



Merced County Employees' Retirement Association

**AGENDA  
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 8:30 A.M.

Location: Merced County Administration Building  
2222 M Street, Merced, CA  
Los Banos and Livingston Conference Rooms, Basement  
Zoom Conference Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93030195748?pwd=NGhFeGltSVhaSTIsK2JGWE83TVFydz09>

Dial In Number: 669-900-6833, MEETING ID: 930 3019 5748, PASSCODE: 095484

(For use only if Zoom Connection Malfunctions)

Telephone Number: 1-310-372-7549, Conference Code: 975839

**1. Call to Order- 8:30 A.M.**

In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the Board of Retirement is meeting at the County of Merced Administration Building conference center to provide for sufficient social distancing for the Board and members of the public. Additionally, members of the MercedCERA Board as well as members of the public may elect to participate in this meeting offsite via conference call. Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or listen to the meeting and offer public comment telephonically by calling into the telephone number provided above and entering the stated conference code. If you have any issues participating in the meeting telephonically or require reasonable accommodation for your participation, please contact MercedCERA staff at 209-726-2724. Please turn your cell phone or other electronic device to non-audible mode.

The Retirement Board may discuss and take action on the following:

**2. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Scott Johnston, Mike Harris, Aaron Rosenberg, Dave Ness, Corrina Brown, Scott Silveira, Karen Adams, Janey Cabral and Ryan Paskin. **Absent:** Alfonse Peterson. **Counsel:** Jeff Grant. **Staff:** Kristie Santos, Martha Sanchez Barboa, Brenda Mojica, Sheri Villagrana, Monica Gallegos, Kenter Ludlow, Darlene Ingersoll, and Mark Harman.

**Teleconference Request**

Trustee Teleconference Request (Govt. Code §54953(f)(2)(A)(i)).

**No requests made or action taken.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes from January 26, 2023:**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Johnston/ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brown, passes (8-0)**

**4. Public Comment**

Members of the public may comment on any item under the Board's jurisdiction including items on the Board's agenda. Matters presented under this item will not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. Persons addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes in total. Please state your name for the record.

**No public comment.**

**5. Consent Calendar**



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Consent matters are expected to be routine and may be acted upon, without discussion, as one unit. If an item is taken off the Consent Calendar for discussion, it will be heard as the last item(s) of the Open Session as appropriate:

- a. Retirements: Pursuant to Govt. Code § 31663.25 or § 31672.

Name	Effective Date
Charles Hogue	01/03/2023
Mary Ann Navarra	01/13/2023
Yia Xiong	01/28/2023
Chela Marie Hinesley	01/31/2023

- b. Monthly Budget Report Submitted.
- c. Virtual Meeting Declaration: Reaffirm the adoption of Merced County Employee's Retirement Association Resolution No. 2021-02, and its findings that the Governor's proclaimed state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic remains active, that the state of emergency impacts the ability of the Trustees and public to safely meet in person, and state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.
- d. Plan Administrator to work with the Registrar of Voters for elections for seats 3, 8 and 8A.

**Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented:  
1<sup>st</sup> - Adams/ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cabral, passes (8-0)**

**6. Closed Session**

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff, county employees and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Board will meet on in closed session are identified below. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1:

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (d)(4): One case.
- b. Discussion and possible action regarding investment (Govt. Code § 54956.81) in recommended funds by Cliffwater LLC.
- c. Disability Retirement Applications: Personnel exceptions (Govt. Code § 54957, 31532; Cal Const. art I § 1).
  - 1. Initial Disability Application Recommendation – Deborah French.
- d. Conference with Labor Negotiators.  
Agency designated representatives: Committee composed of the chairperson and two trustees to be selected by the chairperson.  
Unrepresented employee: Plan Administrator.

**Report Out of Closed Session**

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation - Staff and counsel given direction.
- b. The Board voted unanimously on the following investments:
  - A commitment of up to \$20 million to *Ares Capital Europe VI, L.P.*, a direct lending partnership focused on lending to sponsor backed companies in Europe, subject to satisfactory legal negotiations.
  - A commitment of up to \$10 million to *Cortec Group VIII, L.P.*, a private equity partnership focused on control buyout investments in non-tech lower middle market companies, subject to satisfactory legal negotiations.

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- A commitment of up to \$8 million *Genstar Capital XI, L.P.*, a private equity partnership focused on control buyouts of middle market companies where there will be an opportunity to accelerate growth through acquisitions, subject to satisfactory legal negotiations.

1<sup>st</sup> - Adams/ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Silveira, passes (8-0)

- c. The Board voted unanimously to approve a service connected disability and deny a non-service connected disability for Deborah French.

1<sup>st</sup> - Johnston/ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cabral, passes (8-0)

- d. Conference with Labor Negotiators.

Agency designated representatives: Committee composed of the chairperson and two trustees to be selected by the chairperson.

Unrepresented employee: Plan Administrator

Chair appointed Trustees Brown, Johnston and Paskin.

**7. Open Session**

- a. Discussion and possible approval of the annual actuarial valuation results, experience study and approve the annual cost of living adjustment for Tier 1 members – Graham Schmidt, Cheiron.

**Motion to approve and accept the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for Tier 1 (with a 2% bank), the annual valuation results and the experience study as presented by Cheiron:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Cabral/ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Silveira, passes (8-0)

- b. Discussion of fourth quarter performance, new capital market expectations with the MercedCERA portfolio and commentary on the current markets – Meketa Group.

**No action taken.**

- c. Discussion on ad hoc or supplemental COLA's for MercedCERA Retirees – Staff.



**No action taken.**

**8. Information Sharing & Agenda Item Requests**

- Trustee Rosenberg and Trustee Harris will not attend the March 23, 2023 meeting.
- Trustee Paskin said there are tickets still available for the Merced Fireman's Ball. Please see him for tickets.

**9. Adjournment at 11:33 A.M.**

Accepted By,

Trustee Name/Position	Signature	Date
Ryan Paskin/Chair		3/23/23
Al Peterson/Secretary		04/27/23