

# NEWS OF INTEREST

Fall 2011

SFG FAMILY OF FUNDS



SFG INCOME FUND VI, LLC

foundation

velocity

prudent

implement

reflection

teamwork

integrity

solution

patience

## The Right Direction

As we move past our first year of recapitalizing Fund VI we are beginning to see progress on many fronts, especially the fund's economic direction. We went from collapsing financial markets, rising borrower default percentage and tremendous uncertainty, to a more stabilized portfolio with marked improvement in non-performing asset percentage combined with an influx of new loans, underwritten at today's

*The fund is heading in the right direction and investors continue to receive positive returns.*

valuations, filling the void. The fund is now heading in the right direction and investors continue to receive positive returns. In our analysis of the fund's direction, we studied the statistics of not only the last year, but the last three years to generate a wider scope and capture data from when we started making adjustments to our strategies in light of the dramatic economic changes that were developing. Looking from this

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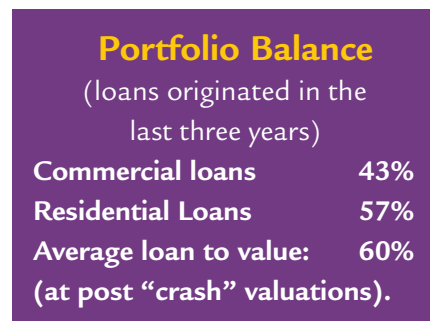
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broader approach was interesting and led to the question, “what if the loans originated during the peak of the real estate bubble (2006 and 2007) were not on the books? What if we analyzed the portfolio just over the last three years?” We recognize this is hypothetical and, of course, our primary objective is to dispose of these 2006-2007 assets and reemploy the capital in new loans at today’s valuations, however the results of this analysis are interesting to note and proves the effectiveness of our business model going forward. It also confirms our ability to serve investors long into the future and is a key component to carving through the challenges we all face today. To achieve this directional clarity, we created some general portfolio statistics for loans originated over the last three years (October 2008 through October 2011). We thought you might find this as interesting and encouraging as we did.



We experienced a 68% drop in loan volume from 2008 to 2009 as the markets drew to almost a halt. The substantial reduction was predicated by market shock from the sudden economic collapse, compounded by our self-imposed heightened underwriting standards. The last thing we wanted in the fund, regardless of how much equity supported the loan, was a

borrower who might not pay on time. We have accomplished this objective. Today our borrowers not only need substantial equity, like we’ve always demanded, but good credit and strong reserves as well. We have been able to maintain heightened borrower credit and reserve criteria throughout the last three years, and with the huge void left by the banking industry, coupled with our strong market position, it has been working well. Even with our heightened credit standards, 2010 loan volume increased over 2009 by 52%. We expect another 10% increase from 2010 through 2011. New loan volume at today’s valuations, along with the disposition of non-performing assets, are the ingredients to achieving the Fund’s objectives. Real progress is being made on both fronts.



Approximately \$25,000,000 of the \$72,000,000 in new loans funded are still on the books today, and as of this writing, 12% of our portfolio is in cash. These statistics show our loans are working.

Borrowers are borrowing the money, achieving their objectives and paying us off. This is a testimate to our business model and is reflected in



our ability to maintain liquidity throughout the market collapse. Loans on the books today, dated October 2008 or later, are below the general economic turbulence and are performing well.



Less than 2% of the loans funded since October 2008 have gone past 60 days late. None have produced a loss. Historically our portfolio has averaged between 12-18% in some stage of temporary non-performance, although large equity cushions protected our capital. In addition, the 12-18% of non-performing assets provided a profit center for the fund, paying late fees and default interest. Today, our heightened borrower credit requirements are producing a portfolio of loans that pay on time, hence we are receiving less late fee income. Given the fragile economy, we think it is prudent



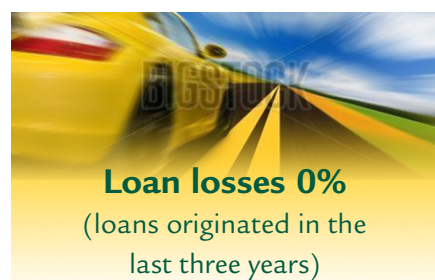
to lean towards borrowers with stronger pay histories and forgo the potential late fee income. Once we meet our target non-performing asset percentage of 16% or less, we may decide to open our credit standards some. However our future credit standards will always be somewhat above our historical norms. We have learned a lot the last few years, and we are better because of it.



For those of you who do not follow FICO scores, 714 is excellent and unusually high quality for an

equity based lender. Equity based lenders generally rely more on equity to protect their position and less on the borrower's credit. We have found that a reasonable balance of borrower quality coupled with our traditional collateral position in marketable real estate best support fund performance in all markets. Today we are confidently getting high levels of both credit and equity. The economic events of 2008 and 2009 however, have given us reason for permanent upgrades to our borrower credit standards that will serve us well, long into the future.

*New loans are performing on time while protecting our capital with substantial equity and strong borrowers.*



This is where the rubber meets the road. We, of course, recognized the new loans we were capturing not only had strong equity, but strong borrowers as well. However the 0% loan loss statistic really got our attention and remains a confirmation for our actions moving forward. Keep in mind this 0% loan loss the last three years was during the teeth of the recession, an authentic stress test to any real estate loan portfolio.

## Conclusion

The actions we began three years ago to protect the fund from declining real estate values is working. We've learned a few things over the last couple years and have made adjustments accordingly. Nonetheless, our core underwriting principles and disciplines have allowed us to weather this storm and will remain unchanged. New loans are performing on time while protecting our capital with substantial equity and strong borrowers. However, the sputtering economy continues to resist the speed of our progress and is our biggest frustration. Loan volume is well below normal levels and the market seems to be missing the sense of urgency necessary to enhance the velocity

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## Success Story

### New Lake Tahoe Waterfront Residence

\$1,700,000  
Zephyr Cove, NV

Family trust has owned this waterfront Lake Tahoe property for decades. They decided to partner with a builder and construct a high level spec home. Market conditions naturally dictated a slower sales process; hence the construction loan came due. With a prime waterfront asset, good credit borrowers, low loan to value and a clear exit strategy, this loan was closed inside of 10 days.



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of our advancement, but progress is being made. We finished the first two quarters of 2011 in high gear posting \$2.3 million in profits and shaving 6.4% off our non-performing asset percentage. The summer months of July, August and September were slow. Nevertheless, we keep marching

*The sputtering economy continues to resist the speed of our progress.....Nevertheless, we keep marching forward insistently and will not rest until we have achieved the objectives before us.*

forward insistently and will not rest until we have achieved the objectives before us. We look forward to better economic times ahead and thank you for your patience.

John Odegard and Greg Elderkin

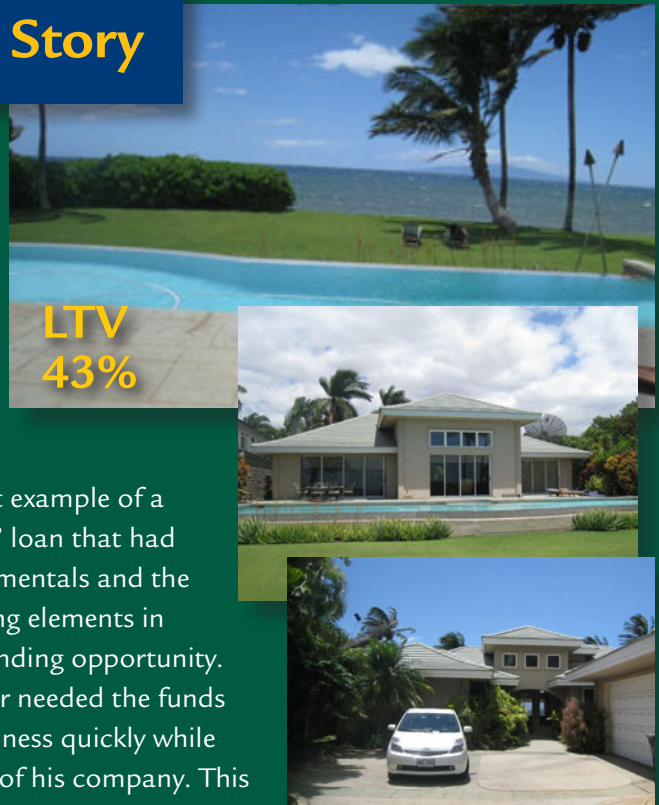
## Success Story

### Luxury Maui Oceanfront Residence

\$1,250,000  
Business Capital  
Kihei, HI

LTV  
43%

This recent Seattle Funding Group closing is the perfect example of a quick “business use” loan that had the necessary fundamentals and the essential underwriting elements in place for a strong lending opportunity. This mainland owner needed the funds to capitalize his business quickly while negotiating the sale of his company. This luxury beachfront home is located in a very desirable Maui location. The experienced sponsor has excellent financials along with a substantial equity position in the asset. SFG expertly assessed value and closed the transaction in under 10 days, thereby allowing the sponsor to meet his business needs. The securing property is valued in excess of \$3,000,000.



## Favorite Quotes

*You have to have your heart in the business and business in your heart.*  
~ Thomas J Watson Sr.

*Change happens not by trying to make yourself change, but by becoming conscious of what's not working.*  
~ Shakti Gawain

*I have learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness, or misery, depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstance.*  
~ Martha Washington

*Desire is the key to motivation, but it is the determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal – a commitment to excellence – that will enable you to attain the success you seek.*  
~ Mario Andretti

*If you have any favorite quotes you'd like to see in the News of Interest, please pass them along to John Odegard. We'd even be happy to mention in our newsletter where they came from. E-mail your favorite quotes to: [jodegard@sfgfunds.com](mailto:jodegard@sfgfunds.com).*



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