



## **Merced County Employees' Retirement Association**

**Actuarial Valuation  
as of June 30, 2015**

**Produced by Cheiron**

**January 2016**

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January 5, 2016

Retirement Board of Merced  
County Employees' Retirement Association  
3199 M Street  
Merced, CA 95348

Dear Members of the Board:

At your request, we have conducted an actuarial valuation of the Merced County Employees' Retirement Association (MCERA, the Fund, the Plan) as of June 30, 2015. This report contains information on the Plan's assets, liabilities, and discloses employer contribution levels. Your attention is called to the Foreword in which we refer to the general approach employed in the preparation of this report.

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the annual actuarial valuation of MCERA. This report is for the use of the Retirement Board of MCERA and its auditors in preparing financial reports in accordance with applicable law and accounting requirements. Any other user of this report is not an intended user and is considered a third party.

Cheiron's report was prepared solely for the Retirement Board of MCERA for the purposes described herein, except that the plan auditor may rely on this report solely for the purpose of completing an audit related to the matters herein. It is not intended to benefit any third party, and Cheiron assumes no duty or liability to any such party.

To the best of our knowledge, this report and its contents have been prepared in accordance with generally recognized and accepted actuarial principles and practices which are consistent with the Code of Professional Conduct and applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice set out by the Actuarial Standards Board. Furthermore, as credentialed actuaries, we meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the opinion contained in this report. This report does not address any contractual or legal issues. We are not attorneys and our firm does not provide any legal services or advice.

Sincerely,  
Cheiron



Graham A. Schmidt, ASA, EA, FCA, MAAA  
Consulting Actuary



David Holland, FSA, FCA, MAAA, EA  
Consulting Actuary

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**FOREWORD**

Cheiron has performed the actuarial valuation of the Merced County Employees' Retirement Association as of June 30, 2015. The valuation is organized as follows:

- In Section I, the **Executive Summary**, we describe the purpose of an actuarial valuation, summarize the key results found in this valuation, and disclose important trends.
- The **Main Body** of the report presents details on the Plan's
  - Section II - Assets
  - Section III - Liabilities
  - Section IV- Contributions
  - Section V- Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting Information
- In the **Appendices** we conclude our report with detailed information describing plan membership (Appendix A), actuarial assumptions and methods employed in the valuation (Appendix B), a summary of pertinent plan provisions (Appendix C), tables containing member contribution rates (Appendix D), and a glossary of key actuarial terms (Appendix E).

The results of this report rely on future plan experience conforming to the underlying assumptions and methods outlined in this report. To the extent that the actual plan experience deviates from the underlying assumptions and methods, or there are any changes in plan provisions or applicable laws, the results would vary accordingly.

In preparing our report, we relied on information (some oral and written) supplied by the MCERA staff. This information includes, but is not limited to, plan provisions, employee data, and financial information. We performed an informal examination of the obvious characteristics of the data for reasonableness and consistency in accordance with Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 23.

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION I  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The primary purpose of the actuarial valuation and this report is to measure, describe, and identify the following as of the valuation date:

- The financial condition of the Plan,
- Past and expected trends in the financial progress of the Plan,
- Employer and employee contribution rates for Fiscal Year 2017, and,
- Information required by the GFOA for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

In the balance of this Executive Summary, we present (A) the basis upon which this year's valuation was completed, (B) the key findings of this valuation including a summary of all key financial results, (C) an examination of the historical trends, and (D) the projected financial outlook for the Plan.

**A. Valuation Basis**

This valuation determines the employer contributions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The Plan's funding policy is to collect contributions from the employers and employees equal to the sum of:

- The normal cost under the Entry Age Normal Cost Method,
- Amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability, and
- The Plan's expected administrative expenses.

The unfunded actuarial liability payment is determined as the amount needed to fund the outstanding unfunded actuarial liability (UAL). Effective with the June 30, 2013 valuation, the UAL as of June 30, 2013 is amortized over a closed 16-year period. At the meeting held on January 22, 2015, the Board of Retirement adopted a new funding policy for any subsequent unexpected change in the UAL after June 30, 2013. Effective with the June 30, 2014 valuation, any new sources of UAL due to actuarial gains and losses or method changes are amortized over a closed 24-year period, with a 5-year ramp up period at the beginning of the period, a 4-year ramp down at the end of the period, and 15 years of level payments as a percentage of payroll between the ramping periods. Assumption changes will be amortized over a closed 22-year period, with a 3-year ramp up period, 2-year ramp down period, and 17 years of level payments as a percentage of payroll. This amortization method is similar to a traditional five or three year asset smoothing and a 20-year amortization period with level payments as a percentage of payroll. The Board also adopted a policy to replace the smoothed actuarial value of assets with the market value of assets for valuation purposes. These new amortization and funding policies in conjunction are a type of policy known as direct rate smoothing.

Experience studies are performed every three years. This valuation was performed on the basis of the economic and demographic assumptions and methods that were determined in the Actuarial Experience Study dated March 6, 2014. A summary of the assumptions and methods used in the current valuation is shown in Appendix B.

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This valuation was prepared based on the plan provisions shown in Appendix C. Employee contribution rates are shown in Appendix D. The rates for PEPRA members will be recomputed each year to be one-half of the total normal cost rate.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Key Findings of this Valuation**

The following discussion summarizes the key results of the June 30, 2015 valuation and how they compare to the results from the June 30, 2014 valuation.

**Summary of Key Valuation Results**

Table I-1 summarizes the key results of the valuation with respect to assets, liabilities, and contributions.

Table I-1 Merced County Employees' Retirement Association Summary of Key Valuation Results (in millions)		
Valuation Date Fiscal Year End	June 30, 2015 2017	June 30, 2014 2016
Actuarial Liability	\$ 1,131.2	\$ 1,096.2
Market Value of Assets	672.3	657.3
Unfunded Actuarial Liability	\$ 458.9	\$ 438.9
Funded Ratio	59.4%	60.0%
Net Employer Contribution Rate	50.02%	49.93%

More discussion of the factors that affected these results can be found in the remainder of this section, but some key points are as follows:

- The employer contribution rate increased from 49.93% to 50.02%.
- The unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) is the excess of the Plan's actuarial liability over the market value of assets. The Plan's UAL increased from \$438.9 to \$458.9 million. This increase in UAL was primarily due to experience losses from assets.
- The Plan's funded ratio, the ratio of actuarial assets over actuarial liability, decreased slightly from 60.0% last year to 59.4% as of June 30, 2015.

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**Plan Membership**

Table I-2 summarizes Plan membership as of June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014. More detailed membership statistics are shown in Appendix A.

<b>Table I-2 Membership Total</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>June 30, 2015</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>	
Actives	1,962	1,924	2.0%	
Deferred Members	677	644	5.1%	
Retired Members	2,200	2,135	3.0%	
Total Members	4,839	4,703	2.9%	
Active Member Payroll	\$ 117,822,103	\$ 115,939,182	1.6%	
Average Pay per Active	60,052	60,259	-0.3%	

Some key points are as follows:

- Total Plan membership increased by 2.9%, mostly driven by the increase in deferred and retired members. The active membership count increased by 2.0%.
- The pay figures reflect the annualized rate as of June 30, plus expected increases for the upcoming year. The average pay per active member decreased slightly by 0.3%.



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**Components of UAL Change between June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015**

Table I-3 is a detailed reconciliation of the components that affected the UAL between June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Table I-3 Change in Unfunded Actuarial Liability	
Experience	in millions
1. Unfunded actuarial liability, 6/30/2014	\$ 438.9
2. Expected change in unfunded actuarial liability	\$ (14.1)
3. Unfunded increase due to investment loss	31.5
4. Unfunded increase due to contributions less than expected (including impact of 12-month rate delay)	6.5
5. Unfunded increase due to expenses greater than expected	1.1
6. Unfunded decrease due to liability gain	<u>(5.1)</u>
7. Total change in unfunded actuarial liability	19.9
8. Unfunded actuarial liability, 6/30/2015	\$ 458.9

The Plan's UAL increased from \$438.9 million as of June 30, 2014 to \$458.9 million as of June 30, 2015. As shown above, the largest contributing factor was investment losses. Contributions less than expected increased the UAL by \$6.5 million, largely resulting from lower than expected payroll.

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**Employer Contribution Reconciliation**

Table I-4 is a detailed reconciliation between the Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 employer contribution rates, in total and by component.

Table I-4				
Employer Contribution Reconciliation				
Item	Total	Normal Cost	Amortization	Expenses
FYE 2016 Net Employer Contribution Rate	49.93%	9.06%	39.94%	0.93%
Expected Change due to phase-in	-1.04%	0.00%	-1.04%	0.00%
Change due to investment loss	0.44%	0.00%	0.44%	0.00%
Change due to contributions less than expected (including impact of 12-month rate delay)	0.09%	0.00%	0.09%	0.00%
Change due to expenses greater than expected	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%
Change due to PEPRA new hires	-0.28%	-0.28%	0.00%	0.00%
Change due to liability gain	-0.07%	0.00%	-0.07%	0.00%
Change due to effect of payroll on amort / expense	0.55%	0.00%	0.54%	0.01%
Change due to change in expense assumption	<u>0.38%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.38%</u>
Total change	0.09%	-0.28%	-0.02%	0.39%
FYE 2017 Net Employer Contribution Rate	50.02%	8.78%	39.92%	1.32%

The employer contribution rate increased from 49.93% for Fiscal Year 2016 to 50.02% for Fiscal Year 2017:

- The phase-in of the UAL gains from the prior year decreased the contribution rate by 1.04%. These gains will continue to be phased-in over the next three years, resulting in similar reductions in the employer contribution rates.
- The investment loss increased the current year contribution rate by 0.44% of pay. The assets of the Plan returned 2.95% (net of investment expenses) on a market basis, lower than the assumed rate of 7.75%. The amortization payment for the current year investment losses will continue to be phased-in over the next four years.
- Contributions less than expected increased the employer contribution rate by 0.09% of pay, largely due to lower than expected payroll.
- Demographic experience was favorable for a net decrease in cost of about 0.07% of pay. As with the investment losses, these gains will continue to be phased-in over the next four years. The phase-in of PEPRA members further decreased the cost by about 0.28% of pay.

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- Payroll less than expected increased the employer contribution rate by 0.55% of pay, since it results in the Plan's unfunded actuarial liability and administrative expenses being spread over a less than expected payroll base.
- The administrative expense assumption was increased to \$1.8 million for the next fiscal year, based on a recommendation from Staff, which increased the contribution rate by 0.38% of payroll.

**Plan Risk**

Table I-5 Asset to Payroll Ratio as of June 30, 2015	
Active Member Payroll	\$ 117,822,103
Assets (Market Value)	672,319,369
Ratio of Assets to Payroll	5.71
Ratio with 100% Funding	9.60

One of the most important measures of a plan's risk is the ratio of plan assets to payroll. The table above shows MCERA's assets as a percentage of active member payroll. This ratio indicates the sensitivity of the Plan to the returns earned on Plan assets. We note in the table that assets currently are more than five times covered payroll for the Plan; as funding improves and the Plan reaches 100% funding, the ratio of assets to payroll will increase to over nine times payroll, perhaps higher depending on the Plan's future demographic makeup.

To appreciate the impact of the ratio of assets to payroll on contributions rates, consider the situation for a new plan with almost no assets. Even if the assets suffer a bad year of investment returns, the impact on the contribution rate is nil, because the assets are so small.

On the other hand, consider the situation for MCERA. Suppose MCERA's assets lose 10% of their value in a year. Since they were assumed to earn 7.75%, there is an actuarial loss of 17.75% of plan assets. Based on the current ratio of assets to payroll (571%), that means the loss in assets is about 101% of active payroll (571% of the 17.75% loss). There is only one source of funding to make up for this loss: the employers. Consequently, barring future offsetting investment gains, the employers must make up the asset loss in future contributions. In this example of a one-year loss of 10%, this shortfall will eventually require an additional amortization payment in the vicinity of 7.8% of payroll if amortized over 20 years.

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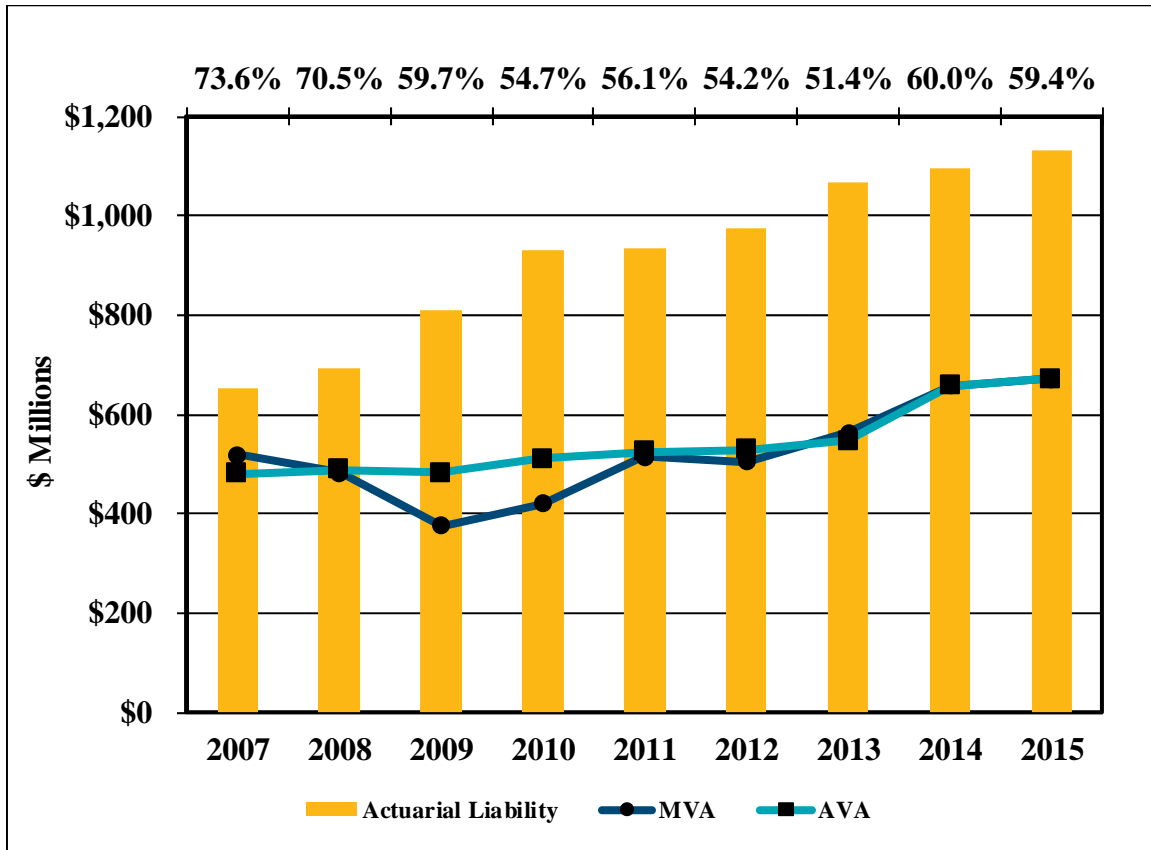
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 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Historical Trends**

Despite the fact that for most retirement plans the greatest attention is given to the current valuation results and in particular the size of the current unfunded actuarial liability and the employer contribution, it is important to remember that each valuation is merely a snapshot in the long-term progress of a pension fund. It is more important to judge a current year's valuation result relative to historical trends, as well as trends expected into the future.

**Assets and Liabilities**

The chart below compares the Market Value of Assets (MVA) and Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA) to the Actuarial Liabilities. The percentage shown at the top of each bar is the ratio of the Actuarial Value of Assets to the Actuarial Liability (the funded ratio). Beginning June 30, 2014, the Actuarial Value of Assets is equal to the Market Value, and thus the funded ratios shown in 2014 and after will be based on the Market Value of Assets. The funded ratio has declined from 73.6% in 2007 to 59.4% as of June 30, 2015.

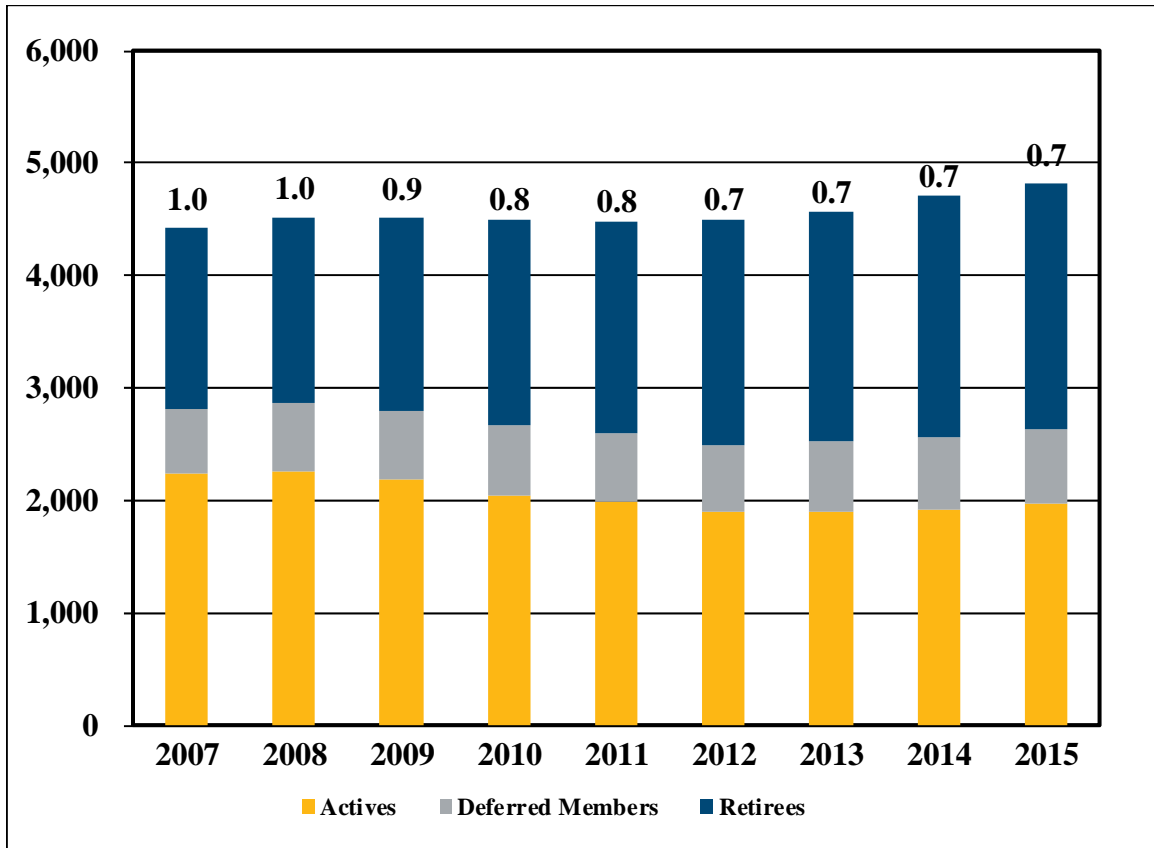


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The extraordinary asset loss of 2008 adversely affected the funded ratio from 2009 to 2013. The 2014 funded ratio increased as a result of asset and liability gains in 2014, and as a result of resetting the Actuarial Value of Assets to the Market Value.

**Participant Trends**



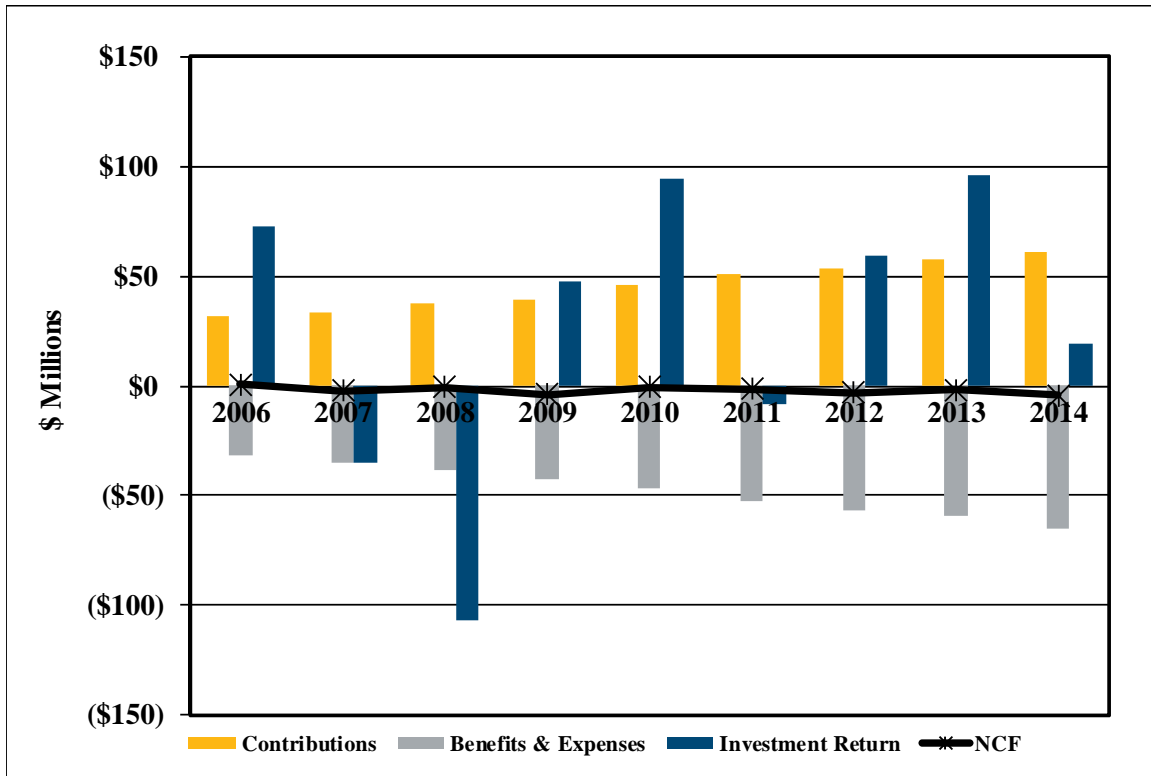
The chart above provides a measure for Plan maturity by comparing the ratio of active members to inactive members (retirees and deferred members). These ratios are given at the top of each bar. The active-to-inactive ratio has decreased from 2007 to 2015, indicating the ongoing maturation of the Plan. While this is neither good nor bad in itself, it does have implications for the risk profile of the Plan, as discussed under Table I-5 earlier in this section.

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**Cash Flows**

The chart below shows the Plan's cash flow (contribution less benefit payments). This is a critical measure, as it reflects the ability to have funds available to meet benefit payments without having to make difficult investment decisions, especially during volatile markets.



In the chart above, the contributions, benefit payments and investment returns are shown as bars and the Plan's net cash flow (NCF) is shown as a black line. The NCF, which is equal to contributions less benefit payments, has been close to zero for the entire period shown. A negative cash flow magnifies the losses during a market decline hindering the Plan in its ability to absorb market fluctuations. The implications of a plan in negative cash flow are that the impact of market fluctuations can be more severe: As assets are being depleted to pay benefits in down markets, there is less principal available to be reinvested during favorable return periods.

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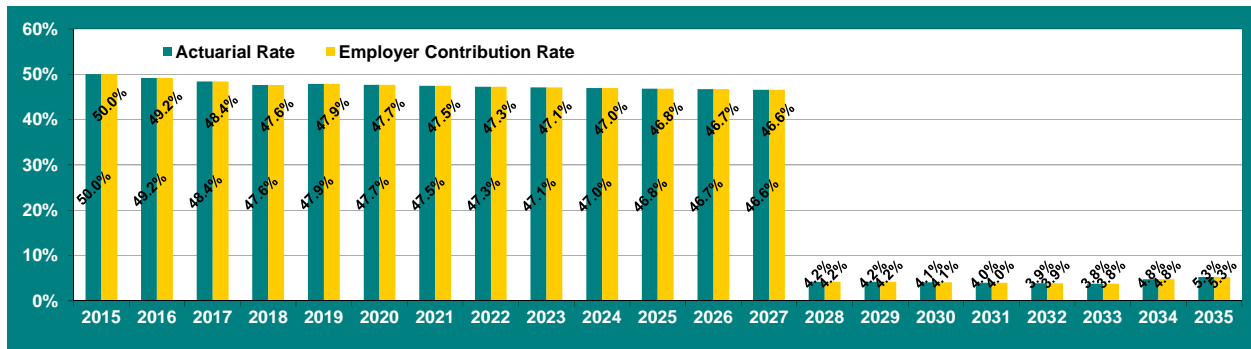
**Future Expected Financial Trends**

The analysis of projected financial trends is perhaps the most important component of this valuation. In this Section, we present our assessment of the implications of the June 30, 2015 valuation results in terms of benefit security (assets over liabilities). All the projections in this section are based on the current interest rate assumption of 7.75%. We have assumed future salary increases of 3.00% per year.

**Contribution Projections:**

The following graph shows the expected employer and member contribution rates based on actually achieving the 7.75% assumption each year for the next 20 years, which is clearly impossible.

**Projection of Employer and Member Contributions, 7.75% return each year**



The graph above shows employer contributions peaking at 50.0% in the June 30, 2015 valuation (for Fiscal Year 2017), decreasing slightly in the subsequent years, and then dropping off significantly in 2028 once the amortization of the bulk of the unfunded actuarial liability is complete.

Note that the graph above does not forecast any actuarial gains or losses. Even relatively modest losses relative to the 7.75% assumed return could push the employer contribution rate over 50% in the next few years.

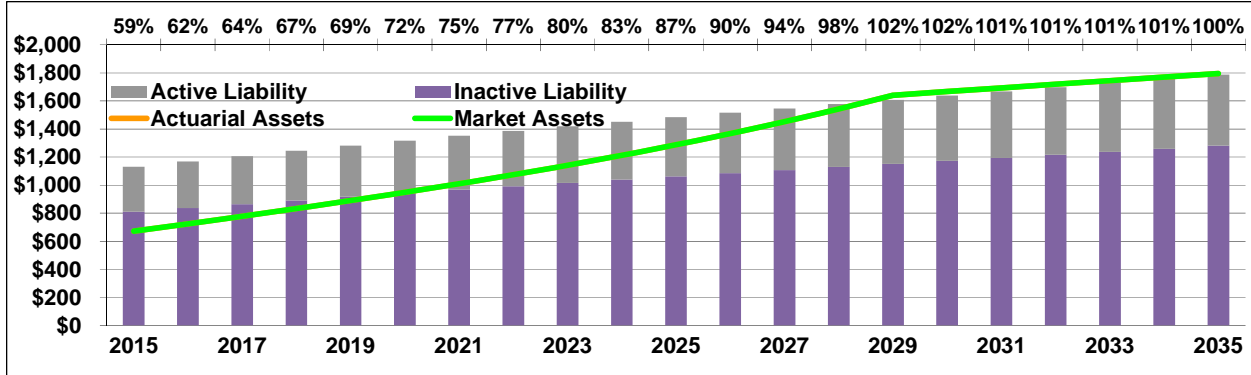
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**Asset and Liability Projections:**

The following graph shows the projection of assets and liabilities assuming that assets will earn the 7.75% assumption each year during the projection period.

**Projection of Assets and Liabilities, 7.75% return each year**



The graph shows that the projected funded status increases over the next 20 years to 100%, assuming the actuarial assumptions are achieved. However, as above, it is the actual return on Plan assets that will determine the future funded status and contribution rates.

The liabilities have been divided into those associated with the active employees and the inactive members (members in pay status or eligible to receive a deferred benefit). If the Plan's asset level drops below the liabilities for the inactive members, it indicates that no Plan assets have been set aside to fund future benefits for current active participants.

The Plan's funding policy states that if the inactive funded ratio (the ratio of actuarial value of assets to the inactive liabilities) is less than 100% for three consecutive years, then in the third year, the amortization period may be decreased by the Board in order to achieve a projected inactive funded ratio of 100% within 8 years. In the June 30, 2015 valuation the inactive funded ratio was again below 100%; however, as can be seen from the graph, by 2020 the actuarial value of assets is projected to exceed the inactive actuarial liability (purple bar), so consideration of an adjustment is not required at this time.



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**SECTION II  
ASSETS**

Pension Plan assets play a key role in the financial operation of the Plan and in the decisions the Board may make with respect to future deployment of those assets. The level of assets, the allocation of assets among asset classes, and the methodology used to measure assets will likely impact benefit levels, employer contributions, and the ultimate security of participants' benefits.

In this section, we present detailed information on Plan assets including:

- **Disclosure** of Plan assets as of June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015,
- Statement of the **changes** in market values during the year, and
- Historical **investment performance**.

In prior valuations, a distinction was made between actuarial assets and valuation assets, with the latter reduced for non-valuation reserves, such as the Contingency Reserve. Since there are no such reserves as of June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015, the two asset values are equal, and throughout this report we have used the term actuarial value of assets exclusively, except to show the history of returns on the valuation assets in Table II-4.

**Disclosure**

The market value represents “snap-shot” or “cash-out” values that provide the principal basis for measuring financial performance from one year to the next.

As of June 30, 2014, an actuarial value of assets distinct from the market value of assets is no longer used in the calculations of the unfunded actuarial liability or funded status due to the implementation of the new funding policy adopted by the Board on January 22, 2015. This policy change was made in conjunction with the new 24-year layered amortization of any unexpected changes in the unfunded actuarial liability starting with the June 30, 2014 valuation. The calculation of the actuarial value of assets is no longer shown in the valuation report.

Table II-1 on the next page discloses and compares each asset value as of June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

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**SECTION II  
ASSETS**

<b>Table II-1 Statement of Assets at Market Value</b>		
<b>Assets</b>	<b>June 30, 2015</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>
<b>Cash and Short-Term Investments:</b>		
Cash invested with Merced County Treasurer	\$ 1,577,066	\$ 2,449,151
Cash invested with BNY Mellon	5,379,699	7,834,346
Other cash and cash equivalents with BNY Mellon	3,803,346	15,754,517
Securities lending collateral	<u>2,638,976</u>	<u>7,360,482</u>
Total Cash and Short-Term Investments	\$ 13,399,087	\$ 33,398,495
<b>Receivables:</b>		
Bond interest	\$ 645,358	\$ 820,494
Dividends	235,575	264,316
Contributions	2,951,115	2,585,758
Distributions	594,498	0
Securities sold	2,186,877	1,561,777
Other	<u>1,574</u>	<u>3,933</u>
Total Receivables	\$ 6,614,997	\$ 5,236,277
<b>Investments at Market Value:</b>		
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 53,798,734	\$ 57,177,311
Domestic fixed income	90,975,193	111,566,693
Common stocks (domestic)	40,995,445	30,444,340
Common stocks (index funds)	169,455,988	152,338,457
Common stocks (international)	154,854,029	173,623,978
Real estate	53,867,884	43,459,904
Alternative investments	<u>92,061,348</u>	<u>58,567,407</u>
Total Investments at Market Value	\$ 656,008,621	\$ 627,178,089
<b>Other Assets:</b>		
Prepaid expense	\$ 16,681	\$ 0
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation of \$71,835 and \$70,509 respectively	<u>2,271,829</u>	<u>2,128,552</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>678,311,215</b>	<b>667,941,413</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 692,498	\$ 459,611
Securities lending obligation	2,638,976	7,360,482
Securities purchased	2,649,013	2,785,044
Unclaimed contributions	<u>11,359</u>	<u>11,359</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5,991,846</b>	<b>10,616,496</b>
<b>Market Value of Assets</b>	<b>\$ 672,319,369</b>	<b>\$ 657,324,917</b>

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**SECTION II  
ASSETS**

**Changes in Market Value**

The components of asset change are:

- Contributions (employer and employee)
- Benefit payments
- Expenses (investment and administrative)
- Investment income (realized and unrealized)

Table II-2 shows the components of change in the market value of assets during 2014 and 2015.

<b>Table II-2 Changes in Market Values</b>		
	<b>Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015</b>	<b>Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014</b>
<b>Additions</b>		
Contributions:		
Employer	\$ 52,005,656	\$ 48,032,338
Plan members	8,945,316	9,642,819
Total Contributions	\$ 60,950,972	\$ 57,675,157
Investment Income/(Loss) from Investment Activities:		
Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 12,647,924	\$ 86,886,413
Investment income	9,642,717	11,665,042
Other revenue	13,018	26,540
Less investment expenses	(3,007,179)	(2,434,091)
Total Investment Income/(Loss) from Investment Activities	\$ 19,296,480	\$ 96,143,904
Securities Lending Income:		
Securities lending income	\$ 11,990	\$ 12,852
Securities lending rebates	10,380	62,298
Total Securities Lending Income	\$ 22,370	\$ 75,151
Total Investment Income/(Loss)	\$ 19,318,850	\$ 96,219,055
<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>80,269,822</b>	<b>153,894,212</b>
<b>Deductions</b>		
Benefits paid	\$ 61,780,089	\$ 57,338,930
Refunds of contributions	1,171,835	703,091
Administrative expense	2,197,281	1,434,671
Actuarial expense	126,165	112,676
401(h) distribution to County	0	0
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>65,275,370</b>	<b>59,589,368</b>
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$ 14,994,452	\$ 94,304,844
Market Value of Assets, Beginning of Year	657,324,917	563,020,073
<b>Market Value of Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 672,319,369</b>	<b>\$ 657,324,917</b>

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ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**SECTION II  
ASSETS**

**Investment Performance**

The following table shows the historical annual asset returns on a market value and actuarial value basis, as well in the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 1995. Beginning June 30, 2014, the Actuarial Value of Assets is equal to the Market Value of Assets, so the net returns are the same for FY 2015.

Table II-3 Net Return on Assets vs. Increase in Consumer Price Index				
Year Ended June 30	Net Return at Market Value	Net Return at Actuarial Value	Net Return at Valuation Assets	Increase in Consumer Price Index <sup>1</sup>
1995		4.4%		3.0%
1996	9.8%	9.8%		2.8%
1997	16.7%	11.6%		2.3%
1998	13.9%	12.7%		1.7%
1999	10.0%	12.3%		2.0%
2000	9.1%	11.5%		3.7%
2001	-3.6%	8.6%		3.2%
2002	-5.6%	4.9%		1.1%
2003	4.6%	3.3%		2.1%
2004	12.6%	3.3%		3.3%
2005	8.7%	2.5%		2.5%
2006	7.6%	4.7%		4.3%
2007	16.3%	8.9%		2.7%
2008	-6.7%	1.2%		5.0%
2009	-22.1%	-4.9%	2.7%	-1.4%
2010	12.7%	7.0%	6.0%	1.1%
2011	22.6%	2.6%	2.7%	3.6%
2012	-1.6%	0.6%	1.0%	1.7%
2013	11.8%	3.8%	3.8%	1.8%
2014	17.1%	11.8%	11.8%	2.1%
2015	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	0.1%
<b>15-Year Compound Average</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>10-Year Compound Average</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>5-Year Compound Average</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on All Urban Consumers - U.S. City Average, June indices.

MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION III  
LIABILITIES**

In this section, we present detailed information on Plan liabilities including:

- **Disclosure** of Plan liabilities at June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015, and
- Plan liabilities by **tier** as of June 30, 2015.

**Disclosure**

Several types of liabilities are calculated and presented in this report. Each type is distinguished by the people ultimately using the figures and the purpose for which they are using them. Note that these liabilities are not applicable for settlement purposes, including the purchase of annuities and the payment of lump sums.

- **Present Value of Future Benefits:** Used for measuring all future Plan obligations, represents the amount of money needed today to fully fund all benefits of the Plan both earned as of the valuation date and those to be earned in the future by current plan participants, under the current Plan provisions.
- **Actuarial Liability:** Used for funding calculations, this liability is calculated taking the Present Value of Future Benefits and subtracting the present value of future Member Contributions and future Employer Normal Costs under an acceptable actuarial funding method. The method used for this Plan is called the **Entry Age Normal** (EAN) funding method.
- **Unfunded Actuarial Liability:** The excess of the Actuarial Liability over the Actuarial Value of Assets.

Table III-1 on the following page discloses each of these liabilities for the current and prior valuations. With respect to each disclosure, a subtraction of the appropriate value of Plan assets yields, for each respective type, a **net surplus**, or an **unfunded actuarial liability**.

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION III  
LIABILITIES**

<b>Table III-1</b>		
<b>Present Value of Future Benefits and Actuarial Liability</b>		
(in thousands)		
<b>Item</b>	<b>June 30, 2015</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>
<b>Present Value of Future Benefits</b>		
Actives	\$ 449,558	\$ 448,922
Deferred Members	44,037	38,616
Retirees	658,382	637,262
Disabled	60,369	58,524
Beneficiaries	46,987	43,642
<b>Total MCERA</b>	<b>\$ 1,259,334</b>	<b>\$ 1,226,967</b>
<b>Actuarial Liability</b>		
Total Present Value of Benefits	\$ 1,259,334	\$ 1,226,967
Present Value of Future Normal Costs		
Employer Portion	66,921	68,613
Employee Portion	61,232	62,112
<b>Actuarial Liability</b>	<b>\$ 1,131,181</b>	<b>\$ 1,096,241</b>
Market Value of Assets	\$ 672,319	\$ 657,325
<b>Unfunded Actuarial Liability/(Surplus)</b>	<b>\$ 458,862</b>	<b>\$ 438,916</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION III  
LIABILITIES**

Table III-2 discloses the liabilities of the Plan as of June 30, 2015, split by tier.

Table III-2 Liabilities by Group as of June 30, 2015 (in thousands)											
Present Value of Future Benefits	General					Safety					All Total
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Total	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Total	
Actives	\$ 100,458	\$ 235,125	\$ 3,659	\$ 16,024	\$ 355,266	\$ 30,319	\$ 59,218	\$ 401	\$ 4,354	\$ 94,292	\$ 449,558
Deferred Members	16,907	19,751	23	51	36,731	2,491	4,670	3	141	7,306	44,037
Retirees	504,692	47,883	5	-	552,580	102,270	3,532	-	-	105,803	658,382
Disabled	17,668	4,247	-	-	21,915	34,064	4,389	-	-	38,453	60,369
Beneficiaries	30,182	1,331	-	-	31,513	14,905	570	-	-	15,474	46,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 669,907</b>	<b>\$ 308,337</b>	<b>\$ 3,687</b>	<b>\$ 16,075</b>	<b>\$ 998,005</b>	<b>\$ 184,050</b>	<b>\$ 72,379</b>	<b>\$ 403</b>	<b>\$ 4,496</b>	<b>\$ 261,328</b>	<b>\$ 1,259,334</b>
<b>Actuarial Liability</b>											
Actives	\$ 91,414	\$ 164,409	\$ 684	\$ 1,850	\$ 258,357	\$ 27,194	\$ 35,383	\$ 59	\$ 412	\$ 63,049	\$ 321,406
Deferred Members	16,907	19,751	23	51	36,731	2,491	4,670	3	141	7,306	44,037
Retirees	504,692	47,883	5	-	552,580	102,270	3,532	-	-	105,803	658,382
Disabled	17,668	4,247	-	-	21,915	34,064	4,389	-	-	38,453	60,369
Beneficiaries	30,182	1,331	-	-	31,513	14,905	570	-	-	15,474	46,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 660,863</b>	<b>\$ 237,621</b>	<b>\$ 712</b>	<b>\$ 1,900</b>	<b>\$ 901,097</b>	<b>\$ 180,925</b>	<b>\$ 48,544</b>	<b>\$ 62</b>	<b>\$ 554</b>	<b>\$ 230,085</b>	<b>\$ 1,131,181</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION IV  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

In the process of evaluating the financial condition of any pension plan, the actuary analyzes the assets and liabilities to determine what level (if any) of contributions is needed to properly maintain the funding status of the Plan. Typically, the actuarial process will use a funding technique that will result in a pattern of contributions that are both stable and predictable.

For this Plan, the actuarial funding method used to determine the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial liability is the **Entry Age Normal (EAN)** cost method. There are three primary components to the total contribution: the **normal cost rate** (employee and employer), the **unfunded actuarial liability rate** (UAL rate), and the **administrative expense rate**.

The normal cost rate is determined in the following steps. First, an individual normal cost rate is determined by taking the value, as of entry age into the Plan, of each member's projected future benefits. This value is then divided by the value, also at entry age, of the member's expected future salary producing a normal cost rate that should remain relatively constant over a member's career. The normal cost of the Plan is the sum of the normal costs for each individual. The total normal cost is adjusted with interest to the middle of the year, to reflect the fact that the normal cost contributions are paid throughout the year as member payroll payments are made. Finally, the total normal cost rate is reduced by the member contribution rate to produce the employer normal cost rate.

Starting with the June 30, 2014 valuation, the unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) is the difference between the EAN actuarial liability and the market value of assets. The unfunded actuarial liability payment is determined as the amount needed to fund the outstanding unfunded actuarial liability as of June 30, 2013 over a closed period with 16 years remaining, as a level percentage of pay. Any subsequent unexpected change in the unfunded actuarial liability after June 30, 2013 is amortized over 24 years (22 years for assumption changes) that includes a 5-year phase-in/out (3 years for assumption changes) of the payments/credits for each annual layer.

The administrative expenses are assumed to be \$1.80 million for the current Plan year, and are expected to increase by the inflation rate in future years.

The tables below present the employer contribution rates for the Plan for this valuation.

<b>Table IV-1 Development of the Net Employer Contribution Rate as of June 30, 2015 for FYE 2017</b>		
	<b>June 30, 2015</b>	<b>June 30, 2014</b>
1. Total Normal Cost Rate	16.45%	16.97%
2. Member Contribution Rate <sup>1</sup>	<u>7.67%</u>	<u>7.91%</u>
3. Employer Normal Cost Rate (1-2)	8.78%	9.06%
4. UAL Amortization Rate	39.92%	39.94%
5. Administrative Expense Rate	1.32%	0.93%
6. Net Employer Contribution Rate (3+4+5)	50.02%	49.93%

<sup>1</sup> Not including member's share of administrative expenses.



**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION IV  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

Table IV-2 FYE 2017 Net Employer Contribution Rate by Group											
	General					Safety					All
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Total	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Total	Total
<b>County</b>											
1. Total Normal Cost Rate	20.53%	15.63%	12.67%	10.26%	15.17%	32.04%	21.94%	19.19%	17.21%	22.88%	16.45%
2. Member Contribution Rate <sup>1</sup>	<u>9.97%</u>	<u>7.76%</u>	<u>5.21%</u>	<u>5.13%</u>	<u>7.47%</u>	<u>11.74%</u>	<u>7.99%</u>	<u>7.82%</u>	<u>8.61%</u>	<u>8.62%</u>	<u>7.67%</u>
3. Employer Normal Cost Rate (1-2)	10.56%	7.87%	7.46%	5.13%	7.70%	20.30%	13.95%	11.37%	8.60%	14.26%	8.78%
4. UAL Amortization Rate	38.25%	38.25%	38.25%	38.25%	38.25%	48.39%	48.39%	48.39%	48.39%	48.39%	39.92%
5. Administrative Expense Rate	<u>1.32%</u>	<u>1.25%</u>	<u>1.24%</u>	<u>1.18%</u>	<u>1.25%</u>	<u>1.86%</u>	<u>1.69%</u>	<u>1.62%</u>	<u>1.54%</u>	<u>1.70%</u>	<u>1.32%</u>
<b>6. Net Employer Contribution Rate (3+4+5)</b>	<b>50.13%</b>	<b>47.37%</b>	<b>46.95%</b>	<b>44.56%</b>	<b>47.20%</b>	<b>70.55%</b>	<b>64.03%</b>	<b>61.38%</b>	<b>58.53%</b>	<b>64.35%</b>	<b>50.02%</b>
<b>Cemetery District</b>											
1. Total Normal Cost Rate		12.64%									
2. Member Contribution Rate <sup>1</sup>		<u>7.07%</u>									
3. Employer Normal Cost Rate (1-2)		5.57%									
4. UAL Amortization Rate		38.25%									
5. Administrative Expense Rate		<u>1.19%</u>									
<b>6. Net Employer Contribution Rate (3+4+5)</b>		<b>45.01%</b>									

<sup>1</sup> Not including member's share of administrative expenses.

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**SECTION IV  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

The assets of the Plan are allocated between the General and Safety groups based on their share of the liability for non-active members. If the assets of the Plan exceed the liabilities of the non-active members, the remaining assets are allocated between the General and Safety groups based on their share of the liabilities for active members.

<b>Table IV-3 Development of UAL Amortization Rates for FYE 2017</b>			
	<b>General</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL)	\$ 367,459,393	\$ 91,402,296	\$ 458,861,689
2. UAL Amortization (see table IV-4)	\$ 37,665,619	\$ 9,368,991	\$ 47,034,610
3. Total Payroll	98,462,570	19,359,533	117,822,103
4. UAL Amortization Rate (2 divided by 3)	38.25%	48.39%	39.92%

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**SECTION IV  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

The table below presents the calculation of the UAL payments for the System.

<b>Table IV-4 Development of Amortization Payment For the June 30, 2015 Actuarial Valuation</b>										
<b>Type of Base</b>	<b>Date Established</b>	<b>Initial Amount</b>	<b>Initial Amortization Years</b>	<b>June 30, 2015 Outstanding Balance</b>	<b>Remaining Amortization Years</b>	<b>Current Phase In/Out Percentage</b>	<b>Amortization Amount</b>	<b>% of Pay</b>	<b>% of Pay After Phase-In</b>	
1. Initial UAL	6/30/2013	\$ 518,034,325	16	\$ 500,530,910	14	100%	\$ 48,936,534	41.53%	41.53%	
2. (Gain)/Loss Base	6/30/2014	(71,384,203)	24	(75,669,871)	23	40%	(2,473,938)	-2.10%	-5.25%	
3. (Gain)/Loss Base	6/30/2015	34,000,650	24	<u>34,000,650</u>	24	20%	<u>572,014</u>	<u>0.49%</u>	2.43%	
<b>Total</b>				\$ 458,861,689			\$ 47,034,610	39.92%		

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**SECTION V  
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING INFORMATION**

The GASB adopted Statement Nos. 67 and 68, which replaced GASB Statement Nos. 25 and 27. GASB 67 is effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2013 (first effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 for the Plan) and GASB 68 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014 (first effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 for the Employer). The disclosures needed to satisfy the new GASB requirements can be found in the MCERA GASB 67/68 Report as of June 30, 2015.

In accordance with Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and their recommended checklist for Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFRSs), we continue to prepare the following disclosures:

*Analysis of Financial Experience*

This schedule shows the history of gains or losses arising from investment and liability sources, as well as non-recurring items.

*Solvency Test*

The solvency test shows the portion of actuarial liabilities for active member contributions, inactive members, and the employer financed portion of the active members that are covered by the actuarial value of assets.

*Actuarial Balance Sheet*

The actuarial balance sheet shows the components of the actuarial liabilities of the Plan and the actuarial assets that are intended to satisfy those liabilities.

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**SECTION V  
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING INFORMATION**

Table V-1  
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE  
Gain (or Loss) in Actuarial Liability During Years Ended June 30  
Resulting from Differences Between Assumed Experience  
and Actual Experience  
(in thousands)

Type of Activity	Gain (or Loss) for Year Ending June 30							
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Investment Income and Expenses	\$ (31,459)	\$ 22,058	\$ (20,749)	\$ (40,054)	\$ (30,955)	\$ (16,151)	\$ (66,987)	\$ (48,840)
Combined Liability Experience	<u>5,096</u>	<u>12,533</u>	<u>(4,199)</u>	<u>(11,401)</u>	<u>13,824</u>	<u>(8,100)</u>	<u>(23,892)</u>	<u>14,186</u>
Gain (or Loss) During Year from Financial Experience	\$ (26,363)	\$ 34,591	\$ (24,948)	\$ (51,455)	\$ (17,131)	\$ (24,251)	\$ (90,879)	\$ (34,654)
Non-Recurring Gain (or Loss) Items	<u>(7,636)</u>	<u>36,803</u>	<u>(49,294)</u>	<u>16,069</u>	<u>12,918</u>	<u>(63,410)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Composite Gain (or Loss) During Year	\$ (33,999)	\$ 71,394	\$ (74,242)	\$ (35,386)	\$ (4,213)	\$ (87,661)	\$ (90,879)	\$ (34,654)

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**SECTION V  
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING INFORMATION**

**Table V-2  
SOLVENCY TEST**

(dollars in thousands)

Valuation Date	(A)	(B)	(C)	Reported Assets <sup>2</sup>	Portion of Actuarial Liabilities Covered by Reported Assets		
	Active Member Contributions	Retirees And Beneficiaries	Remaining Active Members' Liabilities <sup>1</sup>		(A)	(B)	(C)
June 30, 2015	\$ 78,078	\$ 765,738	\$ 287,365	\$ 672,319	100%	78%	0%
2014	75,582	739,428	281,231	657,325	100%	79%	0%
2013 <sup>3</sup>	73,311	694,137	297,850	547,264	100%	68%	0%
2012 <sup>4</sup>	66,407	632,319	276,882	528,728	100%	73%	0%
2011 <sup>5</sup>	65,723	558,483	309,711	523,980	100%	82%	0%
2010 <sup>6</sup>	64,917	532,695	333,220	509,561	100%	83%	0%
2009	65,126	448,231	296,324	483,145	100%	93%	0%

<sup>1</sup> Includes deferred members.

<sup>2</sup> Actuarial Value of Assets. As of June 30, 2014, the Market Value of Assets is used.

<sup>3</sup> Reflects revised economic and demographic assumptions.

<sup>4</sup> Reflects revised demographic assumptions.

<sup>5</sup> Reflects revised EAN methodology and economic assumptions.

<sup>6</sup> Reflects revised economic and demographic assumptions.

**Table V-3  
Actuarial Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2015**

<b>Assets</b>		
1. Market value of assets		\$ 672,319,369
2. Present value of future contributions by members		61,231,537
3. Present value of future employer contributions for normal cost		66,920,955
4. Present value of other future employer contributions (UAL)		458,861,689
<b>5. Total actuarial assets</b>		<b>\$ 1,259,333,551</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
6. Present value of retirement allowances payable to retired/disabled members and their survivors		\$ 765,738,357
7. Present value of service retirement allowances payable to presently active members and their survivors		392,966,991
8. Present value of allowances payable to current and future vested terminated and their survivors		73,888,624
9. Present value of disability retirement allowances payable to presently active members and their survivors		15,118,370
10. Present value of death benefits payable on behalf of presently active members		5,511,343
11. Present value of members' contributions to be returned upon withdrawal		6,109,866
12. Special Reserves		-
<b>13. Total actuarial liabilities</b>		<b>\$ 1,259,333,551</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**APPENDIX A  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

<b>Summary of Participant Data (By Group) as of June 30, 2015</b>			
	<b>General</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Active Participants</b>			
Number	1,664	298	1,962
Average Age	44.10	38.15	43.20
Average Service	10.07	10.24	10.10
Average Pay	\$56,454	\$61,736	\$57,256
<b>Service Retired</b>			
Number	1,518	185	1,703
Average Age	69.70	64.80	69.16
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$30,174	\$41,996	\$31,458
<b>Beneficiaries</b>			
Number	252	62	314
Average Age	74.94	67.99	73.57
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$14,102	\$24,840	\$16,222
<b>Duty Disabled</b>			
Number	53	81	134
Average Age	68.57	62.08	64.65
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$23,939	\$31,916	\$28,761
<b>Non-Duty Disabled</b>			
Number	46	3	49
Average Age	67.65	60.72	67.23
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$14,575	\$20,789	\$14,955
<b>Total Receiving Benefits</b>			
Number	1,869	331	2,200
Average Age	70.32	64.69	69.47
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$27,446	\$36,124	\$28,752
<b>Terminated Vested</b>			
Number	231	27	258
Average Age	51.13	38.69	49.83
Average Service	9.92	8.41	9.77
<b>Transfers</b>			
Number	204	61	265
Average Age	49.66	42.50	48.01
Average Service	17.14	16.46	16.98
<b>Funds on Account</b>			
Number	134	20	154
Average Age	43.78	32.58	42.33
Average Service	1.58	0.76	1.47
<b>Total Deferred</b>			
Number	569	108	677
Average Age	48.87	39.71	47.41
Average Service	10.55	11.54	10.70

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**APPENDIX A  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Summary of Participant Data (General) as of June 30, 2015					
	General Tier 1	General Tier 2	General Tier 3	General Tier 4	General Total
<b>Active Participants</b>					
Number	146	1,097	48	373	1,664
Average Age	54.12	45.73	38.80	36.07	44.10
Average Service	24.36	11.38	6.40	1.13	10.07
Average Pay	\$77,570	\$57,645	\$63,033	\$43,837	\$56,454
<b>Service Retired</b>					
Number	1,266	251	1	N/A	1,518
Average Age	70.52	65.57	56.10	N/A	69.70
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$32,620	\$17,955	\$356	N/A	\$30,174
<b>Beneficiaries</b>					
Number	237	15	N/A	N/A	252
Average Age	76.08	57.05	N/A	N/A	74.94
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$14,473	\$8,241	N/A	N/A	\$14,102
<b>Duty Disabled</b>					
Number	43	10	N/A	N/A	53
Average Age	70.75	59.18	N/A	N/A	68.57
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$23,886	\$24,168	N/A	N/A	\$23,939
<b>Non-Duty Disabled</b>					
Number	34	12	N/A	N/A	46
Average Age	70.48	59.63	N/A	N/A	67.65
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$15,621	\$11,612	N/A	N/A	\$14,575
<b>Total Receiving Benefits</b>					
Number	1,580	288	1	N/A	1,869
Average Age	71.36	64.66	56.10	N/A	70.32
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$29,295	\$17,400	\$356	N/A	\$27,446
<b>Terminated Vested</b>					
Number	79	147	5	N/A	231
Average Age	57.42	48.06	41.72	N/A	51.13
Average Service	10.75	9.48	9.93	N/A	9.92
<b>Transfers</b>					
Number	58	145	1	N/A	204
Average Age	55.93	47.27	32.87	N/A	49.66
Average Service	26.03	13.69	1.86	N/A	17.14
<b>Funds on Account</b>					
Number	9	93	6	26	134
Average Age	59.04	44.36	31.96	39.17	43.78
Average Service	2.02	1.78	1.24	0.79	1.58
<b>Total Deferred</b>					
Number	146	385	12	26	569
Average Age	56.93	46.87	36.10	39.17	48.87
Average Service	16.28	9.21	4.91	0.79	10.55



**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**APPENDIX A  
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Summary of Participant Data (Safety) as of June 30, 2015					
	Safety Tier 1	Safety Tier 2	Safety Tier 3	Safety Tier 4	Safety Total
<b>Active Participants</b>					
Number	35	209	3	51	298
Average Age	49.44	38.79	32.65	28.08	38.15
Average Service	22.07	10.54	5.91	1.16	10.24
Average Pay	\$82,329	\$63,165	\$58,573	\$41,932	\$61,736
<b>Service Retired</b>					
Number	172	13	N/A	N/A	185
Average Age	65.21	59.28	N/A	N/A	64.80
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$43,413	\$23,252	N/A	N/A	\$41,996
<b>Beneficiaries</b>					
Number	60	2	N/A	N/A	62
Average Age	68.95	39.37	N/A	N/A	67.99
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$24,929	\$22,169	N/A	N/A	\$24,840
<b>Duty Disabled</b>					
Number	68	13	N/A	N/A	81
Average Age	63.79	53.15	N/A	N/A	62.08
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$32,966	\$26,424	N/A	N/A	\$31,916
<b>Non-Duty Disabled</b>					
Number	2	1	N/A	N/A	3
Average Age	57.19	67.78	N/A	N/A	60.72
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$21,605	\$19,156	N/A	N/A	\$20,789
<b>Total Receiving Benefits</b>					
Number	302	29	N/A	N/A	331
Average Age	65.58	55.45	N/A	N/A	64.69
Average Annual Total Benefit	\$37,244	\$24,458	N/A	N/A	\$36,124
<b>Terminated Vested</b>					
Number	2	25	N/A	N/A	27
Average Age	54.60	37.42	N/A	N/A	38.69
Average Service	12.67	8.07	N/A	N/A	8.41
<b>Transfers</b>					
Number	15	45	N/A	1	61
Average Age	51.40	39.92	N/A	25.10	42.50
Average Service	26.41	13.47	N/A	2.02	16.46
<b>Funds on Account</b>					
Number	N/A	9	2	9	20
Average Age	N/A	37.07	26.60	29.43	32.58
Average Service	N/A	0.99	0.39	0.61	0.76
<b>Total Deferred</b>					
Number	17	79	2	10	108
Average Age	51.78	38.80	26.60	29.00	39.71
Average Service	24.79	10.34	0.39	0.75	11.54

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX A  
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Change in Plan Membership: Total									
	Actives	Transfers	Non-Vested Terminations	Vested Terminations	Non - Duty Disabled	Duty Disabled	Retired	Beneficiaries	Total
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>1,924</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>4,703</b>
New Entrants	232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	232
Rehires	6	(2)	(2)	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0
Duty Disabilities	(3)	(1)	0	0	0	5	(1)	0	0
Non-Duty Disabilities	(2)	0	0	0	3	0	(1)	0	0
Retirements	(62)	(13)	(1)	(13)	0	0	89	0	0
Dual Service Retirements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vested Terminations	(41)	(4)	0	45	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	(2)	4	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Vested Terminations									
with Funds on Account	(29)	(2)	40	0	0	0	0	0	9
Withdrawals Paid	(56)	(1)	(14)	(6)	0	0	0	0	(77)
Died, With Beneficiary	(1)	0	0	0	(2)	(1)	(21)	25	0
Died, Without Beneficiary	(4)	0	0	0	(1)	(2)	(21)	0	(28)
Beneficiary Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(10)	(10)
Domestic Relations Orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Data Corrections	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	7
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>4,839</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX A  
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Change in Plan Membership: General									
	Actives	Transfers	Non-Vested Terminations	Vested Terminations	Non - Duty Disabled	Duty Disabled	Retired	Beneficiaries	Total
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>3,978</b>
New Entrants	209	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	209
Rehires	5	(2)	(2)	(1)	0	0	0	0	0
Duty Disabilities	(2)	0	0	0	0	3	(1)	0	0
Non-Duty Disabilities	(2)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Retirements	(56)	(9)	(1)	(10)	0	0	76	0	0
Dual Service Retirements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vested Terminations	(34)	(2)	0	36	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	(2)	4	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Vested Terminations									
with Funds on Account	(25)	(2)	33	0	0	0	0	0	6
Withdrawals Paid	(50)	(1)	(12)	(6)	0	0	0	0	(69)
Died, With Beneficiary	0	0	0	0	(2)	0	(16)	18	0
Died, Without Beneficiary	(3)	0	0	0	(1)	(1)	(17)	0	(22)
Beneficiary Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(7)	(7)
Domestic Relations Orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Data Corrections	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	6
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>4,102</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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Change in Plan Membership: Safety									
	Actives	Transfers	Non-Vested Terminations	Vested Terminations	Non - Duty Disabled	Duty Disabled	Retired	Beneficiaries	Total
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>725</b>
New Entrants	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Rehires	1	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0
Duty Disabilities	(1)	(1)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Non-Duty Disabilities	0	0	0	0	1	0	(1)	0	0
Retirements	(6)	(4)	0	(3)	0	0	13	0	0
Dual Service Retirements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vested Terminations	(7)	(2)	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Vested Terminations									
with Funds on Account	(4)	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	3
Withdrawals Paid	(6)	0	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	(8)
Died, With Beneficiary	(1)	0	0	0	0	(1)	(5)	7	0
Died, Without Beneficiary	(1)	0	0	0	0	(1)	(4)	0	(6)
Beneficiary Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(3)	(3)
Domestic Relations Orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Data Corrections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>July 1, 2015</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>737</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**APPENDIX A  
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Active Member Data by Plan					
Valuation at Year End	Plan Type	Member Count	Annual Payroll	Average Annual Salary	Average Salary Increase
<b>2006</b>	General	1,919	\$85,864,000	\$44,744	1.79%
	Safety	310	\$15,274,000	\$49,271	1.35%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>\$101,138,000</b>	<b>\$45,374</b>	<b>1.77%</b>
<b>2007</b>	General	1,917	\$85,308,000	\$44,501	-0.54%
	Safety	318	\$15,281,000	\$48,053	-2.47%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>\$100,589,000</b>	<b>\$45,006</b>	<b>-0.81%</b>
<b>2008</b>	General	1,921	\$92,116,000	\$47,952	7.75%
	Safety	339	\$17,137,000	\$50,552	5.20%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>\$109,253,000</b>	<b>\$48,342</b>	<b>7.41%</b>
<b>2009</b>	General	1,848	\$99,266,589	\$53,716	12.02%
	Safety	342	\$19,363,697	\$56,619	12.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>\$118,630,286</b>	<b>\$54,169</b>	<b>12.05%</b>
<b>2010</b>	General	1,708	\$94,915,436	\$55,571	3.45%
	Safety	330	\$19,692,515	\$59,674	5.40%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>\$114,607,951</b>	<b>\$56,235</b>	<b>3.81%</b>
<b>2011</b>	General	1,659	\$94,976,978	\$57,250	3.02%
	Safety	321	\$19,768,859	\$61,585	3.20%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>\$114,745,837</b>	<b>\$57,954</b>	<b>3.05%</b>
<b>2012</b>	General	1,596	\$90,706,280	\$56,834	-0.73%
	Safety	305	\$19,145,091	\$62,771	1.93%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>\$109,851,371</b>	<b>\$57,786</b>	<b>-0.29%</b>
<b>2013</b>	General	1,604	\$91,737,348	\$57,193	0.63%
	Safety	295	\$18,699,145	\$63,387	0.98%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>\$110,436,493</b>	<b>\$58,154</b>	<b>0.64%</b>
<b>2014</b>	General	1,624	\$91,704,083	\$56,468	-1.27%
	Safety	300	\$18,620,870	\$62,070	-2.08%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,924</b>	<b>\$110,324,953</b>	<b>\$57,341</b>	<b>-1.40%</b>
<b>2015</b>	General	1,664	\$93,938,857	\$56,454	-0.03%
	Safety	298	\$18,397,233	\$61,736	-0.54%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>\$112,336,091</b>	<b>\$57,256</b>	<b>-0.15%</b>

Payroll figures represent active members' annualized pay rates on June 30.

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**APPENDIX A  
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Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Retiree Payroll										
Fiscal Year	Beginning of Year	Added During Year	Allowances Added	Removed During Year	Allowances Removed	End of Year	Annual Retirement Payroll (in 000s)	Total Allowance Percentage Increase	Average Annual Allowance	Average Allowance Percentage Increase
2005	1,441	109	2,445,000	49	450,000	1,501	24,867,000	9.16%	16,567	4.80%
2006	1,477	98	2,007,000	53	785,000	1,522	27,297,000	9.77%	16,836	1.62%
2007	1,521	136	4,419,000	38	560,000	1,619	31,823,000	16.58%	17,947	6.60%
2008	1,620	105	2,757,000	67	902,000	1,658	34,603,000	8.74%	19,644	9.46%
2009	1,658	105	3,402,523	52	812,828	1,711	37,747,525	9.09%	22,062	12.31%
2010	1,711	171	6,097,956	56	981,465	1,826	43,653,374	15.65%	23,907	8.36%
2011	1,826	103	2,627,234	44	781,283	1,885	46,116,686	5.64%	24,465	2.34%
2012	1,885	175	6,484,652	64	960,185	1,996	52,887,845	14.68%	26,497	8.31%
2013	1,996	103	3,028,612	49	855,980	2,050	56,048,022	5.98%	27,340	3.18%
2014	2,050	116	3,950,045	31	590,636	2,135	60,297,112	7.58%	28,242	3.30%
2015	2,135	100	2,508,828	35	720,242	2,200	63,254,229	4.90%	28,752	1.80%

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**APPENDIX A  
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**GENERAL**

**Count**

Age	Service										Total	
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 & up		
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 25	15	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
25 to 29	46	83	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
30 to 34	40	83	83	23	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	231
35 to 39	42	56	70	74	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	260
40 to 44	20	41	64	56	45	8	2	0	0	0	0	236
45 to 49	11	21	35	50	48	24	6	1	0	0	0	196
50 to 54	9	18	43	57	48	36	26	5	0	0	0	242
55 to 59	8	16	26	52	44	29	21	7	1	0	0	204
60 to 64	3	8	24	17	26	9	2	2	0	0	0	91
65 to 69	1	0	6	6	5	1	3	0	0	1	0	23
70 & up	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,664</b>

**Compensation**

Age	Service										Total	
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 & up		
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 25	36,277	37,306	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36,712
25 to 29	41,037	45,534	45,971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,193
30 to 34	36,916	46,914	53,406	56,802	50,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	48,532
35 to 39	39,702	48,638	55,885	57,467	59,681	0	0	0	0	0	0	52,423
40 to 44	47,611	48,559	64,821	59,790	63,597	62,945	46,283	0	0	0	0	58,889
45 to 49	55,873	50,357	56,338	59,493	66,357	62,910	99,756	111,198	0	0	0	61,343
50 to 54	43,449	65,001	54,322	56,142	63,212	63,033	68,848	52,404	0	0	0	59,721
55 to 59	43,976	47,127	62,638	59,411	64,974	80,366	70,912	72,313	45,168	0	0	63,989
60 to 64	61,876	108,793	54,332	60,611	65,712	64,335	118,330	91,425	0	0	0	67,004
65 to 69	29,640	0	56,735	48,330	81,227	100,793	90,926	0	0	98,208	0	66,867
70 & up	0	42,390	44,019	53,004	250,691	0	0	0	0	0	0	77,162
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,543</b>	<b>49,386</b>	<b>56,547</b>	<b>58,138</b>	<b>65,321</b>	<b>68,159</b>	<b>74,662</b>	<b>70,817</b>	<b>45,168</b>	<b>98,208</b>	<b>98,208</b>	<b>56,454</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX A  
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**SAFETY**

**Count**

Age	Service										Total	
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 & up		
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 25	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
25 to 29	2	19	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
30 to 34	2	12	50	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73
35 to 39	1	2	27	27	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
40 to 44	1	3	9	13	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	41
45 to 49	0	0	4	9	12	12	5	0	0	0	0	42
50 to 54	0	0	4	3	6	5	5	0	0	0	0	23
55 to 59	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
60 to 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 to 69	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
70 & up	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>298</b>

**Compensation**

Age	Service										Total	
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 & up		
Under 20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 to 25	35,796	42,934	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37,475
25 to 29	43,815	45,988	61,517	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51,503
30 to 34	41,080	46,597	62,840	59,410	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59,151
35 to 39	48,630	55,860	58,748	61,134	81,311	0	0	0	0	0	0	61,350
40 to 44	40,789	58,950	63,821	65,969	71,236	87,714	0	0	0	0	0	67,904
45 to 49	0	0	57,513	60,184	67,670	81,834	82,101	0	0	0	0	70,863
50 to 54	0	0	50,601	71,864	70,656	75,472	68,764	0	0	0	0	67,961
55 to 59	0	0	76,252	54,683	0	0	109,833	0	0	0	0	83,851
60 to 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 to 69	0	0	112,278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112,278
70 & up	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,134</b>	<b>47,331</b>	<b>61,948</b>	<b>62,175</b>	<b>71,357</b>	<b>81,439</b>	<b>81,166</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61,736</b>



**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX A  
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Current Age	Service Retired Benefits					
	General		Safety		Total	
	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit
0-24	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
25-29	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
30-34	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
35-39	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
40-44	0	\$0	1	\$47,919	1	\$47,919
45-49	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
50-54	30	\$28,588	23	\$50,378	53	\$38,044
55-59	159	\$31,971	36	\$43,929	195	\$34,179
60-64	308	\$37,082	38	\$40,211	346	\$37,426
65-69	371	\$33,821	44	\$41,025	415	\$34,585
70-74	279	\$26,592	19	\$37,588	298	\$27,294
75-79	159	\$24,944	13	\$38,773	172	\$25,989
80-84	120	\$21,603	6	\$42,578	126	\$22,601
85-89	52	\$23,629	3	\$38,961	55	\$24,465
90-94	30	\$17,747	0	\$0	30	\$17,747
95+	10	\$15,548	2	\$28,743	12	\$17,747
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>\$30,174</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>\$41,996</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>\$31,458</b>

Current Age	Duty Disabled Benefits					
	General		Safety		Total	
	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit
0-24	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
25-29	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
30-34	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
35-39	0	\$0	2	\$19,531	2	\$19,531
40-44	1	\$40,324	4	\$33,577	5	\$34,927
45-49	1	\$28,947	1	\$48,455	2	\$38,701
50-54	1	\$26,586	12	\$39,247	13	\$38,273
55-59	8	\$24,495	8	\$21,449	16	\$22,972
60-64	6	\$21,921	21	\$27,174	27	\$26,007
65-69	13	\$24,471	15	\$39,506	28	\$32,526
70-74	11	\$23,697	11	\$30,360	22	\$27,028
75-79	4	\$18,869	7	\$31,941	11	\$27,187
80-84	5	\$17,174	0	\$0	5	\$17,174
85-89	3	\$35,098	0	\$0	3	\$35,098
90-94	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
95+	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$23,939</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>\$31,916</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$28,761</b>

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX A  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Current Age	Non-Duty Disabled Benefits					
	General		Safety		Total	
	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit
0-24	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
25-20	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
30-34	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
35-39	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
40-44	1	\$15,431	0	\$0	1	\$15,431
45-49	2	\$13,317	1	\$27,149	3	\$17,927
50-54	3	\$16,582	0	\$0	3	\$16,582
55-59	4	\$15,847	0	\$0	4	\$15,847
60-64	8	\$14,644	0	\$0	8	\$14,644
65-69	7	\$13,980	2	\$17,609	9	\$14,786
70-74	8	\$11,652	0	\$0	8	\$11,652
75-79	8	\$17,689	0	\$0	8	\$17,689
80-84	4	\$16,018	0	\$0	4	\$16,018
85-89	1	\$1,434	0	\$0	1	\$1,434
90-94	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
95+	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$14,575</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$20,789</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$14,955</b>

Current Age	Surviving Beneficiary Benefits (all benefit types)					
	General		Safety		Total	
	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit	Number	Annual Average Benefit
0-24	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
25-29	1	\$1,271	0	\$0	1	\$1,271
30-34	1	\$12,809	1	\$36,028	2	\$24,419
35-39	1	\$21,527	1	\$40,629	2	\$31,078
40-44	4	\$3,252	1	\$8,311	5	\$4,263
45-49	3	\$6,589	1	\$11,064	4	\$7,708
50-54	9	\$12,303	6	\$16,704	15	\$14,064
55-59	23	\$11,306	4	\$19,298	27	\$12,490
60-64	13	\$15,057	5	\$27,617	18	\$18,546
65-69	24	\$23,326	17	\$26,047	41	\$24,454
70-74	27	\$12,757	10	\$25,702	37	\$16,256
75-79	45	\$13,556	6	\$28,769	51	\$15,346
80-84	41	\$14,167	7	\$26,397	48	\$15,951
85-89	36	\$15,683	2	\$22,626	38	\$16,048
90-94	20	\$10,424	1	\$26,090	21	\$11,170
95+	4	\$12,651	0	\$0	4	\$12,651
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>\$14,102</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>\$24,840</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>\$16,222</b>

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**STATEMENT OF CURRENT ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS**

The assumptions and methods used in the actuarial valuation reflect the results of an Experience Study performed by Cheiron covering the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013 and adopted by the Board. More details on the rationale for the demographic and economic assumptions can be found in the Experience Analysis dated March 6, 2014.

**A. Actuarial Assumptions**

**1. Rate of Return**

Assets are assumed to earn 7.75% net of investment expenses.

**2. Administrative Expenses**

Administrative expenses are assumed to be \$1.80 million for the next year, to be allocated between the employer and employees based on each group's share of the non-expense related contributions. Administrative expenses in future years are expected to increase with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

**3. Cost of Living**

The cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will increase at the rate of 3.00% per year.

**4. Post Retirement COLA**

Benefits are assumed to increase after retirement at the rate of 2.60% per year for Tier 1 members.

**5. Increases in Pay**

Wage inflation component: 3.00%

Additional longevity and promotion component:

Years of Service	General	Safety
0-1	4.00%	5.00%
2	3.00%	5.00%
3	2.50%	3.00%
4-6	2.00%	3.00%
7-14	2.00%	2.00%
15-19	1.00%	0.50%
20+	0.00%	0.50%

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**6. Family Composition**

50% of female General members, 80% of male General members and 90% of Safety members are assumed to be married at retirement. Male members are assumed to be three years older than their spouses and female members are assumed to be three years younger than their spouses.

**7. Rates of Termination**

Sample rates of termination<sup>1</sup> are shown in the following table.

Years of Service	General Male	General Female	Safety
0	25.0%	12.0%	20.8%
5	4.8%	7.5%	4.6%
10	4.8%	3.6%	4.6%
15	4.8%	3.0%	2.5%
20	2.5%	3.0%	0.0%
25	2.5%	3.0%	0.0%
30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<sup>1</sup> Termination rates do not apply once a member is eligible for retirement.

There are three types of terminations: withdrawals, reciprocal transfers, and vested terminations. Rates of withdrawal apply to active Members who terminate their employment and withdraw their member contributions, forfeiting entitlement to future Plan benefits. Rates of reciprocal transfer are for members who leave their member contributions on deposit and engage in employment covered by a pension plan with a reciprocal relationship with MCERA. Finally, rates of vested termination apply to active Members who terminate their employment and leave their member contributions on deposit with the Plan.

The table below shows the percentages of total terminations falling into these categories.

	Years of Service				
	General			Safety	
	0 – 4	5 – 14	15+	0 – 4	5+
Withdrawals	90.0%	40.0%	10.0%	90.0%	15.0%
Transfers	10.0%	12.0%	10.0%	10.0%	42.5%
Vested Terminations	0.0%	48.0%	80.0%	0%	42.5%

Vested terminated General Members are assumed to begin receiving benefits at age 59; vested terminated Safety Members are assumed to begin receiving benefits at age 53.

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**8. Rates of Service-Connected Disability**

Sample service-connected disability rates of active participants are provided in the table below.

Age	Safety	General	
	All	Female	Male
20	0.3250%	0.0040%	0.0027%
25	0.3625%	0.0075%	0.0053%
30	0.4190%	0.0115%	0.0133%
35	0.5063%	0.0150%	0.0240%
40	0.6375%	0.0190%	0.0320%
45	0.7815%	0.0340%	0.0480%
50	0.9940%	0.0600%	0.0640%
55	1.2625%	0.1050%	0.0800%
60	0.0000%	0.1575%	0.1120%
65	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%

**9. Rates of Non Service-Connected Disability**

Sample non service-connected disability rates of active participants are provided in the table below. Rates are applied once members have at least five years of service.

Age	Safety	General	
	All	Female	Male
20	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%
25	0.0200%	0.0033%	0.0267%
30	0.0300%	0.0067%	0.0533%
35	0.0400%	0.0100%	0.0533%
40	0.0600%	0.0133%	0.0867%
45	0.0900%	0.0300%	0.1267%
50	0.1200%	0.0600%	0.1600%
55	0.1600%	0.0933%	0.2133%
60	0.0000%	0.1533%	0.2800%
65	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0000%

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**10. Rates of Mortality for Healthy Lives**

Mortality rates for active members, retirees, beneficiaries, and deferred members are based on the sex distinct Retired Pensioner (RP) 2000 Combined Healthy Tables, published by the Society of Actuaries, projected to 2027 using Projection Scale BB. This is intended to approximate a generational approach.

**11. Rates of Mortality for Disabled Retirees**

Mortality rates for disabled members are based on the sex distinct Retired Pensioner (RP) 2000 Combined Healthy Tables, published by the Society of Actuaries, projected to 2027 using Projection Scale BB, set forward three years for males and females.

**12. Rates of Retirement**

Rates of retirement are based on age according to the following table.

Age	General Male			General Female			Age	Safety	
	Years of Service			Years of Service				Years of Service	
	10 – 19	20 – 29	30+	10 – 19	20 – 29	30+		10 – 19	20+
50	2.50%	5.00%	7.50%	2.50%	10.00%	10.00%	40	0.00%	3.10%
51	2.50%	5.00%	7.50%	2.50%	10.00%	10.00%	41	0.00%	3.10%
52	5.00%	10.00%	15.00%	5.00%	15.00%	20.00%	42	0.00%	3.10%
53	5.00%	10.00%	15.00%	5.00%	15.00%	20.00%	43	0.00%	3.10%
54	5.00%	10.00%	15.00%	5.00%	15.00%	20.00%	44	0.00%	3.10%
55	9.00%	18.00%	27.00%	9.00%	35.00%	35.00%	45	0.00%	7.60%
56	7.50%	15.00%	22.50%	7.50%	30.00%	35.00%	46	0.00%	7.60%
57	7.50%	15.00%	22.50%	7.50%	30.00%	35.00%	47	0.00%	7.60%
58	7.50%	15.00%	22.50%	7.50%	30.00%	35.00%	48	0.00%	7.60%
59	7.50%	15.00%	22.50%	7.50%	30.00%	35.00%	49	0.00%	7.60%
60	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	30.00%	35.00%	50	12.80%	32.90%
61	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	40.00%	45.00%	51	12.80%	32.90%
62	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	40.00%	45.00%	52	12.80%	32.90%
63	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	40.00%	45.00%	53	12.80%	32.90%
64	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	40.00%	45.00%	54	12.80%	32.90%
65	40.00%	40.00%	40.00%	40.00%	50.00%	50.00%	55	12.80%	32.90%
66	45.00%	45.00%	45.00%	45.00%	50.00%	50.00%	56	12.80%	32.90%
67	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	57	12.80%	32.90%
68	60.00%	60.00%	60.00%	60.00%	60.00%	60.00%	58	12.80%	32.90%
69	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%	59	12.80%	32.90%
70+	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	60	100.00%	100.00%

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**13. Final Average Compensation Load**

The final average compensation (FAC) for members projected to receive a service retirement benefit has been increased based on the assumption that members will have elements of pay included in their FAC which are not included in the annual pay provided to the Actuary (Ventura decision pays). The FAC for Tier 1 members has been increased by 6.92% and the FAC for Tier 2 and Tier 3 members by 2.31%.

**14. Changes Since Last Valuation**

The assumed administrative expense was increased from \$1.25 million to \$1.80 million.

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**B. Actuarial Methods**

**1. Actuarial Funding Method**

The Entry Age Normal actuarial funding method was used for active employees, whereby the normal cost is computed as the level annual percentage of pay required to fund the retirement benefits between each Member's date of hire and assumed retirement. The actuarial liability is the difference between the present value of future benefits and the present value of future normal cost. The unfunded actuarial liability is the difference between the actuarial liability and the actuarial value of assets.

The UAL (or Surplus Funding) is amortized as a percentage of the projected salaries of present and future members of MCERA. Effective with the June 30, 2013 valuation, the UAL as of June 30, 2013 is amortized over a closed 16-year period. Effective with the June 30, 2014 valuation, any new sources of UAL due to actuarial gains and losses or method changes is amortized over a closed 24-year period, with 5-year ramp up period at the beginning of the period, a 4-year ramp down at the end of the period, and 15 years of level payments as a percentage of payroll. Assumption changes will be amortized over a closed 22-year period, with a 3-year ramp up period, 2-year ramp down period, and 17 years of level payments as a percentage of payroll. This method is a type of direct rate smoothing method.

**2. Asset Valuation Method**

As of June 30, 2014, the market value of assets is used to determine the System's UAL.

**3. Changes Since Last Valuation**

None.



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APPENDIX C  
SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

**A. Definitions**

**Compensation:** Compensation means the cash remuneration for services paid by the employer. It includes base pay and certain differential, incentive, and special pay allowances defined by the Board of Retirement. Overtime is excluded, with the exception of overtime paid under the Fair Labor Standards Act that is regular and recurring.

PEPRA: For members joining the Plan on and after January 1, 2013 (Tier 4 Members), only pensionable compensation up to the Social Security Taxable Wage Base (\$113,700 for 2013) will count for computing Plan benefits and employee contributions and employer contributions for those participating in Social Security. For those not participating in Social Security, the compensation cap is 120% of the Taxable Wage Base (\$136,440 for 2013.) In future years, the cap on pensionable compensation will increase with the increase in the CPI-U, rather than the increase in the Taxable Wage Base. In addition, it is possible that some sources of compensation, such as any payments deemed to be terminal or special pays, may be excluded from benefit and contribution computations for Tier 4 Members.

**Credited Service:** In general, Credited Service is earned for the period during which Member Contributions are paid. One year of service credit is earned for each 2,080 hours worked (not including overtime), not to exceed one year of service per year.

Temporary service for which the Member was not credited, or service for which the Member withdrew his or her Member Contributions, may be purchased by paying or repaying the Member Contributions with interest. The categories of services for which credit may be purchased are listed below:

**Prior Part-Time Service:** If a Member worked for an employer within the Association on a part-time or 'extra help' basis before his membership in the Retirement Association, the Member may buyback this service.

**Intermittent Part-Time Service.**

**Prior Full-Time Service:** Member may buyback full-time service that may have been cashed out upon termination.

**Leave of Absence (Including Absence with State Disability or Worker's Compensation):** No unpaid leave of absence can be bought back except for absence due to medical reasons up to one year.

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**Public Service:** Members may purchase service credit for prior service in the following public agencies: Federal Civil Service, Military Service, and some public employers in California. This service is only eligible for purchase when the Board of Supervisors opens the window for purchase.

**Military Time:** Members who resign or obtain a leave of absence to enter the military may purchase service credit for the period of military service. Members must re-enter employment within one year of terminating military service to be eligible to purchase service.

At retirement, Members have the option to convert 100% of sick leave time into retirement years of service credit. Unrepresented Management and Unit 7 will instead have some or all of their sick leave contributed to the Post Employment Health Plan.

**Final**

**Compensation:** For Tier 1 Members, Final Compensation means the highest average Compensation earned during any 26 consecutive pay periods of the Member's employment. For Tier 2 and Tier 3 Members, Final Compensation means the highest average Compensation earned during any 78 consecutive pay periods of the Member's employment.

The following compensation may be included in the Final Compensation computation:

- Loyalty Bonus
- Up to 160 hours of vacation payoff
- Sick Leave sold back during 25<sup>th</sup> pay period
- Vacation sold back during 25<sup>th</sup> pay period (management only)

**PEPRA:** For Tier 4 Members, highest average Compensation will be based on the highest 36 consecutive months of the Member's employment.

**General Member:** Any Member who is not a Safety Member is a General Member.

**Public Service:** During designated periods of time authorized by the County Board of Supervisors, Members may elect to purchase Public Service for time spent while employed in another recognized public agency. The public agency must have a reciprocal agreement with the Plan or be one of several specified municipalities, counties, special districts, or State and Federal agencies. Public Service cannot be purchased if it is used for eligibility for another pension.

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The cost to purchase Public Service is twice the Member Contributions and interest applicable for the period of time purchased. Public Service is used to compute benefits, but does not count toward eligibility for benefits or vesting.

Safety Member: Any sworn Member engaged in law enforcement or as a probation officer is a Safety Member.

**B. Membership**

Eligibility: All full-time and variable-shift permanent employees of Merced County and other participating employers become Members on their first date of service. Membership is mandatory; only elected officials and those entering employment at age 60 or older who are not reciprocal members of another system may choose not to participate.

PEPRA: A New Member is any Member joining the Plan for the first time on or after January 1, 2013. Employees who transfer from and are eligible for reciprocity with another public employer will not be Tier 4 Members if their service in the reciprocal system was under a pre-PEPRA tier. Employees who were Members of MCERA prior to January 1, 2013, experienced a break in service of more than six months, and then were reemployed by a *different* MCERA-participating employer on or after January 1, 2013 will be considered Tier 4 Members for all subsequent service.

Member

Contributions: Each Member contributes a percentage of Compensation to the Plan through a pre-tax payroll deduction. The percentage contributed depends on the Member's age upon joining the Plan. Complete rates are shown in Appendix D.

Members covered by Social Security have their contributions reduced by one-third on the first \$161.54 of biweekly Compensation. General Members who joined the Plan prior to March 7, 1973, and who have earned 30 years of Credited Service do not contribute; Safety Members do not contribute after earning 30 years of Credited Service.

PEPRA: Tier 4 Members must contribute half of the normal cost of the Plan. Contributions for these Members will be based on the Normal Cost associated with their benefits; General and Safety members will pay different rates.

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Tier 4 Members will pay a single contribution rate, not a rate based on entry age. All Tier 4 Members are expected to continue contributing after earning 30 years of service.

Interest is credited semi-annually to each Member's accumulated contributions. The crediting rate is set by the Board, and will fluctuate between zero and two percent less than the assumed rate of return (currently  $7.75\% - 2.00\% = 5.75\%$ ), based in part on the investment earnings during that period.

**C. Service Retirement:**

Eligibility: Tier 1 General Members are eligible to retire at age 50 if they have earned ten years of Credited Service. Tier 1 General Members hired prior to December 31, 1978, may retire upon reaching age 65 with no service requirement.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 General Members are eligible to retire at age 55 if they have earned ten years of Credited Service or upon reaching age 70 with no service requirement.

Alternatively, all Tier 1, 2 and 3 General Members are eligible to retire at any age after having earned 30 years of Credited Service, or upon reaching age 70 with no service requirement.

Safety Members are eligible to retire at age 50 if they have earned ten years of Credited Service. Alternatively, Safety Members are eligible to retire at any age after having earned 20 years of Credited Service, or upon reaching age 70 with no service requirement. All Tier 1, 2, and 3 Safety Members hired prior to December 31, 1978, may retire upon reaching age 65 with no service requirement.

PEPRA: Tier 4 General Members are eligible to retire upon attaining age 52 and completing five or more years of service. Tier 4 Safety Members are eligible to retire upon attaining age 50 and completing five or more years of service. Tier 4 Members are eligible to retire, regardless of service, after attaining age 70.

Benefit Amount: The Service Retirement Benefit payable to the Member is equal to the Member's Final Compensation multiplied by credited service, the benefit factor from Table 1 and the age factor from Table 2 corresponding to the Member's code section. The appropriate code sections for each group are listed in Table 1. For General Members in the Merced County Cemetery District and those in Deferred Inactive Reciprocity status prior to March

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15, 2005, benefits are calculated using the formula in Government Code Section 31676.11 or 31676.1.

For Tiers 1, 2 and 3, the percentage of Final Compensation may not exceed 100%. For those members integrated with Social Security, Retirement Benefits based on the first \$350 of monthly Final Average Compensation are reduced by one-third.

**Table 1:**

Group	Open or Closed	FAP	Max COLA	Code Section	Description	Top Retirement Factor Age	Benefit Factor
General Tier 1	Closed	1	3	31676.17	3% at 60	60	2.00%
General Tier 2	Closed	3	0	31676.17	3% at 60	60	2.00%
General Tier 2 (Cemetery)	Closed	3	0	31676.11	2% at 58 1/2	65	1.67%
General Tier 3	Closed	3	0	31676.1	2.43% at 65	65	1.67%
General Tier 4	Open	3	0	7522.20(a)	PEPRA	67	1.00%
Safety Tier 1	Closed	1	3	31664.1	3% at 50	50	3.00%
Safety Tier 2	Closed	3	0	31664.1	3% at 50	50	3.00%
Safety Tier 3	Closed	3	0	31664	2% at 50	55	2.00%
Safety Tier 4	Open	3	0	7522.25(d)	PEPRA	57	1.00%

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**Table 2:**

Age	General 3% @ 60 CERL: 31676.17	General 2% @ 58 1/2 CERL: 31676.11	General 2.43% @ 65 CERL: 31676.1	General PEPRA GC: 7522.20(a)	Safety 3% @ 50 CERL: 31664.1	Safety 2% @ 50 CERL: 31664	Safety PEPRA GC: 7522.25(d)
41	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6258	0.6258	N/A
42	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6625	0.6625	N/A
43	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7004	0.7004	N/A
44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7397	0.7397	N/A
45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7805	0.7805	N/A
46	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8226	0.8226	N/A
47	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8678	0.8678	N/A
48	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9085	0.9085	N/A
49	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9522	0.9522	N/A
50	1.0000	0.7454	0.7091	N/A	1.0000	1.0000	2.0000
51	1.0500	0.7882	0.7457	N/A	1.0000	1.0516	2.1000
52	1.1000	0.8346	0.7816	1.0000	1.0000	1.1078	2.2000
53	1.1500	0.8850	0.8181	1.1000	1.0000	1.1692	2.3000
54	1.2000	0.9399	0.8556	1.2000	1.0000	1.2366	2.4000
55	1.2500	1.0000	0.8954	1.3000	1.0000	1.3099	2.5000
56	1.3000	1.0447	0.9382	1.4000	1.0000	1.3099	2.6000
57	1.3500	1.1048	0.9846	1.5000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
58	1.4000	1.1686	1.0350	1.6000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
59	1.4500	1.2365	1.0899	1.7000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
60	1.5000	1.3093	1.1500	1.8000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
61	1.5000	1.3608	1.1947	1.9000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
62	1.5000	1.4123	1.2548	2.0000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
63	1.5000	1.4638	1.3186	2.1000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
64	1.5000	1.5153	1.3865	2.2000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
65	1.5000	1.5668	1.4593	2.3000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
66	1.5000	1.5668	1.4593	2.4000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000
67	1.5000	1.5668	1.4593	2.5000	1.0000	1.3099	2.7000

Form of Benefit: The Service Retirement Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at retirement and for the life of the Member. If the member selects the unmodified benefit form, in the event of the Member's death 60% of the benefit will continue for the life of the Member's eligible spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no eligible spouse or domestic partner. To be eligible to receive this benefit, a surviving spouse or domestic partner must be married or state-registered at least one year prior to retirement. In the event there is no eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children, any unpaid remainder of the Member's accumulated contributions will be paid to the Member's designated beneficiary.

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Actuarially equivalent optional benefit forms are also available.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are “banked” and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

A lump sum benefit of \$3,000 will be payable upon the death of a retired member.

**D. Service-Connected Disability**

**Eligibility:** Members are eligible for Service-Connected Disability Retirement benefits at any age if they are permanently disabled as a result of injuries or illness sustained in the line of duty.

**Benefit Amount:** The Service-Connected Disability Retirement Benefit payable to Members is equal to the greater of 50% of their Final Compensation or – if the Member is eligible at disability for a Service Retirement Benefit – the Service Retirement Benefit accrued on the date of disability.

Members who return to work at a different position with lower pay may receive a Supplemental Disability Allowance that, when added to their new pay, may bring the Member’s total income up to the current pay for his or her position at the time of disability. The Supplemental Disability Allowance may not exceed the Service-Connected Disability Retirement benefit.

**Form of Benefit:** The Service-Connected Disability Retirement Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at the effective date of disability retirement and for the life of the Member; in the event of the Member’s death, 100% of the benefit will continue for the life of the Member’s eligible spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no eligible spouse or domestic partner. In the event there is no eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children, any unpaid remainder of the Member’s accumulated contributions will be paid to the Member’s designated beneficiary.

Actuarially equivalent optional benefit forms are also available.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are “banked” and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

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A lump sum benefit of \$3,000 will be payable upon the death of a retired member.

**E. Non Service-Connected Disability**

**Eligibility:** Members are eligible for Non Service-Connected Disability Retirement benefits if they are permanently disabled at any age after earning five years of Credited Service or after becoming eligible for a deferred vested benefit.

**Benefit Amount:** The Non Service-Connected Disability Retirement Benefit payable to General Members is equal to the greatest of:

- 1.5% of Final Compensation at disability multiplied by years of Credited Service at disability;
- 1.5% of Final Compensation at disability multiplied by years of Credited Service projected to age 65, but not to exceed one-third of Final Compensation; or,
- If the Member is eligible at disability for a Service Retirement Benefit, the Service Retirement Benefit accrued on the date of disability.

The Non Service-Connected Disability Retirement Benefit payable to Safety Members is equal to the greatest of:

- 1.8% of Final Compensation at disability multiplied by years of Credited Service at disability;
- 1.8% of Final Compensation at disability multiplied by years of Credited Service projected to age 55, but not to exceed one-third of Final Compensation; or,
- If the Member is eligible at disability for a Service Retirement Benefit, the Service Retirement Benefit accrued on the date of disability.

Members who return to work at a different position with lower pay may receive a Supplemental Disability Allowance that, when added to their new pay, may bring the Member's total income up to the current pay for his or her position at the time of disability. The Supplemental Disability Allowance may not exceed the Non Service-Connected Disability Retirement benefit.



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Form of Benefit: The Non Service-Connected Disability Retirement Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at the effective date of disability retirement, and for the life of the Member; in the event of the Member's death, 60% of the benefit will continue for the life of the Member's eligible spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no spouse. In the event there is no eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children, any unpaid remainder of the Member's accumulated contributions will be paid to the Member's designated beneficiary.

Actuarially equivalent optional benefit forms are also available.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are "banked" and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

A lump sum benefit of \$3,000 will be payable upon the death of a retired member.

**F. Service-Connected Death**

Eligibility: A Member's survivors are eligible to receive Service-Connected Death benefits if the Member's death resulted from injury or illness sustained in connection with the Member's duties.

Benefit Amount: The Service-Connected Death benefit payable to an eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children will be 50% of the Member's Final Compensation.

Furthermore, for Safety Members only, there will be an additional lump sum benefit of 12 months of pay at the time of death. An additional benefit of 25% of the above basic benefit will be paid for the first minor child, 15% for the second, and 10% for the third.

Form of Benefit: The Service-Connected Death Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at the Member's death and for the life of the eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no eligible surviving spouse or domestic partner.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are "banked" and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**G. Non Service-Connected Death**

Eligibility: A Member's survivors are eligible to receive Non Service-Connected Death benefits if the Member's death arose from causes unrelated to the Member's duties.

Benefit Amount: In the event the Member had earned fewer than five years of Credited Service and has no or insufficient reciprocity service from another system, the Non Service-Connected Death benefit will be a refund of the Member's accumulated contributions with interest plus a payment of one month of Final Compensation for each year of Credited Service, not to exceed six months.

In the event the Member had earned five or more years of Credited Service, the Non Service-Connected Death benefit payable to an eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children will be 60% of the amount the Member would have received as a Non Service-Connected Disability Retirement Benefit on the date of death.

Form of Benefit: For Members who had earned fewer than five years of Credited Service at death, the benefit will be paid as a lump sum.

For Members with five or more years of Credited Service, the Non Service-Connected Death Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at the Member's death and for the life of the eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no eligible spouse or domestic partner.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are "banked" and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

**H. Withdrawal Benefit:**

Eligibility: A Member is eligible for a Withdrawal Benefit upon termination of employment.

Benefit Amount: The Withdrawal Benefit is a refund of the Member's accumulated Contributions with interest. Upon receipt of the Withdrawal Benefit, the Member forfeits all Credited Service.

Form of Benefit: The Withdrawal Benefit is paid in a lump sum upon election by the Member.

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**I. Deferred Vested Benefit:**

Eligibility: A Member is eligible for a Deferred Vested Benefit upon termination of employment after earning five years of Credited Service, including reciprocity service from another system. The Member must leave his or her Member Contributions with interest on deposit with the Plan.

Benefit Amount: The Deferred Vested Benefit is computed in the same manner as the Service Retirement Benefit, but it is based on Credited Service and Final Compensation on the date of termination.

Form of Benefit: The Deferred Vested Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at retirement and for the life of the Member; in the event of the Member's death, 60% of the benefit will continue for the life of the Member's eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no eligible surviving spouse or domestic partner. In the event there is no eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children, any unpaid remainder of the Member's accumulated contributions will be paid to the Member's designated beneficiary.

Actuarially equivalent optional benefit forms are also available.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are "banked" and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

A lump sum benefit of \$3,000 will be payable upon the death of a retired member.

**J. Reciprocal Benefit:**

Eligibility: A Member is eligible for a Reciprocal Benefit upon termination of employment and entry, within a specified period of time, into another retirement system recognized as a reciprocal system by the Plan. In addition, the Member must leave his or her Member Contributions with interest on deposit with the Plan.

Benefit Amount: The Reciprocal Benefit is computed in the same manner as the Service Retirement Benefit, but it is based on Credited Service on the date of termination and Final Compensation on the date of retirement; Final Compensation is based on the highest of the Compensation earned under this Plan or the reciprocal plan.

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Form of Benefit: The Reciprocal Benefit will be paid monthly beginning at retirement and for the life of the Member; in the event of the Member's death, 60% of the benefit will continue for the life of the Member's eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or to the age of majority of dependent minor children if there is no eligible surviving spouse or domestic partner. In the event there is no eligible surviving spouse, domestic partner, or minor children, any unpaid remainder of the Member's accumulated contributions will be paid to the Member's designated beneficiary.

Actuarially equivalent optional benefit forms are also available.

Annually on April 1, Tier 1 benefits are increased to reflect increases in the CPI for the San Francisco Bay Area. Annual increases may not exceed 3%, but CPI increases in excess of 3% are "banked" and used for future increases when the CPI increases by less than 3%.

A lump sum benefit may be payable upon the death of a retired Member by the last system under which the Member's service was covered.

**K. Changes Since Last Valuation**

None.

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX D  
MEMBER CONTRIBUTION RATES**

**Contribution Rates**

Employee contribution rates vary by member Group and Tier. For non-PEPRA members, the rates were most recently fully updated in 2013, following an experience study covering the period July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013. The rates were updated again for the current valuation to reflect the increase in the administrative expense load from 1.90% to 2.74%. For PEPRA members, the rates were also re-computed, in accordance with the requirement that employees pay half of the total normal cost rate from the actuarial valuation.

Non-PEPRA Members

- The basic rates are determined based on Government Code Section 31621.8 for General Tier 1 and Tier 2 members (31621.1 for Tier 2 members under benefit section 31676.11), 31621 for General Tier 3 members, and Section 31639.25 for Safety members. The COLA rates for members in Tier 1 are determined based on 50% of the normal cost associated with the expected COLA benefits, including joint and survivor benefits, determined for each individual entry age.
- The rates are determined based on an interest rate of 7.75% per annum, an average salary increase of 3.00% per year (plus service-based increases for merit/longevity), and the Retired Pensioner (RP) 2000 Combined Healthy Tables, published by the Society of Actuaries, projected to 2027 using Projection Scale BB. The rates are blended based on a male/female weighting of 33 1/3% male / 66 2/3% female for General members, and 75% male / 25% female for Safety members.
- Effective with the June 30, 2013 valuation, an administrative expense load was added to the rates. The expense load added this year is 2.74%. This load was determined to account for the employees' share of the \$1.80 million administrative expense assumption, assuming the employer and employees would share administrative expenses in proportion to their overall share of the contributions. The 2.74% load produces an average increase in the employee rates of approximately 0.21% of payroll.

PEPRA Members

- Employee contribution rates are equal to half of the total normal cost rate from the actuarial valuation, determined separately for General and Safety. Due to the passage of SB13, contribution rates for PEPRA members are not rounded, and will be recomputed each year.
- The same 2.74% load for administrative expenses was applied to the PEPRA rates.

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**APPENDIX D  
MEMBER CONTRIBUTION RATES**

**Contribution Rates (General Non-PEPRA):**

Entry Age	Basic		Tier 1 COLA		Total		Tier 2 Basic		Tier 2 (Cemetery) Basic		Tier 3 Basic	
	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350
16	3.93%	5.90%	0.93%	1.41%	4.86%	7.31%	3.66%	5.49%	3.05%	4.58%	2.48%	3.72%
17	3.93%	5.90%	0.93%	1.41%	4.86%	7.31%	3.66%	5.49%	3.05%	4.58%	2.48%	3.72%
18	3.93%	5.90%	0.93%	1.41%	4.86%	7.31%	3.66%	5.49%	3.05%	4.58%	2.48%	3.72%
19	3.93%	5.90%	0.93%	1.41%	4.86%	7.31%	3.66%	5.49%	3.05%	4.58%	2.48%	3.72%
20	3.93%	5.90%	0.93%	1.41%	4.86%	7.31%	3.66%	5.49%	3.05%	4.58%	2.48%	3.72%
21	4.06%	6.08%	0.98%	1.47%	5.04%	7.55%	3.77%	5.65%	3.14%	4.71%	2.56%	3.83%
22	4.18%	6.27%	1.03%	1.54%	5.21%	7.81%	3.88%	5.83%	3.23%	4.86%	2.63%	3.95%
23	4.30%	6.46%	1.08%	1.61%	5.38%	8.07%	4.00%	6.00%	3.33%	5.00%	2.71%	4.07%
24	4.44%	6.66%	1.12%	1.68%	5.56%	8.34%	4.12%	6.18%	3.43%	5.15%	2.79%	4.19%
25	4.57%	6.85%	1.17%	1.76%	5.74%	8.61%	4.24%	6.37%	3.53%	5.31%	2.88%	4.32%
26	4.72%	7.07%	1.22%	1.84%	5.94%	8.91%	4.38%	6.57%	3.65%	5.48%	2.97%	4.45%
27	4.86%	7.28%	1.27%	1.91%	6.13%	9.19%	4.51%	6.77%	3.76%	5.64%	3.05%	4.58%
28	5.00%	7.51%	1.33%	1.99%	6.33%	9.50%	4.65%	6.98%	3.88%	5.82%	3.15%	4.73%
29	5.16%	7.74%	1.39%	2.08%	6.55%	9.82%	4.80%	7.19%	4.00%	5.99%	3.25%	4.87%
30	5.31%	7.97%	1.44%	2.16%	6.75%	10.13%	4.94%	7.42%	4.12%	6.18%	3.34%	5.01%
31	5.49%	8.23%	1.49%	2.24%	6.98%	10.47%	5.10%	7.64%	4.25%	6.37%	3.44%	5.17%
32	5.66%	8.49%	1.55%	2.33%	7.21%	10.82%	5.25%	7.88%	4.38%	6.57%	3.55%	5.33%
33	5.84%	8.75%	1.61%	2.41%	7.45%	11.16%	5.40%	8.11%	4.50%	6.76%	3.67%	5.50%
34	6.03%	9.04%	1.66%	2.50%	7.69%	11.54%	5.54%	8.31%	4.62%	6.93%	3.77%	5.66%
35	6.15%	9.24%	1.72%	2.58%	7.87%	11.82%	5.67%	8.51%	4.73%	7.09%	3.89%	5.84%
36	6.30%	9.45%	1.78%	2.66%	8.08%	12.11%	5.79%	8.69%	4.83%	7.24%	4.02%	6.02%
37	6.44%	9.67%	1.82%	2.73%	8.26%	12.40%	5.93%	8.90%	4.94%	7.42%	4.14%	6.21%
38	6.59%	9.88%	1.88%	2.82%	8.47%	12.70%	6.05%	9.07%	5.04%	7.56%	4.26%	6.39%
39	6.75%	10.12%	1.92%	2.89%	8.67%	13.01%	6.15%	9.23%	5.13%	7.69%	4.37%	6.54%
40	6.84%	10.26%	1.96%	2.95%	8.80%	13.21%	6.24%	9.35%	5.20%	7.79%	4.47%	6.70%
41	6.93%	10.41%	1.99%	2.99%	8.92%	13.40%	6.32%	9.48%	5.27%	7.90%	4.56%	6.84%
42	7.04%	10.55%	2.01%	3.02%	9.05%	13.57%	6.41%	9.62%	5.34%	8.02%	4.67%	7.01%
43	7.13%	10.70%	2.03%	3.05%	9.16%	13.75%	6.50%	9.75%	5.42%	8.13%	4.76%	7.14%
44	7.23%	10.85%	2.05%	3.08%	9.28%	13.93%	6.60%	9.89%	5.50%	8.24%	4.84%	7.26%
45	7.34%	11.00%	2.07%	3.10%	9.41%	14.10%	6.69%	10.03%	5.58%	8.36%	4.91%	7.37%
46	7.45%	11.17%	2.09%	3.12%	9.54%	14.29%	6.78%	10.17%	5.65%	8.48%	4.98%	7.47%
47	7.55%	11.32%	2.10%	3.14%	9.65%	14.46%	6.88%	10.33%	5.73%	8.61%	5.04%	7.57%
48	7.66%	11.50%	2.11%	3.16%	9.77%	14.66%	6.99%	10.48%	5.83%	8.73%	5.13%	7.68%
49	7.78%	11.67%	2.13%	3.18%	9.91%	14.85%	7.08%	10.62%	5.90%	8.85%	5.19%	7.79%
50	7.91%	11.87%	2.13%	3.20%	10.04%	15.07%	7.16%	10.75%	5.97%	8.96%	5.27%	7.90%
51	8.02%	12.03%	2.09%	3.13%	10.11%	15.16%	7.22%	10.83%	6.02%	9.03%	5.34%	8.01%
52	8.11%	12.15%	2.04%	3.06%	10.15%	15.21%	7.24%	10.87%	6.03%	9.06%	5.41%	8.13%
53	8.13%	12.18%	2.00%	3.00%	10.13%	15.18%	7.51%	11.27%	6.26%	9.39%	5.50%	8.25%
54	8.15%	12.23%	1.95%	2.93%	10.10%	15.16%	7.80%	11.69%	6.50%	9.74%	5.58%	8.37%
55	8.07%	12.10%	1.91%	2.87%	9.98%	14.97%	7.72%	11.58%	6.43%	9.65%	5.64%	8.47%
56	7.98%	11.97%	1.84%	2.76%	9.82%	14.73%	7.63%	11.46%	6.36%	9.55%	5.68%	8.53%
57	7.89%	11.84%	1.78%	2.67%	9.67%	14.51%	7.55%	11.33%	6.29%	9.44%	5.70%	8.56%
58	7.80%	11.70%	1.72%	2.58%	9.52%	14.28%	7.46%	11.19%	6.22%	9.33%	5.92%	8.88%
59+	7.70%	11.55%	1.65%	2.49%	9.35%	14.04%	7.37%	11.05%	6.14%	9.21%	6.13%	9.21%

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MEMBER CONTRIBUTION RATES**

**Contribution Rates (Safety Non-PEPRA):**

Entry Age	Basic		Tier 1 COLA		Total		Tiers 2 and 3 Basic	
	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350	First \$350	Over \$350
20	4.90%	7.35%	2.23%	3.35%	7.13%	10.70%	4.53%	6.79%
21	5.02%	7.53%	2.30%	3.45%	7.32%	10.98%	4.64%	6.97%
22	5.16%	7.74%	2.36%	3.54%	7.52%	11.28%	4.77%	7.15%
23	5.29%	7.93%	2.43%	3.65%	7.72%	11.58%	4.89%	7.34%
24	5.42%	8.14%	2.50%	3.74%	7.92%	11.88%	5.02%	7.53%
25	5.57%	8.35%	2.56%	3.83%	8.13%	12.18%	5.15%	7.73%
26	5.72%	8.58%	2.62%	3.92%	8.34%	12.50%	5.29%	7.93%
27	5.87%	8.80%	2.67%	4.01%	8.54%	12.81%	5.43%	8.15%
28	6.03%	9.04%	2.73%	4.10%	8.76%	13.14%	5.58%	8.36%
29	6.20%	9.29%	2.78%	4.18%	8.98%	13.47%	5.72%	8.59%
30	6.36%	9.53%	2.85%	4.26%	9.21%	13.79%	5.88%	8.82%
31	6.53%	9.80%	2.88%	4.32%	9.41%	14.12%	6.04%	9.06%
32	6.72%	10.08%	2.91%	4.37%	9.63%	14.45%	6.22%	9.32%
33	6.91%	10.37%	2.95%	4.43%	9.86%	14.80%	6.36%	9.54%
34	7.12%	10.67%	3.01%	4.52%	10.13%	15.19%	6.48%	9.73%
35	7.22%	10.83%	3.07%	4.60%	10.29%	15.43%	6.59%	9.87%
36	7.33%	10.99%	3.13%	4.71%	10.46%	15.70%	6.69%	10.03%
37	7.45%	11.17%	3.20%	4.80%	10.65%	15.97%	6.79%	10.18%
38	7.56%	11.34%	3.27%	4.90%	10.83%	16.24%	6.89%	10.34%
39	7.68%	11.53%	3.34%	5.01%	11.02%	16.54%	7.00%	10.50%
40	7.81%	11.71%	3.42%	5.14%	11.23%	16.85%	7.12%	10.68%
41	7.94%	11.92%	3.42%	5.14%	11.36%	17.06%	7.22%	10.83%
42	8.10%	12.14%	3.43%	5.15%	11.53%	17.29%	7.30%	10.96%
43	8.17%	12.26%	3.45%	5.18%	11.62%	17.44%	7.39%	11.08%
44	8.26%	12.39%	3.47%	5.21%	11.73%	17.60%	7.46%	11.19%
45	8.35%	12.53%	3.48%	5.23%	11.83%	17.76%	7.50%	11.25%
46	8.48%	12.71%	3.50%	5.25%	11.98%	17.96%	7.51%	11.27%
47	8.46%	12.69%	3.51%	5.27%	11.97%	17.96%	7.49%	11.24%
48	8.43%	12.66%	3.52%	5.28%	11.95%	17.94%	7.78%	11.66%
49+	8.42%	12.64%	3.54%	5.31%	11.96%	17.95%	8.07%	12.09%

**MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX D  
MEMBER CONTRIBUTION RATES**

**Current Year Contribution Rates (PEPRA):**

PEPRA Rates		
	General	Safety
	5.27%	8.85%
Assumptions:		
Interest	7.75%	
Salary	2015 Valuation Scale (service-based, includes inflation at 3.00%)	
Mortality	RP-2000 Combined Healthy, projected to 2027 using Scale BB	
Other	Same as June 30, 2015 valuation (see Appendix B)	

**Prior Year Contribution Rates (PEPRA):**

PEPRA Rates		
	General	Safety
	5.11%	9.01%
Assumptions:		
Interest	7.75%	
Salary	2014 Valuation Scale (service-based, includes inflation at 3.00%)	
Mortality	RP-2000 Combined Healthy, projected to 2027 using Scale BB	
Other	Same as June 30, 2014 valuation (see Appendix B)	



MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX E**  
**GLOSSARY**

**1. Actuarial Assumptions**

Assumptions as to the occurrence of future events affecting pension costs such as mortality, withdrawal, disability, retirement, changes in compensation, and rates of investment return.

**2. Actuarial Cost Method**

A procedure for determining the Actuarial Present Value of pension plan benefits and expenses and for developing an allocation of such value to each year of service, usually in the form of a Normal Cost and an Actuarial Liability.

**3. Actuarial Gain (Loss)**

The difference between actual experience and that expected based upon a set of Actuarial Assumptions during the period between two Actuarial Valuation dates, as determined in accordance with a particular Actuarial Cost Method.

**4. Actuarial Liability**

The portion of the Actuarial Present Value of Projected Benefits which will not be paid by future Normal Costs. It represents the value of the past Normal Costs with interest to the valuation date.

**5. Actuarial Present Value (Present Value)**

The value as of a given date of a future amount or series of payments. The Actuarial Present Value discounts the payments to the given date at the assumed investment return and includes the probability of the payment being made.

**6. Actuarial Valuation**

The determination, as of a specified date, of the Normal Cost, Actuarial Liability, Actuarial Value of Assets, and related Actuarial Present Values for a pension plan.

MERCED COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
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**APPENDIX E  
GLOSSARY**

**7. Actuarial Value of Assets**

The value of cash, investments, and other property belonging to a pension plan as used by the actuary for the purpose of an Actuarial Valuation. The purpose of an Actuarial Value of Assets is to smooth out fluctuations in market values. No longer applicable as of the June 30, 2014 actuarial valuation.

**8. Actuarially Equivalent**

Of equal Actuarial Present Value, determined as of a given date, with each value based on the same set of actuarial assumptions.

**9. Amortization Payment**

The portion of the pension plan contribution that is designed to pay interest and principal on the Unfunded Actuarial Liability in order to pay for that liability in a given number of years.

**10. Entry Age Normal Actuarial Cost Method**

A method under which the Actuarial Present Value of the Projected Benefits of each individual included in an Actuarial Valuation is allocated on a level basis over the earnings of the individual between entry age and assumed exit ages.

**11. Funded Ratio**

The ratio of the Market Value of Assets to the Actuarial Liabilities.

**12. Normal Cost**

That portion of the Actuarial Present Value of pension plan benefits and expenses, which is allocated to a valuation year by the Actuarial Cost Method.

**13. Projected Benefits**

Those pension plan benefit amounts which are expected to be paid in the future under a particular set of Actuarial Assumptions, taking into account such items as increases in future compensation and service credits.

**14. Unfunded Actuarial Liability**

The excess of the Actuarial Liability over the Market Value of Assets.