers formulated by the NFMA, including this White Paper and previously issued Best Practices Papers, are intended to provide guidance to issuers and intermediaries in providing primary and ongoing financial and operational information to the municipal analyst community (the investors and potential investors). The recommendations contained in the White Paper being released today are not intended to supplant the Amendments to SEC Rule 15c2-12, but are to be used in conjunction with the guidance provided in the Amendments.

Established in 1983, the NFMA is an organization of over 900 members, primarily research analysts, who evaluate credit and other associated risks in the municipal market. These individuals represent, among others, mutual funds, insurance companies, broker/dealers, bond insurers, rating agencies, and financial advisory firms.