

# Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association

A Pension Trust Fund of the County of Tulare, California

# Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

# Prepared by:

The Accounting Department
Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association

Leanne Malison Retirement Administrator Mary Warner Assistant Retirement Administrator

Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association 136 N Akers Street Visalia, California 93291 (559) 713-2900 FAX (559) 730-2631

# TULARE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION "TCERA"

**TCERA** is a retirement system, organized under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, which provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to the employees, retirees, and former employees of the County of Tulare, the Tulare County Superior Court, and the Strathmore Public Utility District.

TCERA's principal responsibilities include: management of the trust fund; delivery of retirement, disability, and death benefits to eligible members; administration of cost-of-living programs; and general assistance in retirement and related benefits.

#### **Mission Statement**

To provide retirement compensation, death and disability benefits to Tulare County and outside district retirees and their beneficiaries. To provide services for plan members to assist them in planning for their retirement. To preserve and maintain the assets of the system through prudent investment of employee and employer contributions, while maintaining a sound funded status for the system.



#### **TCERA Commitment**

TCERA is committed to providing excellent service for its plan participants. The Mission is achieved through a competent, professional, impartial and open decision making process. Investments are managed to decrease risk while increasing returns. TCERA exists for the sole purpose of providing benefits to our members with the goals of maximizing member service, enhancing member communication to increase awareness of available benefits, and minimizing employer contributions.



#### Goals

- To enhance communications with members and employers.
- To develop an environment which improves the Retirement Board's ability to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities.
- To improve the level and delivery of services provided to plan participants.
- To achieve and sustain top quartile investment performance as measured by the Public Fund Universe.
- To attract, develop and retain competent and professional staff.

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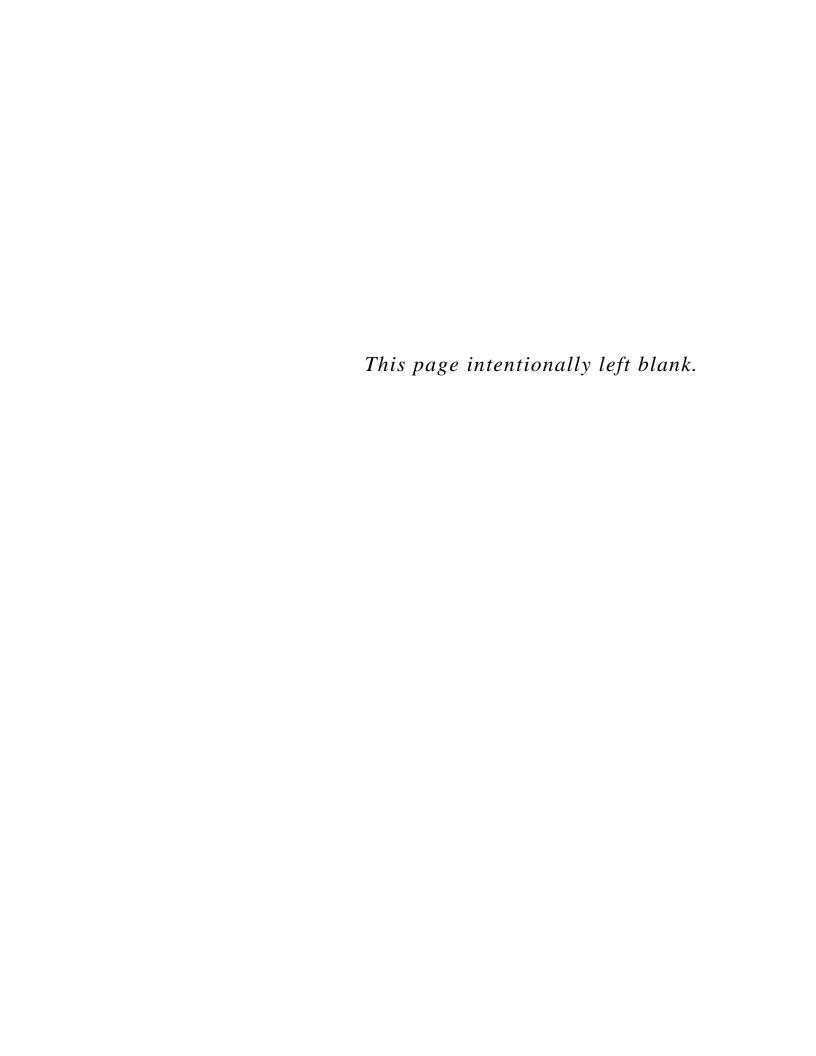
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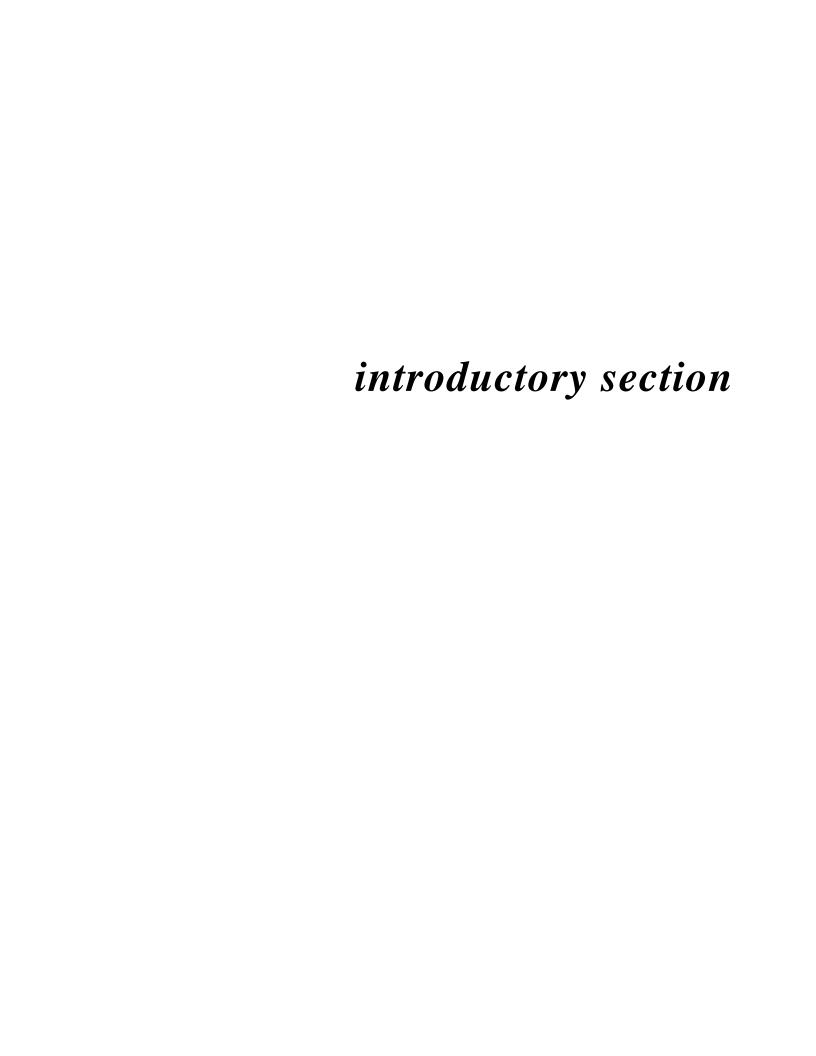
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# COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

Leanne Malison Retirement Administrator

136 N AKERS STREET VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291 TELEPHONE (559) 713-2900 FAX (559) 730-2631 www.tcera.org

#### Letter of Transmittal

November 30, 2020

Board of Retirement Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association 136 N. Akers Street Visalia, CA 93291-5121

#### **Dear Board Members:**

The Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (TCERA) staff is submitting for your review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, TCERA's 75th year of operation. The information contained in this report is designed to provide a complete and accurate review of the year's operations. The required financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation, independent auditor, has audited the financial statements. Management is responsible for the contents of this report and believes that internal controls are adequate and that the accompanying statements, schedules, and tables are fairly presented.

#### **TCERA AND ITS SERVICES**

Currently, TCERA (also referred to as the Association or the Plan) has three plan sponsors. The Plan was established on July 1, 1945, to provide retirement allowances and other benefits to the safety and general members employed by the County of Tulare (the County). On July 1, 1968, the Strathmore Public Utility District joined the members of TCERA under the Association's provisions. Effective January 1, 2004, the Tulare County Superior Court (TCSC) separated from the County. TCERA established TCSC as a separate plan sponsor, which provides inclusion in membership for new employees while retaining the prior County employees with continuing membership.

TCERA is governed by the California Constitution, the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, applicable sections and regulations of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and the bylaws, procedures and policies adopted by TCERA's Board of Retirement (the Board). The Tulare County Board of Supervisors may also adopt resolutions, as permitted by the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, which may affect benefits of TCERA members.

The Board is responsible for determining TCERA's investment objectives, strategies, polices, and general management of TCERA. The Retirement Administrator is accountable for TCERA's operations and is an advisor to the nine member Board.

#### MAJOR INITIATIVES, SERVICE EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During this fiscal year our initiatives, service efforts and accomplishments have continued to reflect the five stated goals of TCERA:

#### Enhance Communications with Members and Employers

- The first half of the fiscal year, TCERA continued to focus on opportunities provided to members to increase their knowledge regarding TCERA and retirement benefits by continually evaluating and updating its educational seminars presented to members. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic derailed the numerous retirement seminars TCERA regularly schedules for its members. Staff shifted to one-on-one phone communication with member to ensure that they are fully informed regarding retirement issues. TCERA is in the process of reigniting its seminars through web meeting platforms to ensure access for as many members as possible.
- Member benefit statements distributed annually provide not only contribution balance information, but also projected benefit estimates for vested members. This gives members an additional tool for their retirement planning. Because these statements are generated directly from TCERA's pension administration system, TCERA is able to distribute these statements quickly without relying on a third party for printing and distribution.
- Pension Progress, TCERA's quarterly newsletter, continues to provide up to date information for members. Electronic
  distribution for active members ensures timely delivery and easy access for employees. The newsletter is also
  available on TCERA's website.
- TCERA maintains member web services called My TCERA. My TCERA provides active members access to their demographic and balance information as well as the ability to calculate preliminary retirement benefit estimates using their current data. Retired members have access to payment acknowledgments and 1099R information and can submit updates to certain pension information. The My TCERA Retirement Modeler gives members the opportunity to use "what if" scenarios to assist with achieving their retirement goals. After enrolling in web services, My TCERA is accessible to members through a link available on TCERA's website.
- TCERA updates Facebook and Twitter communications with relevant news and information for its members. The use
  of social media provides yet another means of reaching TCERA members with important information.

#### Develop an Environment which Improves the Retirement Board's Ability to Fulfill its Fiduciary Responsibilities

- The Board trustees continue their focus on Board education. Trustees are encouraged to attend seminars and conferences offered through qualified outside organizations. In addition, the Board has ramped up its internal education, offering on-site education on various administrative and investment topics. The educational opportunities in this fiscal year's education calendar covered currency management, real estate debt strategic asset allocation, and education from many of TCERA's current investment managers. In response to the pandemic, consultants and investment managers have provided multiple web based conferences and seminars for trustees, providing another means of obtaining valuable education.
- The Board authorized a reduction in the compounded assumed rate of return from 7.25% to 7.00%, effective for the June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation. This was the result of the Board's continued analysis of projected investment returns, associated risk, and the recommendations of TCERA's actuary regarding the rate of return assumption. The Board acknowledged that the rate reduction will place the plan in a favorable position for reaching its long-term investment return goals and achieving full funding status.
- The Board acknowledged its fiduciary responsibility in administrative matters through the periodic review of Board
  policies and resolutions. The trustees reviewed key policies and took action to update its policies regarding disabilities
  and community property. Hearing officer compensation levels were reviewed and increased to ensure that TCERA
  attracts and retains qualified hearing officers for disability processes. The Board also updated resolutions regarding
  compensable pay codes.

#### Improve the Level and Delivery of Services Provided to Plan Participants

- TCERA continued to enhance its Pension Administration System and develop improved processes and work flow
  through expanded use of the system's capabilities. Efficiencies have already been realized in the use of the CPAS
  system and procedures continue to be refined to make the best use of the system's features. The system was moved
  from a server based platform to a cloud environment this fiscal year to ensure that the system remains up to date with
  current technology.
- TCERA continued the use of group retirement sessions for members completing the final paperwork for TCERA retirement up until March of 2020. In the face of increasing numbers of retirements and limited staff, TCERA found that this approach to the retirement process allows streamlining of retirement sessions while still offering personalized service. Employees meet with a retirement specialist in a group of four to six TCERA members. The session focuses on final retirement decisions and the completion of the retirement application packet. Following the meeting, members have the opportunity to meet separately with a staff member if necessary. These group retirement sessions have allowed TCERA to continue to meet the individual needs of our growing retirement population. The COVID pandemic put these sessions on hold and TCERA staff are using phone and electronic communications to assist members through the retirement process.
- TCERA instituted protective measures for trustees, staff, and members in response to the COVID pandemic. Social
  distancing is enforced with any on site activity. Staff is divided into teams, rotating on and off site, to ensure that
  TCERA will have a fully functioning staff in the event of COVID exposure to a team. In spite of scheduling and
  workload challenges, TCERA staff have stepped up to the challenge. TCERA has met every deadline for pension
  payments and other processes during the crisis and has ensured that members have access to all services necessary
  for administration of their pension accounts.

#### Achieve and Sustain Top Quartile Investment Performance as Measured by the Public Fund Universe

- The Board conducted its annual review of its investment policy as a part of its discussions regarding TCERA's strategic asset allocation. In response to the prior year action to update the policy to allow for investments in value added real estate, real estate debt, and emerging market debt, the trustees selected managers for all of the mandates and implementation is underway. The new investments, when fully funded, are expected to add diversification while enhancing future returns.
- TCERA's investments returned 0.9% gross of fees, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, ranking in the 86th percentile of its peer group. This fell short of TCERA's investment rate assumption of 7.25% that was in effect during the fiscal year. The fixed income portfolio compared to peers was a major detractor to the peer ranking. Absolute performance was hampered by TCERA's overweight to global and international investments and its cash overlay program. TCERA hopes to make progress with the disappointing ranking through the implementation of the changes the Board has made to its strategic investment allocation. TCERA continues to be optimistic in its ability to achieve its long-term investment goals as well as improve TCERA's position in comparison to peers.
- TCERA's policy of smoothing asset returns allowed the Board to authorize the posting of positive interest for both December 31, 2019 and June 30, 2020 in spite of the recognition of previous losses causing the smoothed rate to fall short of the interest assumption rate of 7.25% in effect for the fiscal year. The Board is confident that, barring unforeseen market turmoil, the implementation of its asset allocation combined with positive market environments will produce future investment performance in line with TCERA's goals. Member accounts and applicable reserves were credited with interest as follows:

December 31, 2019 Tiers 1-3 –3.3320%

Tier 4 – 3.1603%

June 30, 2020 Tiers 1-3 – 3.1611%

Tier 4 - 2.5809%

#### Attract, Develop, and Retain Competent and Professional Staff

- The appointment of Leanne Malison, TCERA's previous Assistant Retirement Administrator, as Retirement Administrator, created a vacancy in that position. The Board selected TCERA's Administrative Services Officer, Mary Warner, to fill that vacancy allowing for continuity of leadership for the Plan. The ability to promote from within the organization is a testament to the Board and Staff's attention to developing existing staff as part of its succession planning.
- TCERA continued its focus on cross-training and professional development for all staff members. Weekly staff
  meetings provide an environment for exchange of information and training in various aspects of pension
  administration.
- Staff members participated in on-site training and off-site seminars and roundtables to bolster their understanding of retirement principles as available. The COVID pandemic has limited access to off-site seminars, but the availability of web-based programs has helped fill in that gap.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

All permanent County, Strathmore Public Utility District, and TCSC employees working 50% or more in a regular allocated position are members of the Association.

TCERA's Membership		
As of June 30, 2020 and 2019	2020	2019
Active Plan Participants (vested/non-vested)	4,605	4,619
Inactive Participants (vested/non-vested)	2,183	2,082
Service Retirees	2,574	2,519
Disability Retirees	347	335
Survivors/Beneficiaries	487	458
Total Retirees/Beneficiaries	3,408	3,312
Total Members	10,196	10,013

The Association's membership consists of General and Safety members who participate in one of the following four tiers:

<u>Tier 1</u> – Includes all members who have a membership date on or before December 31, 1979. The County pays one-half of Tier 1 members' normal contributions. Benefits are calculated using the highest average one-year salary. Tier 1 members receive a maximum of 3% cost-of-living adjustment annually after retirement. Tier 1 general members with service earned on or after July 1, 2005 are now subject to IRS Section 415 limits due to the implementation of a new benefit formula. Only Tier 1 general members who entered deferred status prior to the implementation of the new benefit formula are exempt from these limits. All Tier 1 members are subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

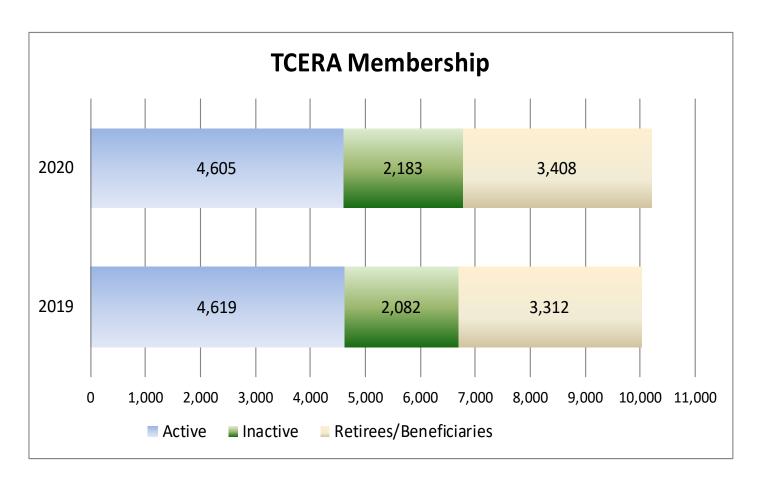
<u>Tier 2</u> – Includes all members who have a membership date from January 1, 1980 through December 31, 1989. Benefits are calculated using the highest average three-year salary. Tier 2 members receive a maximum of 2% cost-of-living

adjustment annually after retirement. Tier 2 general members with service earned on or after July 1, 2005 are now subject to IRS Section 415 limits due to the implementation of a new benefit formula. Only Tier 2 general members who entered deferred status prior to the implementation of the new benefit formula are exempt from these limits. All Tier 2 members are subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

<u>Tier 3</u> – Includes all members who have a membership date from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 2012. Benefits are calculated using the highest average three-year salary. Tier 3 members receive a maximum of 2% cost-of-living adjustment annually after retirement. All employees who joined TCERA on or after January 1, 1990 are subject to IRS Section 415 limits. All Tier 3 members are subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

<u>Tier 4</u> – Includes all members who have a membership date on or after January 1, 2013 and are not eligible for reciprocal membership with another qualified retirement system. Tier 4 was established in response to the provisions of the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2012 (PEPRA). Benefits are calculated using the highest average three-year salary. Tier 4 members receive a maximum of 2% cost-of-living adjustment annually after retirement. All employees who joined TCERA on or after January 1, 1990 are subject to IRS Section 415 limits. Tier 4 members are not subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

The covered payroll for all tiers for fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019 as reported in the most recent actuarial Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67/68 report dated June 30, 2020 was \$283.64 million and \$264.22 million, respectively.



#### **INVESTMENTS - General Authority**

Article XVI, Section 17 of the Constitution of the State of California provides that "Notwithstanding any other provisions of law or this Constitution, the Retirement Board of a public pension or retirement system shall have plenary authority and fiduciary responsibility for the investment of moneys and administration of the system..."

Article XVI, Section 17(a) of the Constitution of the State of California provides that "the Retirement Board of a public pension or retirement system shall have sole and exclusive fiduciary responsibility over the assets..."

Article XVI, Section 17(c) of the Constitution of the State of California provides that "the members of the Retirement Board of a public pension or retirement system shall discharge their duties... with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aim." By permitting further diversification of investments within a fund, the prudent expert standard may enable a fund to reduce overall risk and increase returns. A summary of TCERA's asset allocation can be found in the Investment Section of this report.

The prudent expert rule permits the Board to establish investment policy based upon professional advice and counsel and allows for the delegation of investment authority to professional advisors. TCERA's Investment Policy outlines the responsibility for the investments of the fund and the degree of risk that is deemed appropriate for the fund. Investment advisors are to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the Board's policies and guidelines.

TCERA's investment return calculations are time-weighted and market value based. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019, TCERA's investments provided a 0.9% and 6.3% time-weighted rate of return, respectively. TCERA's annualized rate of return over the last three years was 4.9%. For the 5-year and 10-year periods, the fund returned 5.1% and 7.5% annualized, respectively. Details regarding investment performance are included in the Investment Section of this report.

#### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### **Internal Control**

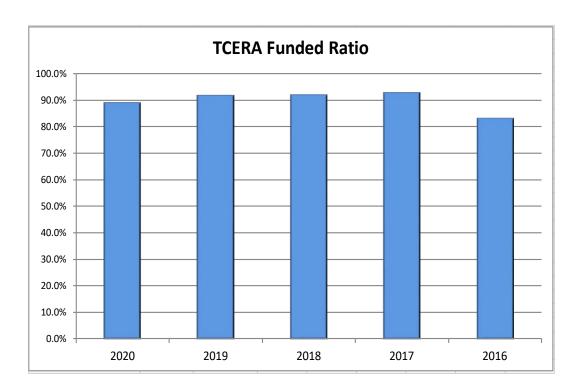
TCERA's management is responsible for implementing and sustaining internal controls designed to provide prudent assurance regarding the protection of assets and the reliability of financial records.

In developing and maintaining TCERA's accounting system, consideration is given to the adequacy of internal controls. Internal controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding: (1) the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and (2) the reliability of financial records for preparing financial statements and maintaining accountability for assets. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and (2) the evaluation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control evaluations occur within the above framework. TCERA recognizes that even sound internal controls have inherent limitations. We believe that TCERA's internal accounting controls adequately safeguard assets and provide reasonable assurance that all financial transactions are properly recorded and they are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. These controls have been improved with the implementation of an integrated pension administration system.

#### **Funding Status and Objective**

The policy of the Board is to provide for an actuarial valuation on an annual basis, with an experience study to be conducted every three years. As of June 30, 2020, the date of the last actuarial evaluation, the funded ratio for TCERA was 89.1%. Over time, TCERA seeks to reach full funding status. To further that end, TCERA has adopted a 19-year layered amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability to ensure that liabilities are fully paid over the amortization period. TCERA's primary funding objective, however, is to maintain a funded status that will allow for the payment of its long-term benefit obligations through contributions and investment income. TCERA will establish contribution rates that, to the extent possible, will remain as a level percentage of payroll over time and will fully fund the liability for each participant by the participant's retirement date. Toward that end, the following chart displays TCERA's healthy and relatively stable funded ratio over recent years:



The substantial increase in the funded status as of June 30, 2017 is primarily due to the issuance of \$250 million in Pension Obligation Bonds by the County. TCERA's independent actuary, Cheiron, was authorized to produce a revised valuation for June 30, 2017 that included a receivable for the expected \$250 million contribution. The bond proceeds were received by TCERA on June 30, 2018.

#### Additional Discussion and Analysis of Fiscal Operations for the Fiscal Year

An overview of TCERA's fiscal operations is presented in the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) preceding the financial statements. This transmittal letter, when taken into consideration with the MD&A, provides an enhanced picture of the activities of the fund.

#### CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARDS

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to TCERA for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award recognizing excellence in the preparation of state and local government financial reports.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government entity must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This report must satisfy both GAAP and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current Comprehensive Annual Financial Report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

TCERA's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), designed to provide the public with an understanding of TCERA's overall financial condition and enhanced services, achieved the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting from the GFOA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

In addition, TCERA applied for and was awarded the Public Pension Standards Award for Funding and Administration for 2020. This award is presented by the Public Pension Coordinating Council in recognition of meeting professional standards for plan funding and administration as set forth in the Public Pension Standards. The Public Pension Coordinating Council is a confederation of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), and the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The preparation of the annual report on a timely basis is made possible by the effective teamwork of TCERA staff. It is intended to provide concise and reliable information reflecting the Board's management of its fiduciary responsibility to TCERA's trust fund and participants. I would like to thank our contract auditor, Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation, for their guidance and assistance.

On behalf of TCERA Board of Retirement and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the advisors, consultants, and to the many people who have worked so diligently to ensure the success of TCERA.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Malison

Retirement Administrator

Beanne Malison

## **GFOA Certificate of Achievement**



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

# **Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association** California

For its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2019

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director/CEO

#### **Public Pension Standards Award**



# **Public Pension Coordinating Council**

# Public Pension Standards Award For Funding and Administration 2020

Presented to

# Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association

In recognition of meeting professional standards for plan funding and administration as set forth in the Public Pension Standards.

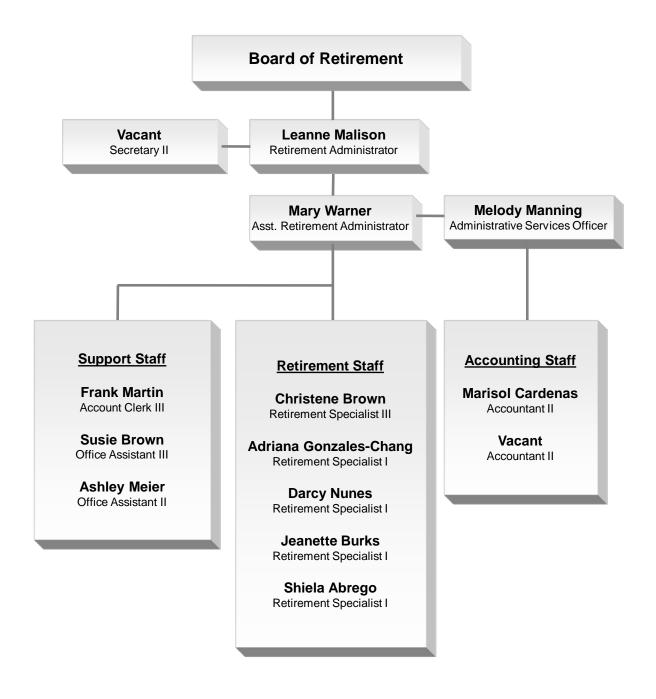
Presented by the Public Pension Coordinating Council, a confederation of

National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA) National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR)

> Alan H. Winkle Program Administrator

# TCERA Organizational Chart

# As of June 30, 2020



# Members of the Board of Retirement At June 30, 2020



Roland Hill, Chair
General Membership Representative
Elected by General Members
Present term expires 12/31/2021



Nathan Polk
Safety Membership Representative the
Elected by Safety Members
Present term expires 12/31/2021



Wayne Ross, Vice Chair Appointed by the Board of Supervisors Present term expires 12/31/2021



Pete Vander Poel, Member Appointed by the Board of Supervisors Present term expires 12/31/2022



James Young, Member
Appointed by the
Board of Supervisors
Present term expires 12/31/2021



Laura Hernandez
General Membership Representative
Elected by General Members
Present term expires 12/31/2022

## Members of the Board of Retirement (Cont.)



Gary Reed, Member
Appointed by the
Board of Supervisors
Present term expires 12/31/2022



Cass Cook, Member
Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax
Collector
Ex-Officio Member



David Vasquez, Alternate
Safety Membership Representative
Elected by Safety Members
Present Term expires 12/31/2021



Paul Sampietro, Alternate Ex-Officio Alternate For Auditor/Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector



David Kehler, Member
Retired
Elected by Retired Members
Present term expires 12/31/2022



George Finney, Alternate
Retired
Elected by Retired Members
Present term expires 12/31/2022

#### List of Professional Consultants

#### **AUDITOR**

**Brown Armstrong Accountancy** Corporation

#### **ACTUARY**

Cheiron, Inc.

#### **CUSTODIAN/SECURITIES LENDING**

**BNY Mellon Global Securities Services** 

#### **DATA PROCESSING**

**Tulare County Information &** Communications Technology

#### **CUSTODIAL BANK**

**BNY Mellon** 

#### **LEGAL COUNSEL**

**Tulare County Counsel** Nossaman LLP Hanson Bridget LLP

#### **INVESTMENT CONSULTANT**

Verus Advisory, Inc.

# List of Professional Investment Managers

Additional information regarding investment managers, including asset allocation and performance, can be found in the Investment Section of this report. The Schedule of Investment Management Fees and the Brokerage Policy/Commission Recapture can be found on pages 77-79 of the Investment Section.

#### **EQUITY: DOMESTIC**

Boston Partners
State Street Global Advisors
William Blair Investment Management
Ivy Investments
Quantitative Management Associates
LMCG Investments

#### **EQUITY: INTERNATIONAL**

PIMCO RAE State Street Global Advisors SG Advisers

#### **EQUITY: GLOBAL**

Kleinwort Benson Investors (KBI)

#### FIXED INCOME: DOMESTIC

BlackRock Financial Mgmt., Inc.
MacKay Shields
DoubleLine
State Street Global Advisors

#### **FIXED INCOME: GLOBAL**

Franklin Templeton Institutional PGIM

#### REAL ESTATE

RREEF
TA Associates Realty
Invesco
American Realty Advisors

#### PRIVATE EQUITY

Pantheon Ventures, Inc.
BlackRock Alternative Advisors
StepStone Group
Ocean Avenue Capital Partners
Pathway Capital Mgmt.

#### **PRIVATE CREDIT**

**TSSP Special Situations Partners** 

#### **OPPORTUNISTIC**

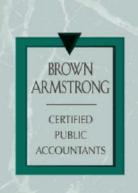
KKR Capital Markets, LLC PIMCO Investments, LLC TSSP Special Situations Partners

#### **CASH OVERLAY**

Parametric

# financial section

## Independent Auditor's Report



#### BAKERSFIELD OFFICE (MAIN OFFICE)

4200 TRUXTUN AVENUE SUITE 300 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309 TEL 661.324.4971 FAX 661.324.4997 EMAIL info@bacpas.com

#### FRESNO OFFICE

10 RIVER PARK PLACE EAST SUITE 208 FRESNO, CA 937 20 TEL 559.476.3592

#### STOCKTON OFFICE

1919 GRAND CANAL BLVD SUITE C6 STOCKTON, CA 95207 TEL 888.565.1040

WWW.BACPAS.COM

REGISTERED with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and MEMBER of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

## BROWN ARMSTRONG

Certified Public Accountants

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Retirement Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association Visalia, California

#### Report on the Basic Financial Statements and the Other Information

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Fiduciary Net Position of Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (TCERA), a pension trust fund of the County of Tulare, as of June 30, 2020, the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position for the fiscal year then ended, and the related notes to the basic financial statements, which collectively comprise TCERA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We have also audited the Schedule of Cost Sharing Employer Allocations of TCERA and the Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts Allocated by Cost Sharing Plan totals for all entities of the columns titled net pension liability, total deferred outflows of resources, total deferred inflows of resources, and total pension expense excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions, specified column totals, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, listed as other information in the table of contents.

# Management's Responsibility for the Basic Financial Statements and the Other Information

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these basic financial statements and the other information in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements and the other information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these basic financial statements and the other information based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements and the other information are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements and other information. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the basic financial statements and the other information, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to TCERA's preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements and the other information in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the

purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of TCERA's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the basic financial statements and the other information.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### Opinions

In our opinion, the basic financial statements and the other information referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of TCERA as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in fiduciary net position for the fiscal year then ended; the Schedule of Cost Sharing Employer Allocations of TCERA for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020; and the Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts Allocated by Cost Sharing Plan totals for all entities of the columns titled net pension liability, total deferred outflows of resources, total deferred inflows of resources, and total pension expense excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions, specified column totals, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, listed as other information in the table of contents, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Other Matters

#### Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) and the required supplementary information (RSI), as noted in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the MD&A and RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### Other Supplemental Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements that collectively comprise TCERA's basic financial statements. The other supplemental information and the introductory, investment, actuarial, and statistical sections, as listed in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The other supplemental information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, other supplementary information, as noted in the table of contents, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory, investment, actuarial, and statistical sections have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

#### Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited TCERA's June 30, 2019, basic financial statements, and our reported dated December 2, 2019, expressed an unmodified opinion on those audited basic financial statements. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presentation herein as of June 30, 2019, is consistent in all material respects, with the audited basic financial statements from which it has been derived.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated November 30, 2020, on our consideration of TCERA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering TCERA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

BROWN ARMSTRONG ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Brown Armstrong Lecountaincy Corporation

Bakersfield, California November 30, 2020

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

We are pleased to provide this overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (TCERA, the Association, or the Plan) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. We encourage readers to take into account the information presented here in conjunction with additional information that we have furnished in the Letter of Transmittal beginning on page 1 in this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

#### **Financial Highlights**

- ➤ At the close of the fiscal year 2020, TCERA's Fiduciary Net Position restricted for pension benefits was \$1.62 billion. The Fiduciary Net Position is held in trust for the payment of pension benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and is available to meet TCERA's ongoing obligations.
- > TCERA's total Fiduciary Net Position restricted for pension benefits decreased by 26.4 million, or -1.6%, primarily as a result of a decrease in the fair value of investments.
- > TCERA's primary funding objective is to maintain a funded status that will allow for the payment of its long-term benefit obligations through contributions and investment income. TCERA will establish contribution rates that, over time, will remain as a level percentage of payroll and will fully fund the liability for each participant by the participant's retirement date. As of June 30, 2020, the date of the last actuarial valuation, the funded ratio for TCERA was 89.1%. In general, this indicates that for every dollar of benefits due TCERA had approximately \$0.891 of assets available for payment as of that date.
- ➤ Revenues (additions to Fiduciary Net Position) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 totaled \$67.9 million, which includes employer contributions of \$35.3 million, Plan member contributions of \$23.1 million, net investment income of \$9.3 million, and lease and other income of \$0.2 million.
- > Expenses (deductions from Fiduciary Net Position) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 totaled \$94.3 million, which includes retiree benefits of \$87.9 million, member refunds of \$3.5 million, and administrative expenses of \$2.9 million.

#### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This management's discussion and analysis introduces the readers to TCERA's basic financial statements, the **Statement of Fiduciary Net Position** and the **Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**.

The Statement of Fiduciary Net Position is a snapshot of account balances at year-end. It indicates the assets available for future payments to retirees and any current liabilities.

The Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position, conversely, provides a view of the current year additions to and deductions from the fund.

TCERA's basic financial statements and the note disclosures to the basic financial statements are in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for governments (GAAP) as established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). GAAP requires certain disclosures and also requires entities such as TCERA to report using the full accrual method of accounting. The full accrual method of accounting is similar to a forprofit pension system's accounting as revenues are recognized when earned and expenses when incurred, regardless of when cash is transferred. TCERA complies with all material requirements of GAAP.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis

The Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position report information about TCERA's balances as of the end of the fiscal year and its activities during the year. All investment gains and losses are shown at trade date, not settlement date. In addition, both realized gains and losses are shown on investments, and all Capital Assets are depreciated over their useful lives.

These two statements summarize TCERA's Fiduciary Net Position restricted for pension benefits. Net Position restricted for pension benefits is the difference between assets and liabilities and is one way to measure the Plan's financial position. Over time, increases and decreases in TCERA's Fiduciary Net Position restricted for pension benefits serve as one indicator of whether the Plan's financial health is improving or deteriorating. Other factors, such as market conditions and funded ratio, should also be considered in measuring TCERA's overall health. (See TCERA's financial statements on pages 26-27 of this report.)

Supporting the disclosures in the financial statements are the notes to the basic financial statements. Also included in this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, in addition to this discussion and analysis, are the introductory section. required supplemental information, other supplemental information, and investment, actuarial and statistical sections. The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. (See Notes to Financial Statements on pages 28-50 of this report.)

Required and Other Supplemental Information is included in addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes on pages 51-58. Required supplemental information is presented due to the provisions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Other supplemental information enhances the reader's understanding of TCERA's operations, as do the supporting schedules. Contained within the required supplemental information is information regarding TCERA's progress in funding its obligations to members. Page 92 of the actuarial section includes a Schedule of Funding Progress.

The Schedule of Administrative Expenses, Fees, Other Investment Expenses and Payments to Consultants, and the Schedule of Net Position Restricted for Pension Benefits are other supplemental information and are presented on pages 56-58 immediately following the required supplemental information on pensions of this report.

Other Information, which includes two schedules pertaining to GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions. The two schedules include the Schedule of Cost Sharing Employer Allocations and the Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts Allocated by Cost Sharing Plan, is provided on pages 59-60.

#### **Financial Analysis**

As previously noted, the Fiduciary Net Position may serve over time as a useful indication of TCERA's financial position (see Table 1 on the following page). The assets of TCERA exceed its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year June 30, 2020. As of June 30, 2020, \$1.62 billion in Fiduciary Net Position was restricted for pension benefits. All of the Net Position is available to meet TCERA's ongoing obligation to plan participants and their beneficiaries.

As of June 30, 2020, Fiduciary Net Position decreased by 1.6% over the prior fiscal year primarily due to a decrease in the fair value of investments. A decrease in liabilities slightly offset the decrease in assets resulting in the overall decrease in Fiduciary Net Position. The changes in total assets and total liabilities were the result of increased cash, decreases in receivables and payables for purchases of investments, and decreased collateral and obligations under TCERA's securities lending program during the fiscal year.

Despite any challenging short-term variations in the stock market, TCERA remains in a financial position that will enable the Plan to meet its future obligations to participants and beneficiaries. TCERA remains focused on the long-term performance of the fund, dependent on a strong and successful investment program, risk management, and strategic planning.

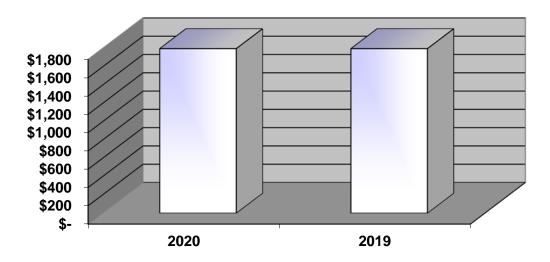
#### **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

#### TCERA'S FIDUCIARY NET POSITION (Table 1)

As of June 30 (dollars in thousands)	2020	2019	Amount Increase/ (Decrease)	Percent Increase/ (Decrease)
Current and Other Assets	\$ 111,165	\$ 91,431	\$ 19,734	21.58%
Investments at Fair Value	1,567,258	1,654,215	(86,957)	-5.26%
Capital Assets, Net	1,671	 2,011	(340)	-16.91%
Total Assets	1,680,094	1,747,657	(67,563)	-3.87%
Total Liabilities	60,274	101,486	41,212	-40.61%
Fiduciary Net Position	\$ 1,619,820	\$ 1,646,171	\$ (26,351)	-1.60%

## TCERA'S FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

(Dollars in Thousands)



#### **Capital Assets**

As of June 30, 2020, TCERA's investment in capital assets decreased slightly over the last fiscal year with a total of \$1.7 million (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization) compared to \$2.0 million for the prior year. This investment in capital assets includes equipment, furniture, pension administration system, and TCERA's office building. The decrease in TCERA's investment in capital assets for the current year on a percentage basis was 16.91% less than fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, reflecting a decrease in both tangible and intangible assets associated with the accumulated depreciation and amortization of those assets.

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis

#### Reserves

Reserves are not required, nor recognized, under GAAP. These are not shown separately on the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position, but they equate to, and are accounts within, the Fiduciary Net Position restricted for pension benefits and are vital to TCERA's operations.

TCERA's reserves are established from contributions and the accumulation of investment income, after satisfying investment and administrative expenses (see Table 2 below). Furthermore, TCERA has in place a ten-year smoothing methodology. Under GAAP, investments are stated at fair value instead of cost and include the recognition of the unrealized gains and losses in the current period. The difference between the fair value of assets inclusive of the cumulative unrealized gains and losses and the amounts reported from the ten-year smoothing methodology (or actuarial value) comprises the Market Stabilization Reserve. Under the ten-year smoothing methodology, a portion of these gains and losses is recognized and allocated to all other reserves.

As a result of the ten-year smoothing of investment gains and losses, the Plan credited interest at December 31, 2019 and June 30, 2020 at a rate less than investment returns and less than the actuarial assumption rate. Tiers 1, 2 and 3 were credited interest of 3.332% for December 31, 2019 and 3.1611% for June 30, 2020. Tier 4 was credited 3.1603% for December 31, 2019 and 2.5809% for June 30, 2020. This interest crediting, combined with an increase to the Plan's contingency reserve and smoothed market losses in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, resulted in a decrease in the Market Stabilization Reserve equal to \$103.7 million as of June 30, 2020.

#### TCERA'S RESERVES AT FAIR VALUE (Table 2)

As of June 30 (dollars in thousands)

	2020	2019
Employee Reserves	\$ 319,562	\$ 301,935
Employer Reserves	859,181	817,209
Retiree Reserves	442,157	426,060
Supplemental Retirement Benefit Reserves	108,348	107,766
Other Reserves	4,273	1,896
Market Stabilization Reserve	(163,716)	(60,026)
Contingency Reserve	49,228	50,671
TCERA Property, Inc. Retained Earnings		
(Holding Corporation)	787	660
Total Reserves at Fair Value	\$ 1,619,820	\$ 1,646,171

#### **Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**

The Fiduciary Net Position as of June 30, 2020 was \$1.62 billion compared to \$1.65 billion as of June 30, 2019. This represents a decrease in Fiduciary Net Position of \$26.4 million, a 1.6% decrease over the previous fiscal year. The decline in the Fiduciary Net Position is due primarily to a decrease in investments at fair value (See Table 3 on the following page).

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis

<u>Additions to Fiduciary Net Position:</u> There are three primary sources of funding for TCERA retirement benefits: earnings on investments of assets, employer contributions, and plan member contributions. An increase in employer contributions, an increase in plan member contributions and a decrease in net investment income for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 combined for total additions of \$67.9 million (see Table 3).

<u>Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position:</u> TCERA's assets are predominantly used for the payment of benefits to retirees and their beneficiaries and for refunds of contributions to terminated employees. Effective for fiscal year 2011, the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (the '37 Act) limits administration cost to the greater of 21/100<sup>ths</sup> of 1 percent of the Association's accrued actuarial liability or \$2 million, as adjusted annually by the amount of an annual cost of living adjustment. The '37 Act also allows for some expenses (such as computer related expenses and actuarial costs) to be excluded from the calculation. TCERA's total administrative expenses for the period ended June 30, 2020 were equal to \$2.85 million, or 15/100<sup>ths</sup> of 1 percent of the Association's accrued actuarial liability of \$1.88 billion. This represents an increase in administrative expenses of 1.67% over the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Of the total expenses, TCERA has identified \$464.4 thousand in computer and actuarial costs that are excluded from the '37 Act administrative limits. As a result, TCERA's administrative expenses were 13/100<sup>ths</sup> of 1 percent of the accrued actuarial liability, well under the statutory limit of 21/100<sup>ths</sup> of 1 percent. Retiree benefits, member refunds, and administrative expenses resulted in total deductions of \$94.3 million, an increase of 7.25% over the prior fiscal year (See Table 3).

#### **CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - Condensed (Table 3)**

For Fiscal Years Ended June 30 (dollars in thousands)

		2020	Amount Increase/ 2019 (Decrease) (I		Increase/		Percent Increase/ (Decrease)
Additions							
Employer Contributions Plan Member Contributions Investment Income Less Investment Expense Other Income	\$	35,310 23,104 19,205 (9,878) 188	\$	33,494 22,325 100,282 (9,692) 189	\$ 1,816 779 (81,077) 186 (1)	5.42% 3.49% -80.85% 1.92% -0.53%	
Total Additions	\$	67,929	\$	146,598	\$ (78,669)	-53.66%	
Deductions							
Retiree Benefits Member Refunds Administrative Expenses	\$	87,893 3,534 2,853	\$	82,236 2,861 2,806	\$ 5,657 673 47	6.88% 23.52% 1.67%	
Total Deductions	\$	94,280	\$	87,903	\$ 6,377	7.25%	
Changes in Fiduciary Net Position							
Beginning of Fiscal Year Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	1	,646,171 (26,351)	,	1,587,476 58,695	58,695 (85,046)	3.70% -144.89%	
End of Fiscal Year	\$ 1	,619,820	\$ ^	1,646,171	\$ (26,351)	-1.60%	

#### Management's Discussion and Analysis

#### **Actuarial Funding Status**

TCERA retains an independent actuarial firm, Cheiron, Inc., to conduct annual actuarial valuations to monitor the Plan's funding status. The June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation established TCERA's funding status to be 89.1% using the entry age normal method with a ten-year smoothing to determine the actuarial value of assets. The funded ratio of the Plan decreased by approximately 2.7% from 91.8% in 2019 to 89.1 % in 2020 and the actuarial value of assets (excluding the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR)) increased by 4.5% from \$1.60 billion in 2019 to \$1.67 billion in 2020. During the year, the value of actuarial liabilities increased by 7.7% to \$1.88 billion. As of June 30, 2020, the Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) was equal to \$205 million. It should be noted that the actuarial funding status of the plan was significantly improved in 2017 due to the issuance of Pension Obligation Bonds by the County of Tulare (the County). The 19-year bonds were issued at coupons ranging from 3.909% to 4.445% and will require level debt service payments through the bond maturity date of June 1, 2037. Details of the bond issuance are available in the Tulare County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report available on the County's website (https://tularecounty.ca.gov/county/).

#### **Economic Factors**

Investments returned barely positive results with mixed results across asset classes in fiscal year 2020. Markets were volatile due to the COVID pandemic as well as political and pre-election turmoil. Markets rallied in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year but not significantly enough to provide relief from disappointing returns for the fiscal year. Fiscal stimulus and monetary policy was the primary driver for the rebound of investments after the significant downturn in the third quarter. Areas of concern include rates of unemployment, impact of state and federal elections, the development and availability of a COVID vaccine, and international political and trade relations. Additional analysis of economic conditions can be found in the Investment Section. The Board of Retirement (the Board) will continue to monitor and respond to changes in economic factors in relation to its investment portfolio.

#### **New Pension Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards**

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 95, Postponement of Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance, was implemented during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The primary objective of this Statement is to provide temporary relief to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic by postponing the effective dates of certain provisions in Statements and Implementation Guides. Providing governments with sufficient time to apply authoritative guidance addressed in this Statement will help safeguard the reliability of their financial statements, which in turn will benefit the users of those financial statements.

#### **Requests for Information**

The financial report is designed to provide the Board, our membership, taxpayers, investment managers and others with a general overview of TCERA's finances and to account for the money it receives. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to:

TCERA 136 N. Akers Street Visalia, CA 93291-5121

Seanne Malison

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Malison

Retirement Administrator

# Statement of Fiduciary Net Position

As of June 30, 2020, with Comparative Totals (dollars in thousands)

(dollars in thousands)		2020		2019
ASSETS				
Cash, Short-Term Investments				
Cash	\$	90,812	\$	41,404
Short-Term Investments		7,318		7,018
Total Cash, Short-Term Investments		98,130		48,422
Receivables				
Sales of Investments		10,315		38,890
Interest and Dividends		1,847		2,653
Employee and Employer Contributions		860		1,446
Other Receivables		13		20
Total Receivables		13,035		43,009
Investments, at Fair Value				
U.S. Government Obligations		56,714		99,958
Municipal Bonds		591		· -
Global Bonds		95,379		108,505
Domestic Corporate Bonds		321,911		236,745
Domestic Stocks		362,983		346,026
International Stocks		360,467		375,098
Real Estate		177,779		141,552
Commodities		, -		63,922
Alternative Investments (Hedge Funds, Private Equity, Futures)		156,097		225,084
Collateral on Loaned Securities		35,337		57,325
Total Investments, at Fair Value		1,567,258		1,654,215
Capital Assets				
Land		370		370
Building, Office Equipment & Furniture,				
net of accumulated depreciation of \$638 and \$605, respectively		694		731
Pension Administration System,				
net of accumulated amortization of \$2,148 and \$1,845, respectively		607_		910
Total Capital Assets, net		1,671	-	2,011
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	1,680,094	\$	1,747,657
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Purchase of Investments	\$	19,237	\$	40,140
Obligations under Securities Lending Program	Ψ	35,337	Ψ	57,325
Refunds Payable		3,392		2,549
Accounts Payable		2,204		1,382
Total Current Liabilities		60,170	-	101,396
Long-Term Liabilities		•		•
Compensated Absences		104		90
Total Long-Term Liabilities		104		90
TOTAL LIABILITIES		60,274	\$	101,486
NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSION BENEFITS		1,619,820		1,646,171

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these basic financial statements.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 with Comparative Totals (dollars in thousands)

		2020		2019
ADDITIONS			•	
Contributions				
Employer	\$	35,310	\$	33,494
Plan Member		23,104		22,325
Total Contributions		58,414		55,819
Investment Activity Income				
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments		(946)		78,961
Interest		5,219		9,522
Dividends		4,400		4,460
Real Estate Operating Income		5,155		3,918
Other Investment Income		4,561		1,905
Total Investment Activity Income		18,389		98,766
Less Expenses from Investing Activities		9,188		8,301
Net Investing Activity Income		9,201		90,465
From Securities Lending Activities				
Securities Lending Income		816		1,516
Less Expenses from Securities Lending Income				
Management Fee		10		12
Borrower Rebate		680		1,379
Net Securities Lending Income		126		125
Total Net Investment Activity Income		9,327		90,590
Other Income		188		189
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$	67,929	\$	146,598
DEDUCTIONS				
Benefits	\$	87,893	\$	82,236
Refunds of Contributions		3,534		2,861
Administrative Expenses		2,853		2,806
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	_\$	94,280	\$	87,903
NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSION BENEFITS				
Net Changes in Fiduciary Net Position		(26,351)		58,695
Beginning of Fiscal Year		1,646,171		1,587,476
END OF FISCAL YEAR	\$	1,619,820	\$	1,646,171

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these basic financial statements.

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### REPORTING ENTITY

The Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (TCERA, Association or the Plan) is under the exclusive management and control of the Board of Retirement (the Board) whose authority is granted by Government Code §31450 et seq., and the California Constitution. The Association is an independent department of the County of Tulare (the County). Selected financial statements and disclosures are included in the County's Annual Financial Report as a pension trust fund. The Association has no financial or operational relationships that meet the reporting entity definition criteria of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 as amended by GASB Statements No. 39, *The Financial Reporting Entity,* and No. 61, the *Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus* and No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units* for inclusion as a component unit of the Association.

#### BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Association prepares its basic financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting. Investment income is recognized when it is earned and expenses are recognized in the period when they are incurred. Employee and employer contributions are recognized as revenues when due pursuant to formal commitments as well as statutory or contractual agreements. Benefits and refunds of prior contributions are recognized when they are due and payable in accordance with the Plan. All investment purchases and sales are recorded on trade date. The net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments held by TCERA is recorded as an increase (decrease) to investment income based on the valuation of investments monthly.

The Association follows the accounting principles and reporting guidelines as set forth by GASB.

#### **COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The liability for accumulated annual leave earned by TCERA employees, included in other liabilities on the *Statement of Fiduciary Net Position*, is recorded when earned by the employee. Upon termination of employment, an employee receives compensation for unused annual leave limited by the contractual agreements established by the County.

#### **INVESTMENTS**

The Board has exclusive control of the investments of the Association. Statutes authorize the Board to invest, or delegate the authority to invest, the assets of the Association in any investment allowed by statute and considered prudent in the informed opinion of the Board. Investments are stated at fair value, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America (GAAP). Values for stocks, publicly traded bonds, and issues of the U.S. Government and its agencies are valued according to sale prices of recognized exchanges as of the fiscal year end, with international securities reflecting currency exchange rates in effect at fiscal year end.

#### Private Equity and Real Assets:

Private equity and real asset partnerships are reported based on the fair value provided by the General Partner on a quarterly basis. The General Partner considers the financial conditions and operating results of the portfolio companies, the nature of the investments, marketability, and other relevant factors.

#### Rate of Return:

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 the annual money-weighted rate of return on the Plan's investments, net of investment expense, was 0.74%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

#### **NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)**

#### RECEIVABLES

Receivables consist primarily of interest, dividends, and investments in transition, i.e., traded but not settled, and contributions owed by the employing entities as of June 30, 2020.

#### **ESTIMATES**

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the basic financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital Assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation and amortization of Capital Assets are computed on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives, currently ranging from three to forty years.

#### **SECURITIES LENDING**

Cash collateral received in the course of securities lending transactions is recorded as a current asset of the Association, and the obligation to repay the collateral is recorded as a current liability, in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 28. In addition, gross earnings received on invested cash collateral are reported as Other Investment Income, and borrower rebates and agent fees are recorded as Investment Expenses. In comparison, the Net Securities Income was \$126 thousand and \$125 thousand for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019, respectively. The increase in net securities lending income was due primarily to a small decrease in the borrower rebate. Non-cash collateral, and the related repayment obligation, is not recorded on the books of the Association, as there is no ability to pledge or sell the collateral absent borrower default. See Note 3 for additional information on securities lending.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

GASB Statement No. 95 – Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance. This statement provides temporary relief to governments and stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The requirements of this statement were effectively immediately. The effective dates for GASB Statement Nos. 84, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, and 93 were postponed by one year for TCERA. The effective date of GASB Statement No. 87 was postponed by 18 months for TCERA.

#### **RECLASSIFICATIONS**

Comparative data for the prior year has been presented in the selected sections of the accompanying Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position. Also, certain amounts presented in the prior year's data may have been reclassified to be consistent with the current year's presentation.

#### **FUTURE PRONOUNCEMENTS**

TCERA has reviewed GASB Statement No. 84 – Fiduciary Activities, GASB Statement No. 87 – Leases, GASB Statement No. 88 – Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements, GASB Statement No. 89 – Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period, GASB Statement No. 90 – Majority Equity Interests, GASB Statement No. 91 – Conduit Debt Obligations, GASB Statement No. 92 – Omnibus 2020, GASB Statement No. 93 – Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates, GASB Statement No. 94 – Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements, Statement No. 96 – Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements, and GASB Statement No. 97 – Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14 and No. 84, and a supersession of GASB Statement No. 32 and does not believe these pronouncements will have any material effect.

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont.)

#### **COMPARATIVE DATA**

The accompanying financial statements include summarized information from the prior year financial statements for comparative purposes only. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such information should be read in conjunction with TCERA's basic financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, form which the summarized information was derived.

#### **NOTE 2 - PLAN DESCRIPTION**

TCERA was established July 1, 1945 under the provisions of the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (Government Code §31450 et seq.) (the '37 Act). The Association operates as a multiple-employer cost sharing defined benefit plan and provides retirement, disability and death benefits for qualified employees of the County, the Strathmore Public Utility District, and the Tulare County Superior Courts (TCSC). The Association was integrated with Social Security in 1956. A nine-member Board of Retirement administers the Association. The authority for establishing or amending benefits resides with the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

All permanent County, Strathmore Public Utility District, and TCSC employees working 50% or more in a regular allocated position are members of the Association. The Association's membership consists of General and Safety members who participate in one of the following four tiers:

Tier 1 – Includes all members who have a membership date on or before December 31, 1979. The County pays one-half of Tier 1 members' normal contributions. Benefits are calculated using the highest average one-year salary. Tier 1 members receive a maximum of 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) annually after retirement. Tier 1 general members with service earned on or after July 1, 2005 are now subject to Internal Revenue Service Section (IRS) 415 limits due to the implementation of a new benefit formula. Only Tier 1 general members who entered deferred status prior to the implementation of the new benefit formula are exempt from these limits. All Tier 1 members are subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

Tier 2 – Includes all members who have a membership date from January 1, 1980 through December 31, 1989. Benefits are calculated using the highest average three-year salary. Tier 2 members receive a maximum of 2% COLA annually after retirement. Tier 2 general members with service earned on or after July 1, 2005 are now subject to IRS Section 415 limits due to the implementation of a new benefit formula. Only Tier 2 general members who entered deferred status prior to the implementation of the new benefit formula are exempt from these limits. All Tier 2 members are subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

Tier 3 – Includes all members who have a membership date from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 2012. Benefits are calculated using the highest average three-year salary. Tier 3 members receive a maximum of 2% COLA annually after retirement. All employees who joined TCERA on or after January 1, 1990 are subject to IRS Section 415 limits. All Tier 3 members are subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

Tier 4 – Includes all members who have a membership date on or after January 1, 2013 and are not eligible for reciprocal membership with another qualified retirement system. Tier 4 was established in response to the provisions of the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2012 (PEPRA). Benefits are calculated using the highest average three-year salary. Tier 4 members receive a maximum of 2% COLA annually after retirement. All employees who joined TCERA on or after January 1, 1990 are subject to IRS Section 415 limits. Tier 4 members are not subject to Article 5.5 Alternative Financial Provisions of the California Government Code.

The covered payroll for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019, as calculated according to GASB Statement No. 67, GASB Statement No. 68, and GASB Statement No. 82 requirements, was \$283.64 million and \$264.22 million, respectively.

#### NOTE 2 - PLAN DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

TCERA's	Membership	)
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As of June 30	2020	2019
Active Plan Participants (vested/non-vested) Inactive Participants (vested/non-vested)	4,605 2,183	4,619 2,082
Service Retirees Disability Retirees Survivors/Beneficiaries	2,574 347 487	2,519 335 458
Total Retirees/Beneficiaries	3,408	3,312
Total Members	10,196	10,013

#### SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFIT

Tiers 1, 2, and 3 benefits partially vest at five years of service. Full vesting requires ten years of service and a minimum age of 50 in order to receive a lifetime monthly retirement benefit. Members with 30 years of service (20 years for safety members), regardless of age, are eligible for retirement benefits, as are members who reach age 70, regardless of years of service. The benefit is a percentage of monthly final average salary per year of service, depending on age at retirement. Because the Plan is integrated with Social Security, the benefit is reduced by 1/3 of the percentage multiplied by the first \$350 of monthly final average salary, per year of service credited after January 1, 1956.

Tier 4 benefits fully vest at five years of service. A minimum age of 52 for general members and 50 for safety members is required in order to receive a lifetime monthly retirement benefit. The benefit is a percentage of monthly final average salary per year of service, depending on age at retirement.

The summary of major plan provisions, including benefit factors, is disclosed on pages 93-95 in the Actuarial Section of this document.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT BENEFIT (Tiers 1, 2, and 3 only)

For Tiers 1, 2, and 3, a supplemental benefit of \$45.00 per month was paid to retirees through April 1988. This benefit was increased effective May 1, 1988 to include \$1.65 per month for each full year of service from 5 years to 25 years (\$8.25 per month for 5 years, up to \$41.25 per month for 25 years or more). Effective June 1, 1995, eligibility for this benefit required that retirees have at least five years of service with the County or a TCERA member outside district. Effective April 1, 1996, this benefit is available only to retirees having at least ten years of service with TCERA. This change does not affect any retirees already receiving benefits.

On July 1, 1997, all retirees and beneficiaries/survivors with a retirement date prior to April 1, 1977 received a new benefit of an additional \$3.00 per month, per year of service, not to exceed 30 years of service. Retirees received this benefit in addition to the previously granted benefit; beneficiaries/survivors only received this benefit.

Effective January 1, 1999, the Board modified the benefit to allow members to receive \$9.50 for every completed year of service. The Board also adopted a change in criteria for payment of the supplemental benefits. This benefit was only paid to those who actually worked under TCERA for a minimum of 10 years, with the benefit capped at a maximum of 20 years.

#### **NOTE 2 - PLAN DESCRIPTION (Cont.)**

On July 1, 2000, an increase was made to the monthly payments currently made from the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve (SRBR). Actual amounts varied depending upon completed years with TCERA. Furthermore, a cash continuance was paid to survivors equal to 50% of what the original retiree was receiving as a monthly benefit from the SRBR at the time of his/her death. Additionally, a COLA was applied when the purchasing power of the member's original basic retirement allowance fell below 75% of the original basic allowance.

On November 14, 2001, the Board approved additional cash benefit payments effective on December 1, 2001 from the SRBR which provided a higher level of assistance to current and future retired members. The benefit improvements increased the current benefit from \$12.50 per year of service to \$16.00 per year of service, beginning with ten years of service and having a cap at twenty years of service.

Effective July 1, 2007, the cash benefit was increased once more to \$18.00 per year of service, retaining the ten year minimum TCERA service requirement and the cap at twenty years of TCERA service. Furthermore, the Board continued the cash continuance paid to survivors equal to 50% of what the original retiree was receiving as a monthly benefit from the SRBR at the time of his/her death. The Board also approved an additional COLA for all retired members to apply when the purchasing power of the member's original basic retirement allowance falls below 85%.

On April 10, 2013, the Board established a reduction to the cash benefit for current and future retirees to be phased in over a five year period in an effort to ensure that the benefit would be sustained into the foreseeable future. Pursuant to that action, the cash benefit is payable as follows:

- July 1, 2013 \$17.00 per year of qualifying TCERA service
- July 1, 2014 \$16.00 per year of qualifying TCERA service
- July 1, 2015 \$15.00 per year of qualifying TCERA service
- July 1, 2016 \$14.00 per year of qualifying TCERA service
- On or after July 1, 2017 \$12.50 per year of qualifying TCERA service

The service requirements, purchasing power COLA, and continuance benefit as described above remain in effect.

#### **DEATH BENEFIT**

#### **Death Before Retirement**

In addition to a return of contributions, with interest, a death benefit is payable to the member's beneficiary or estate in the amount of one month's salary for each completed year of service with the Association, but not to exceed six months' salary.

In lieu of the above basic death benefit, if a member dies after becoming eligible for service retirement or non-service connected disability, an eligible spouse or minor child may elect to receive 60% of the allowance that the member would have received for retirement as of the day of the member's death. If the member dies in the performance of duty, an eligible spouse or minor child receives 50% of the member's final average salary.

#### **NOTE 2 - PLAN DESCRIPTION (Cont.)**

#### **Death After Retirement**

Death benefits after retirement depend upon the type of retirement, the member's employment status at retirement, and the retirement option selected. If the retirement was for service connected disability, 100% of the member's basic allowance as it was at death is continued to the surviving spouse for life. If the retirement was for other than service connected disability, and the unmodified option was selected at the time of retirement, 60% of the member's allowance is continued to an eligible spouse for life. If the deceased member retired directly from active employment with a TCERA employer, a lump sum burial benefit of \$5,000 is paid to the beneficiary or estate.

#### **DISABILITY BENEFIT**

In accordance with Section 31727.7 of the '37 Act, upon retirement for a non-service connected disability, in lieu of any other allowance, a member who has five years or more of credited service shall receive a disability allowance equal to the percentage of final compensation set forth opposite the member's number of years credited service in the following table:

Years of Service	Percentage of Final Compensation
Five years, but less than six years	20%
Six years, but less than seven years	20%
Seven years, but less than eight years	24
Eight years, but less than nine years	26
Nine years, but less than ten years	28
Ten years, but less than eleven years	30
Eleven years, but less than twelve years	32
Twelve years, but less than thirteen years	34
Thirteen years, but less than fourteen years	36
Fourteen years, but less than fifteen years	38
Fifteen or more years	40

If the disability is service connected, the member may retire regardless of length of service, and the benefit is 50% of final average salary, unless the member is also eligible for a service retirement, in which case the member receives the greater of the two amounts.

#### **TERMINATION**

Upon termination from the Association, members' accumulated contributions are refundable with interest accrued through the prior interest crediting period. Interest on member accounts is credited semiannually on June 30 and December 31. Withdrawal of such accumulated contributions results in forfeiture of all benefits.

#### **NOTE 3 - DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES**

#### SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT POLICIES

The '37 Act authorizes TCERA's Board with the exclusive control of the investment of the employees' retirement fund. By law, the Board may, in its discretion, invest, or delegate the authority to invest, the assets of the fund through the purchase, holding, or sale of any form or type of investment, financial instrument, or financial transaction when prudent in the informed opinion of the Board.

Furthermore, the law requires the Board and its officers and employees to discharge their duties with respect to the Plan:

- Solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to, participants and their beneficiaries, minimizing employer contributions thereto, and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the system.
- With the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent
  person acting in like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise
  of a like character and with like aims.
- Shall diversify the investments of the system so as to minimize the risk of loss and to maximize the rate of return, unless under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so.

The TCERA Investment Policy Statement encompasses the following:

- Domestic Equity Policy
- International Equity Policy
- Fixed Income Policy
- Cash and Cash Equivalents Investments Policy
- Real Estate Policy
- Private Equity Policy
- Private Credit Policy
- Hedge Funds Policy
- Securities Lending Program Policy
- Directed Brokerage Policy
- Manager Monitoring and Review Policy

#### **CREDIT RISK**

Credit Risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations. TCERA seeks to maintain a diversified portfolio of fixed income instruments in order to obtain the highest total return for the fund at an acceptable level of risk within this asset class. To control credit risk, credit quality guidelines have been established and documented in TCERA's Investment Policy and individual manager contracts.

The Fixed Income Portfolio as presented in the Credit Quality Ratings chart includes the following components:

- U.S. Core/Core Plus Fixed Income This portfolio will provide exposure to the U.S. fixed income market (maturities greater than 1 year) including, but not limited to, Treasury and government agency bonds, corporate debt, mortgage bonds (including collateralized mortgage obligations), Yankees, asset-backed securities, Eurodollar bonds, private placements and emerging market bonds. The portfolio will be comprised of both investment grade and below-investment grade issues. This category may include High Yield and U.S. TIPS investments as allowed in TCERA's investment policy and as directed by the Board.
- Global Fixed Income The global fixed income allocation will provide broader exposure to fixed income
  opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

#### NOTE 3 - DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)

#### CREDIT QUALITY RATINGS OF INVESTMENTS IN FIXED INCOME SECURITIES

The credit quality of investments in fixed income securities as rated by nationally recognized ratings organizations as of June 30, 2020 are as follows (dollars in thousands):

Quality Ratings	Fair Value
AAA	\$ 6,511
AA	2,465
A	18,804
BAA	22,784
BA	2,752
В	343
>BBB	164
FHLMC Pools (AAA)	4,687
FNMA Pools (AAA)	12,907
GNMA Pools (AAA)	5,401
U.S. Agencies (AAA)	1,194
U.S. Governments (AAA)	23,696
Not Rated*	 372,887
Total Investments in Fixed Income Securities	\$ 474,595

<sup>\*</sup>Securities not rated include commitments to purchase FHLMC, FNMA, and GNMA reported in the Fixed Income Securities chart beginning on page 37.

#### NOTE 3 - DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)

#### Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial Credit Risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a financial institution's failure, TCERA would not be able to recover its deposits. Deposits are exposed to custodial credit risk if they are not insured or collateralized. Although there is no specific policy addressing custodial credit risk, TCERA has taken steps to mitigate any such risk. TCERA's deposits are not exposed to custodial credit risk as its deposits are eligible for and covered by "pass-through" insurance in accordance with applicable law and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) rules and regulations. Additional insurance against loss and theft is provided through a Financial Institution Bond.

Custodial Credit Risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, TCERA would not be able to recover the value of the investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Investment securities are exposed to custodial credit risk if the securities are uninsured, not registered in TCERA's name, and held by the counterparty. TCERA's direct securities investments are not exposed to custodial credit risk because all securities are held by TCERA's custodial bank in TCERA's name.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

As of June 30, 2020, TCERA did not hold any investments in any one issuer that would represent five percent or more of fiduciary net position. Investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government and pooled investments are excluded from this requirement.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Board of Retirement has not adopted a formal policy related to interest rate risk. Interest rate risk is controlled through portfolio restrictions incorporated into each fixed income investment manager's guidelines.

## NOTE 3 - DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)

### **FIXED INCOME SECURITIES**

As of June 30, 2020, TCERA had the following investments and maturities (dollars in thousands):

	202	20
Investment Type	Fair Value	Modified Duration
Asset Backed Securities - Airplane Receivables	\$ 628	3.95
Asset Backed Securities - Car Loans	1,001	1.20
Asset Backed Securities - Credit Cards	306	4.98
Asset Backed Securities - Equipment	52	4.83
Aerospace and Defense	1,397	7.70
Automobiles & Components	102	5.99
Banking & Finance	12,474	4.50
Banking & Finance - Perpetual	48	2.97
Capital Goods	339	4.66
Chemicals	378	7.41
CMBS - Agency	127	10.34
CMBS - Conduit	1,976	5.17
Commercial Services & Supplies	681	6.92
Commit to Purchase FNMA Pools	7,088	2.04
Commit to Purchase GNMA Pools	710	1.45
Commit to Purchase GNMA Multi Family Pools	694	2.37
Communications	2,165	8.64
Credit Default Swaps	4	N/A
FHLMC Multiclass	1,207	5.18
FHLMC Pools	3,481	3.58
FNMA Pools	12,580	3.38
FNMA REMIC	327	4.23
Food Beverage & Tobacco	1,387	8.08
Food Products	10	4.66
GNMA Multi Family Pools	4,888	3.53

# NOTE 3 – DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)

	2020		
Investment Type	Fair Value	Modified Duration	
GNMA Single Family Pools	\$ 513	3.80	
Health Care	2,898	8.19	
Household Products	22	6.49	
Industrial	443	7.89	
Insurance	442	6.89	
Interest Only U.S. Agencies	211	8.76	
Investment Companies	112	4.15	
Mining	13	14.29	
Non-U.S. Government Guaranteed Bonds - Financial	32	8.50	
Non-U.S. Government Bonds	2,453	6.76	
Oil & Gas	2,819	5.84	
Paper and Forest Products	54	9.51	
Preferred Shares - Perpetual	131	3.42	
Preferred Shares - Perpetual Prvt PCL Bank	249	2.90	
Principal Only U.S. Agencies	158	9.74	
Private Placements - ABS	3,146	1.64	
Private Placements - Banking & Finance	1,166	2.45	
Private Placements - MBS	3,431	3.26	
Private Placements - More than 1 Year	7,403	4.89	
REITS	1,153	5.36	
Retail	404	10.70	
Supranational Issues	105	9.43	
Taxable Municipals	591	8.32	
Technology	3,475	8.25	
Transportation	940	9.26	
Treasury Bonds	4	8,904.33	
Treasury Notes	(37)	2,141.80	
U.S. TIPS	1,067	18.04	

#### NOTE 3 - DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)

	202	20
Investment Type	Fair Value	Modified Duration
U.S. Governments	\$ 23,696	10.45
Utility - Electric	2,610	12.86
Utility - Gas	18	14.76
Untility - Telephone	1,792	8.41
Whole Loan - Collateralized Mortgage Obligation	259	1.58
Yankee Bonds	56	8.00
SUBTOTAL	115,879	
Commingled Funds U.S. Debt	272,249	N/A
International Commingled Funds	86,467	N/A
Total TCERA Fixed Income	\$ 474,595	

#### Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign Currency Risk is the risk that changes in exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment or deposit. TCERA's international equity managers are permitted to invest in authorized countries. Forward currency contracts and currency futures (maturity ranging from at least 30 days and not to exceed one year for either instrument) are permitted for defensive currency hedging. Although TCERA does not have a specific policy regarding foreign currency risk, TCERA seeks to mitigate this risk through its Investment Policy constraints.

#### INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT SECURITIES AT FAIR VALUE

TCERA's Non-U.S. and global equity investments are targeted at 18% of the portfolio with a maximum investment of 30%. The majority of TCERA's international investments are in commingled funds with currency exposure managed according the investment contract. As of June 30, 2020 there was no direct exposure to Foreign Currency Risk in U.S. Dollars.

#### NOTE 3 – <u>DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)</u>

#### **DERIVATIVES**

The Association invests indirectly, through its portfolio managers, in foreign currency forward transactions to limit its exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Aside from net currency gains or losses reported as a component of investment income, no other amounts are recorded on the financial statements. These forward transactions typically range from one to six months. When used in a hedging strategy, a loss in value of the underlying security, due to a weakening of a foreign currency relative to the U.S. Dollar will result in an opposite gain in value of the foreign currency transaction. The reverse is true for a foreign currency, which strengthens relative to the U.S. Dollar. Fair values of currency forward contracts are obtained through TCERA's custodian bank, BNY Mellon Global Securities Services (BNY Mellon Global). BNY Mellon Global uses an independent third party pricing service for these price quotes.

The following Investment Derivatives schedule reports the fair value balances and notional amounts of derivatives outstanding as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, classified by type. For financial reporting purposes, all TCERA derivatives are classified as investment derivatives.

#### **Investment Derivatives**

As of June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

<u>Derivative Type</u>	Notio Value		Fair Value		
Currency Forward Contracts	\$	-	\$	-	
Counterparty Swap Exposure		165		4	
Total	\$	165	\$	4	

Foreign currency forward transactions are conducted with highly rated AA financial institutions, typically major worldwide commercial or investment banks. As of June 30, 2020, the maximum amount of loss that could occur due to credit risk is the fair value above. Collateral is not required by TCERA to reduce exposure to credit risk. Furthermore, TCERA is not party to master netting agreements.

Counterparty risk occurs when the financial institution (who engages in the forward transaction with the Association) has a liability due to the Association and is unable to pay. This risk is monitored on a daily basis by the investment advisors and limited to maximum levels of exposure for the entire portfolio.

#### **SECURITIES LENDING**

State statutes do not prohibit the Association from participating in securities lending transactions, and the Association has, via a Securities Lending Authorization Agreement with BNY Mellon Global, authorized BNY Mellon Global to lend its securities to broker-dealers and banks pursuant to a form of loan agreement. Any of the Association's securities may be loaned pursuant to the terms of the securities lending agreement, unless the Association notifies BNY Mellon Global otherwise. Due to the decreased liquidity in the credit markets in 2008, the Board elected to cap the Association's participation in Securities Lending at \$87,100,589, effective October 31, 2008. The Board has taken no action to remove the cap.

#### NOTE 3 - DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK DISCLOSURES (Cont.)

Available securities may be loaned to any borrower selected by BNY Mellon Global in its sole discretion, provided credit quality criteria are met. Securities on loan must be collateralized with a value of not less than 100% of the fair value of the loaned securities. Collateral received may include cash, U.S. Government securities, sovereign debt rated A or better, Canadian Provincial Debt, convertible bonds, and other agreed upon collateral, with restrictions on the use of foreign collateral. At year-end, TCERA had no credit risk exposure to borrowers, because the collateral exceeded the amount borrowed.

As of June 30, 2020, the fair value of securities on loan was \$36.6 million and the value of collateral received for the securities on loan was \$37.4 million, of which \$2.1 was non-cash collateral and \$35.3 million was cash collateral from equity and fixed income securities. This resulted in an overcollateralization with a ratio of 102.32%. Non-cash collateral, which TCERA does not have the ability to sell unless the borrower defaults, is not reported in the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position. The maturities of collateral investments in the securities lending program are not structured to match the maturities of the securities lending arrangements. Lending arrangements are considered "open loans" that do not have a set maturity.

# Securities Lending Program As of June 30, 2020

(dollars in thousands)

	Fair Value of Co		ollateral	Colateral	
Securities on Loan	Securi	Securites on Loan		eceived	Percent
Domestic Equities	\$	22,497	\$	23,009	·
Domestic Fixed Income		12,040		12,328	
Total Cash		34,537		35,337	
Total Non-Cash		2,087		2,137	
Total Securities on Loan	\$	36,624	\$	37,474	102.32%

#### EXTERNAL INVESTMENT POOLS

The Association participates in various external investment pools, as defined by GASB Statement No. 31. The Association maintains funds on deposit with the Tulare County Treasurer. These funds are pooled with those of other agencies in the County and invested. Substantially all information required for GASB Statement No. 31 was not available at the time these financial statements were prepared. The difference between cost and fair value of investments held by the County Treasury at June 30, 2020 was determined to be immaterial. The Association's participation in the County investment pool is not mandatory.

During the fiscal year, the Association has, via a Securities Lending Authorization Agreement, authorized BNY Mellon Global to lend its securities to broker-dealers and banks pursuant to a form of loan agreement. Cash collateral received in respect of such loans was invested at the direction of the Association in the Pooled Employee ASL Short Term Fund, a pooled external investment vehicle (the Fund).

The fair value of investments held by the Fund is based upon valuations provided by a recognized pricing service. Because the Fund does not meet the requirements of Rule 2a-7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, BNY Mellon Global has valued the Fund's investments at fair value for reporting purposes. The Fund is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. BNY Mellon Global, and consequently the investment vehicles it sponsors (including the Fund), is subject to the oversight of the Federal Reserve Board and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks. The fair value of the Association's position in the Fund is not the same as the value of the Fund shares. There was no involuntary participation in this external investment pool by the Association for the fiscal year.

#### **NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT**

As required by GASB Statement No. 72, Fair Value Measurement and Application, TCERA has classified its investments according to a fair value hierarchy. The hierarchy is structured based on three types of input to develop the fair value measurements for investment.

<u>Level 1</u> reflects measurements based on quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that a government can access at the measurement date.

<u>Level 2</u> reflects measurements based on inputs, other than quoted prices, that are observable for an asset or a liability, either directly or indirectly.

<u>Level 3</u> reflects measurements based on unobservable inputs for an asset or a liability. The inputs into the determination of fair value are based upon the best information in the circumstances and may require management judgment or estimation.

The categorization of TCERA's investments within the fair value hierarchy is based upon the pricing transparency of the instrument and should not be perceived as a measure of the particular investment's risk.

#### Equity and Fixed Income Securities

Equity securities, classified in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy, are valued using prices quoted in active markets issued by pricing vendors for these securities. Debt and equity securities, classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, are valued using prices determined by the use of matrix pricing techniques maintained by the various pricing vendors for these securities. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices. Debt and equity securities, classified in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, are securities whose stated market price is unobservable by the marketplace; many of these securities are priced by the issuers or industry groups for these securities. Fair value is defined as the quoted market value on the last trading day of the period. These prices are obtained from various pricing sources by TCERA's custodian bank, BNY Mellon Global Securities Services.

#### Hedge Fund, Private Equity, and Real Estate Funds

Investments in Hedge Fund, Private Equity, and Real Estate funds are valued at estimated fair value, as determined in good faith by the General Partner (GP). These investments are initially valued at cost with subsequent adjustments that reflect third party transactions, financial operating results, and other factors deemed relevant by the GP. These assets are valued at Net Asset Value (NAV).

#### Real Estate Investments

Investments in Real Estate are valued at estimated fair value, as determined in good faith by the Investment Manager. These investments are initially valued at cost with subsequent adjustments that reflect third party transactions, financial operating results, and other factors deemed relevant by the Investment Manager. Properties are subject to independent third party appraisals every three years. As applicable, these assets are reported in Level 3 or at NAV.

The following two charts provide a summary of TCERA's investments as classified according to the fair value hierarchy requirements. Assets classified in Level 1 are valued directly from a predetermined primary external pricing vendor. Assets classified in Level 2 are subject to pricing by an alternative pricing source due to lack of information available from the primary vendor. When certain requirements are met, an investment may be measured at NAV. Assets meeting these criteria are reported separately with descriptions of the investments.

#### **NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT (Cont.)**

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT June 30, 2020			Fair	· Value Meas	ureme	ents Usina:
(dollars in thousands)  Investments by Fair Value Level <sup>1</sup>	Total	l at 6/30/2020	Quo ii Ma	oted Prices of Active orkets for dentical Assets Level 1)	Si	gnificant Other oservable Inputs Level 2)
·	<u> </u>	<u> </u>				
Debt Securities U.S. Government Obligations Global Bonds Domestic Corporate Bonds	\$	57,305 8,912 49,662	\$	24,730 - -	\$	32,575 8,912 49,662
Equity Securities Domestic Stocks Commingled Funds		261,749		261,749		-
Global Bonds Domestic Corporate Bonds		86,467 272,249		-		86,467 272,249
Domestic Stocks International Stocks Securities Lending Collateral		101,234 273,714 35,337		-		101,234 273,714 35,337
Total Investments by Fair Value Level	\$	1,146,629	\$	286,479	\$	860,150
Investments Measured at NAV						
International Equity Funds Real Estate Funds	\$	86,753 177,779				
Hedge Funds		94				
Private Equity Funds Futures Overlay Funds		150,745 5,258				
Total Investments Measured at NAV		420,629				
Total Investments	\$	1,567,258				

Note: Values derived from custodian bank and presented based on securities classification. Amounts per asset class, when aggregated, correspond to values presented in the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> TCERA did not hold any investments classified in Level 3 as of June 30, 2020.

#### NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT (Cont.)

INVESTMENTS MEASURED AT NET ASSET VALUE June 30, 2020

(dollars in thousands)

Investments Measured at NAV	Total at /30/2020	_	nfunded nmitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
International Equity Funds (1)	\$ 86,753	\$	-	Monthly	30 days
Real Estate Funds (2)	177,779		149,120	Quarterly, Not Eligible	45 days
Hedge Funds (3)	94		-	Quarterly	90 days
Private Equity Funds (4)	150,745		166,085	Not Eligible	Not applicable
Futures Overlay Funds (5)	5,258			Daily	
Total Investments Measured at NAV	\$ 420,629	\$	315,205		

- (1) **International Equity Funds.** This investment type includes one international equity fund that is considered to be commingled in nature. It is valued at the NAV of units held at the end of the period based upon the fair value of the underlying investments.
- (2) Real Estate Funds. This portfolio includes two real estate funds, one private Real Estate Investment Trust and one closed end fund, that invest primarily in a diversified portfolio of institutional quality multi-family, industrial, retail, and office assets in the United States. This category also includes residual escrow funds from the sale of a separate property. The fair values of the investments in this type have been determined using the NAV (or its equivalent) of the Plan's ownership interest in partners capital or trust. The Real Estate Investment Trust has monthly liquidity under most circumstances, while the closed end fund is ineligible for redemption.
- (3) **Hedge Funds**. This investment type consists of two multi-strategy hedge fund of funds. The underlying managers within the fund of funds employ a variety of skill-based and generally proprietary approaches across a diversified range of hedge fund strategies.
- (4) Private Equity Funds. This allocation consists of investments with five fund of funds managers and two direct investments. The underlying managers within the fund of funds diversify investments throughout the various private equity strategies. The direct investments are mezzanine and distressed debt.
- (5) **Futures Overlay Funds.** Futures overlay is handled through one fund. The program seeks to provide for the disciplined maintenance of target asset allocations. The investments are comprised of derivatives and other investments that allow for the liquidity necessary to overlay TCERA's cash holdings on a daily basis.

#### NOTE 5 – CONTINGENCY RESERVES

California Government Code (§31616) requires a minimum of 1.0% of the total assets of the Plan be set aside as a contingency reserve. It was created to serve as a reserve against deficiencies in interest earnings or losses on investments in other years, and for other contingencies. The target Contingency Reserve goal set by the Board was adopted for 3.0% of total assets. TCERA's Contingency Reserve balance of 3.0% of total accounting assets, excluding securities lending collateral, as of June 30, 2020 was \$49.2 million.

#### **NOTE 6 – ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

The Board establishes an annual administrative budget as authorized by Government Code §31580.2. The annual budget for administrative expenses is limited to 21/100<sup>ths</sup> of 1% of the Association's Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL). Administrative Expenses as of June 30, 2020, excluding computer and actuarial costs, were approximately 13/100<sup>ths</sup> of 1% of the Association's AAL. Employer and Employee contributions as of June 30, 2020 were insufficient to cover benefit payments and administrative expenses. The shortfall was covered by investments.

#### NOTE 7 – COMMERCIAL LEASE AGREEMENT

Effective September 2001, the Board entered into a commercial lease agreement with TCERA Property, Inc. for the purpose of housing the administrative offices of the Association. The lease is perpetual with lease amounts subject to change by action of the Board of Directors of TCERA Property, Inc. The sum of payments for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 was \$187,680. Annual amounts payable are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Annual Amount
2021	\$ 187,680
2022	\$ 187,680

#### NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS AND PROJECT IN PROCESS

Capital Assets consist of the following: (dollars in thousands)		Estimated Useful
	 2020	Life in Years
Assets Not Being Depreciated		
Land	\$ 370	N/A
Assets Being Depreciated		
Building and Improvements	1,178	40
Office Equipment and Computers	154	3 -10
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(638)	
Total Tangible Assets	694	
Intangible Assets		
Pension Administration System	2,755	10
Less: Accumulated Amortization	(2,148)	
Total Intangible Assets	607	
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization	\$ 1,671	

Depreciation and amortization expense for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 was \$341 thousand.

#### **NOTE 9 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

#### CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

TCERA's real estate and private equity investment managers identify and acquire investments on a discretionary basis. Each manager's investment activity and discretion is controlled by TCERA's Investment Policy and the guidelines and limitations set forth in the contract, subscription agreement, limited partnership agreement and/or other contractual documents applicable to each manager. Such investments are further restricted by the amount of capital allocated or committed to each manager. TCERA's Investment Policy, contractual obligations, and capital commitments are subject to approval by the Board and may be updated as often as necessary to reflect TCERA investment preferences, as well as changes in market conditions.

As of June 30, 2020, outstanding capital commitments consisted of: (dollars in thousands)

		Total Capital	Outstanding Capital
Investment Manager	Investment Type	Commitment	Commitment
American Realty Advisors	Real Estate	\$80,000	\$69,120
BlackRock Alternative Advisors	Private Equity	\$15,000	\$2,412
Invesco	Real Estate Debt	\$80,000	\$80,000
KKR Mezzanine Partners	Private Equity	\$15,000	\$1,491
Ocean Avenue Fund III	Private Equity	\$20,000	\$2,600
Ocean Avenue Fund IV	Private Equity	\$20,000	\$16,200
Pantheon Ventures, Inc.	Private Equity	\$15,000	\$825
Pathway Fund 8	Private Equity	\$20,000	\$5,385
Pathway Fund 9	Private Equity	\$20,000	\$9,048
Pathway Fund 10	Private Equity	\$10,000	\$9,714
RREEF America REIT II, Inc.	Real Estate	\$154,500	\$0
StepStone Group	Private Equity	\$27,000	\$4,682
TPG TSSP	Private Credit	\$100,000	\$70,278
TPG TAO Fund Special	Private Credit	\$50,000	\$43,450
Total Outstanding Commitments		_	\$315,205

#### **NOTE 10 – NET PENSION LIABILITY**

percentage of the Total Pension Liability

<u>Net Pension Liability of Employers</u>: The net pension liability (NPL) (i.e., the Plan's liability determined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67 less the fiduciary net position) is shown below in thousands:

	June 30, 2020
Total Pension Liability	\$2,058,861
Plan Fiduciary Net Position	(1,619,820)
Employers' Net Pension Liability	\$439,041
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a	

The NPL increased by approximately \$141.44 million since the prior measurement date, primarily due to interest and changes in assumptions including a change to the discount rate. The discount rate decreased from 7.30% to 6.96% due to the results of the crossover test. The investment losses are recognized over five years, and the actuarial liability gains and assumption changes are recognized over the average remaining service life, which is also five years. Unrecognized amounts are reported as deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources.

78.68%

#### **NOTE 10 - NET PENSION LIABILITY (Cont.)**

Actuarial Assumptions: Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The Total Pension Liability at the end of the measurement year, June 30, 2020, was measured as of a valuation date of June 30, 2020, using the following actuarial assumptions applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 67. Key methods and assumptions used are presented below:

Inflation	The cost-of-living as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will increase at the rate of 2.75% per year.
Expected Return on Assets	7.15% net of investment expenses as of June 30, 2020.
Salary Increases	Payroll increases are assumed to increase 3.00% per year.
Ad hoc Post-Employment Benefit Changes	None.
Post Retirement COLA	Benefits are assumed to increase after retirement at the rate of 2.6% per year for Tier 1 and 2.0 % per year for Tiers 2-4.
Mortality Assumptions	RP-2014 Mortality Tables with Generational improvement using Projection Scale MP-2019.
Most Recent Actuarial Experience Study	June 30, 2020 (conducted every three years).
Discount Rate	6.96% blended discount rate, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation.
Municipal Bond Rate	2.21% net of investment expenses as of June 30, 2020 (Bond Buyer 20-year Bond GO Index, June 30, 2020).
Administrative Expenses	Administrative Expenses used in the cashflow projection are assumed to average 0.15% of assets annually.

#### NOTE 10 - NET PENSION LIABILITY (Cont.)

Asset Allocation and Expected Long-Term Real Rate of Return by Asset Class:

The allocation of investment assets within the investment portfolio is approved by the Board and is incorporated into TCERA's Investment Policy. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the Plan. The following table displays the Board approved asset allocation:

	June 30, 2020
Asset Class	Target Percent
Domestic Equity	20.00%
Non-U.S. Equity (Developed and Emerging)	20.00%
Global Equity	3.00%
Fixed Income	27.00%
Private Credit	5.00%
Real Estate	20.00%
Private Equity	5.00%
	100.00%

The following table displays the Expected Long-Term Real Rate of Return by Asset Class:

Asset Class	Expected Long-Term Real Rate of Return
Demostic Faults	2.700/
Domestic Equity	3.70%
Non-U.S. Equity (Developed and Emerging)	5.20%
Global Equity	4.50%
U.S. Fixed Income	0.80%
Global Fixed Income	-0.07%
Real Estate	4.70%
Private Credit	5.10%
Private Equity	6.60%
Total	4.20%

#### **NOTE 10 – NET PENSION LIABILITY (Cont.)**

The long-term expected real rate of return was determined using a building-block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage adjusted for inflation of 1.9%. Real return forecasts are from Verus Investments' 2020 Capital Market Assumptions.

Discount Rate: The discount rate used to measure the Total Pension Liability was 6.96%.

The investment rate of return assumption used for actuarial funding was 7.00% for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

GASB Statement No. 67 requires determination that the Plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to make projected benefit payments. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.96%.

The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that TCERA contributions will be equal to the actuarially determined contributions, reflecting a payment equal to annual Normal Cost and an amount necessary to amortize the total June 30, 2015 Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) as a level percentage of payroll over a closed 19-year period with payments as a level percentage of payroll, assuming payroll increases of 3.00% per year. Subsequent gains and losses are being amortized over new 19-year closed periods, also as a level percentage of payroll.

Based on these assumptions, the Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members until 2085, when only a portion of the projected benefit payments can be made from the projected fiduciary net position.

Projected benefit payments are discounted at the long-term expected return on assets of 7.15% to the extent the fiduciary net position is available to make the payments and at the municipal bond rate of 2.21% to the extent they are not available. The single equivalent rate used to determine the Total Pension Liability as of June 30, 2020 was 6.96%.

The assumed discount rate has been determined in accordance with the method prescribed by GASB Statement No. 67.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the net pension liability of TCERA as of June 30, 2020, calculated using the discount rate of 6.96%, as well as what TCERA's net pension liability in thousands would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.96%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.96%) than the current rate:

As of June 30, 2020: (dollars in thousands)

TCERA Net Pension Liability _	1% Decrease (5.96%)	Current Discount Rate (6.96%)	1% Increase (7.96%)
_	\$738,272	\$439,041	\$195,949
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liabilit	ty 68.7%	78.7%	89.2%

#### **NOTE 11 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent to June 30, 2020 and through November 30, 2020, the date through which management evaluated subsequent events and on which the financial statements were issued, TCERA identified the following events that required disclosure. As a result of the spread of the COVID- 19 coronavirus, economic uncertainties have arisen which are likely to negatively impact the Net Position. Other financial impact could occur although such potential impact is unknown at this time.

# Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios

Fiscal Years June 30: (dollars in thousands)

	_	2020	2019	2018		2017	_	2016	_	2015	2014
Total pension liability											
Service cost Interest Differences between expected and actua	\$ I	49,424 \$ 140,390	49,484 \$ 133,895	46,838 \$ 126,586	;	38,203 118,664	\$	38,308 115,716	\$	35,168 \$ 97,473	39,672 94,277
experience Changes of assumptions Benefit payments, including refunds of		(54,091) 70,788	(6,667) (37,996)	10,342 41,148		11,936 69,608		(40,602) 23,922		7,590 180,187	- 13,588
member contributions	=	(91,427)	(85,097)	(80,716)	_	(76,961)		(72,332)	=	(68,560)	(65,954)
Net change in total pension liability		115,084	53,619	144,198		161,450		65,012		251,858	81,583
Total pension liability- beginning	_	1,943,777	1,890,158	1,745,960		1,584,510	-	1,519,498	_	1,267,640	1,186,057
Total pension liability- ending (a)	\$_	2,058,861 \$	1,943,777 \$	1,890,158 \$	·	1,745,960	\$_	1,584,510	\$_	1,519,498 \$	1,267,640
Plan fiduciary net position											
Contributions- employer Contributions- member Net investment income Benefit Payments, including refunds of member contributions Administrative expense	\$	35,310 \$ 23,104 9,515 (91,427) (2,853)	33,494 \$ 22,325 90,779 (85,097) (2,806)	286,263 \$ 18,512 95,857 (80,716) (2,666)		33,616 18,190 132,865 (76,961) (2,612)	\$	31,297 16,815 (20,309) (72,332) (2,616)	\$ 	30,992 \$ 18,887 122,400 (68,560) (2,408)	25,953 18,969 179,878 (65,954) (1,639)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	1	(26,351)	58,695	317,250		105,098		(47,145)		101,312	157,207
Plan fiduciary net position- beginning	_	1,646,171	1,587,476	1,270,226		1,165,127	_	1,212,272	_	1,110,961	953,754
Plan fiduciary net position- ending (b)	\$_	1,619,820 \$	1,646,171 \$	1,587,476 \$	·	1,270,226	\$_	1,165,127	\$_	1,212,272 \$	1,110,961
Net pension liability- ending (a)-(b)	\$_	439,041 \$	297,606 \$	302,682 \$	·_	475,734	\$_	419,383	\$_	307,226 \$	156,679
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability		78.68%	84.69%	83.99%		72.75%		73.53%		79.78%	87.64%
Covered payroll	\$	283,640 \$	264,218 \$	256,049 \$	;	243,366	\$	238,559	\$	229,431 \$	234,439
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll		154.79%	112.64%	118.21%		195.48%		175.80%		133.91%	66.83%

### Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios (Cont.)

#### Notes to Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios:

Net Pension Liability - See information in Note 10 regarding the increase in the net pension liability.

Benefit Changes – All members with a membership date on or after January 1, 2013 enter the new tiers created by the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). There were no changes in benefits during the year.

Fiduciary Net Position – The fiduciary net position is calculated based on financial information available to the actuary for the preparation of the actuarial valuation and does not include subsequent adjustments.

Scope of Schedule - The schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Recalculations of prior years are not required. If prior years are not reported in accordance with the standards of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements No. 67 and No. 68, they should not be shown here. Therefore, we have shown only years for which the new GASB statements have been implemented. Payroll for fiscal year 2014 forward is based on amounts provided to the actuary by the participating employers. Previous payroll figures were determined by the prior actuary.

# Schedule of Contributions

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Actuarially Determined Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Actuarially Determined Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2011	\$23,434	\$23,434	-	\$219,854	10.66%
2012	25,257	25,257	-	222,635	11.34%
2013	29,847	29,847	-	230,955	12.92%
2014	25,953	25,953	-	234,439	11.07%
2015	30,992	30,992	-	229,431	13.51%
2016	31,297	31,297	-	238,559	13.12%
2017	33,616	33,616	-	243,366	13.81%
2018 *	36,263	36,263	-	256,049	14.16%
2019	33,494	33,494	-	264,218	12.68%
2020	35,310	35,310	-	283,640	12.45%

<sup>\*</sup> For the FYE 2018, the contribution shown in this schedule does not include he additional \$250 million contribution made by the County at the end of the Fiscal Year.

#### Schedule of Contributions (Cont.)

#### **Notes to Schedule of Contributions:**

Valuation date (1) Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of

June 30, 2018, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in

which contributions are reported.

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal

Amortization method Level percentage of payroll. Payroll is expected to increase

during the amortization period at the assumed rate of inflation.

Remaining amortization period 19 years, layered

**Asset valuation method** 10-year smoothing of investment return with a 30% asset

corridor which deviates from the actuarial investment return

assumptions.

Inflation 3.00%

Salary increases Salary increase assumptions vary by years of service and by

division, ranging from 0.5% to 8.0% for General Members and

0.5% to 8.0% for Safety Members.

**Investment rate of return** 7.25% per annum (7.12% compounded semi-annually). The

investment rate of return includes inflation.

**Retirement age** Retirement age varies by membership type and tier. Refer to

Note 2, Plan Description for more information.

Mortality - Retirement General Members - RP 2014 Sex Distinct Combined Healthy

Tables, published by the Society of Actuaries, with Generational Improvement, using Projections Scale MP-2016, increased by

12.1% for males and 8.0% for females to reflect Plan

experience.

Safety Members - RP 2014 Sex Distinct Combined Healthy Tables with blue-collar adjustment, published by the Society of Actuaries, with Generational Improvement using Projections Scale MP-2016, increased by 4.5% for males to reflect Plan

experience.

Mortality - Disability All Members - RP 2014 Sex Distinct Generational Disabled

Annuitant Mortality Table with Generational Improvement using

Projection Scale MP-2016.

**Cost of living adjustments** 2.7% per year for Tier 1 and 2% for Tiers 2, 3, and 4.

(1) Actuarial determined contributions ae calculated based on the actuarial valuation one year prior to the beginning of the plan year.

# Schedule of Investment Returns

Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense

Fiscal Year:	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
	0.74%	6.10%	7.60%	11.70%	-1.30%
Fiscal Year:	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
	1.10%	17.00%	11.90%	n/a	n/a

#### Notes to Schedule of Investment Returns:

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Years where information is not available are identified as n/a.

# **Other Supplemental Information**

# Schedule of Administrative Expenses

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

Personnel Services	
Salaries	
General	\$ 837
Benefits	
General	411
Board Fees - Per Diem Payments	18
Total Personnel Services	1,266
Professional Services	
Actuarial	92
Data Processing	373
Audit	42
Professional Services - Disablity	98
Legal Counsel	
General	105
Disability	58
Total Professional Services	768
Communication	
Printing	33
Communication	17
Postage	43
Total Communicaton	93
Rentals	
Office Space	188
Total Rentals	188
Other	
Training	8
Transportation and Travel	20
Maintenance	23
Insurance	60
Utilities	19
Depreciation and Amortization	341
Office	55
Other County Department Charges	12
Total Other	538
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 2,853
	<del></del>

# **Other Supplemental Information**

# Fees, Other Investment Expenses and Payments to Consultants

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

Investment Activity	
Equity	
Domestic	\$ 1,244
International	1,263
Fixed Income	,
Domestic	1,041
Global	379
Alternative Investments	
Hedge Funds	487
Private Equity	1,109
Private Credit	963
Futures Overlay	80
Commodities	113
Real Estate	
Real Estate Managers	1,607
Total from Investment Activity	8,286
Securities Lending Activity	
Securities Lending Program Expenses	690_
Total from Securities Lending Activity	690
Other Investment Expenses	
Investment Custodian	348
Investment Consultant	243
Other	311_
Total from Other Investment Expenses	902
Total Fees and Other Investment Expenses	\$ 9,878
Payments to Consultants	
Nature of Service	
Actuarial	\$ 92
Audit	42
Legal Counsel	
General	105
Disability	58_
Total Consulting Fees	\$ 297
	<del></del>

# **Other Supplemental Information**

# Schedule of Net Position Restricted for Pension Benefits

As of June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

Employee reserves, July 1	\$	301,935
Contributions		23,104
Withdrawals		(3,534)
Transfers		(20,414)
Interest crediting	-	18,471
Employee reserves, June 30		319,562
Employer reserves, July 1		817,209
Contributions		35,310
Benefits Paid		-
Transfers		(47,330)
Interest crediting		53,992
Employer reserves, June 30		859,181
Retiree reserves, July 1		426,060
Benefits Paid		(81,465)
Transfers		67,741
Interest crediting		29,821
Retiree reserves, June 30		442,157
SRBR reserves, July 1		107,766
Benefits Paid		(6,428)
Interest crediting		7,010
SRBR reserves, June 30		108,348
Other reserves, July 1		1,896
Transfers - Intra Member Contribution Account		2,232
Interest crediting		145
Other reserves, June 30		4,273
Market Stabilization reserve, July 1		(60,026)
Net Change in Market Stabilization		(103,690)
Market Stabilization reserve, June 30		(163,716)
Contingency reserve, July 1		50,671
Transfers		(1,443)
Contingency reserve, June 30		49,228
TCERA Property, Inc. Retained Earnings (Holding Corporation), July 1		660
Net income		127
TCERA Property, Inc. Retained Earnings (Holding Corporation), June 30		787
Net position restricted for pension benefits	\$	1,619,820

### **Other Information**

# Schedule of Cost Sharing Employer Allocations

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

Employer	. <u>-</u>	2020 Actual Employer Contributions	2020 Employer Allocation Percentage	
County of Tulare	\$	32,146	91.04%	
Tulare County Association of Governments <sup>1</sup>		174	0.49%	
Tulare County Superior Court		2,965	8.40%	
Strathmore Public Utility District	_	25	0.07%	
Total	\$	35,310	100.00%	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Tulare County Association of Governments is a district within Tulare County.

## **Other Information**

# Employer Pension Amounts Allocated by Cost Sharing Plan

(dollars in thousands)			DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Employer	Net Pension Liability	Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	Net Differences Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings	Changes of Assumptions	Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	Total Deferred Outflows of Resources				
Tulare County \$	399,700	\$ 5,938	\$ 85,052 \$	79,215	\$ 12,633	\$ 182,838				
Tulare County Assn of Goverments	2,163	32	460	429	629	1,550				
Tulare County Superior Court	36,867	548	7,845	7,306	6,941	22,640				
Strathmore Public Utility District	311	5	66	62	62	195				
Total \$	439,041	\$ 6,523	\$ 93,423 \$	87,012	\$ 20,265	\$ 207.223				

	DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				PENSION EXPENSE			
Employer	Differences Between Expected and Actual Economic Experience	Changes of Assumptions	Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	Collective Proportionate Share of Plan Pension Expense	Net Amortization of Deferred Amts from Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	Total Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer- Paid Member Contributions	
Tulare County	\$ 43,038	\$ 20,755 \$	7,632	\$ 71,425	\$ 97,796	\$ 2,031	\$ 99,827	
Tulare County Assn of Goverments	233	112	1,398	1,743	529	(278)	251	
Tulare County Superior Court Strathmore	3,970	1,914	11,105	16,989	9,021	(1,722)	7,299	
Public Utility District	33	17	130	180	76	(31)	45	
Total	\$ 47,274	\$ 22,798 \$	20,265	\$ 90,337	\$ 107,422	\$ -	\$ 107,422	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Tulare County Association of Governments is a district within Tulare County.

#### **Other Information**

### Notes to Other Information

#### BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Employers that participate in TCERA were required to implement GASB 68 for their first fiscal year that commenced after June 15, 2014. The amounts reported as of their fiscal year end (their reporting date) must be based on a measurement date up to 12 months prior to their reporting date. For employers with a reporting date of June 30, their 2020 disclosures can be based on either the June 30, 2019 or 2020 measurement dates. If an employer elects to base their 2020 disclosures on the June 30, 2019 measurement date, the GASB 68 schedules in this report with a measurement date of June 30, 2020 will be used for their 2021 reporting date.

TCERA is a cost-sharing multiple-employer pension plan, each employer participating in TCERA must reflect a portion of the collective Net Pension Liability, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Inflows in their financial statements.

#### USE OF ESTIMATES IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SCHEDULES

The preparation of these schedules in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### AMORTIZATION OF DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Proportionate shares for each participating employer are generally determined based on the ratio of each participating employer's actual contributions to TCERA during the measurement year to the sum of the employer contributions. Proportionate shares for each participating employer are generally determined based on the ratio of each participating employer's actual contributions to TCERA during the measurement year to the sum of the employer contributions.

The proportionate share allocated to each individual employer will change on each measurement date. The net effect of the change in proportion on the share of the collective NPL, collective deferred outflows, and collective deferred inflows allocated to each employer becomes a deferred outflow or inflow for that employer and is recognized over the average future working life of TCERA's active and inactive members (five years). Similarly, the difference between each employer's actual contributions and the employer's proportionate share of collective employer contributions becomes a deferred outflow or inflow for that employer and is recognized over the average future working life of TCERA's active and inactive members (five years).

The difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments is amortized over 5 years on a straight-line basis. One-fifth was recognized in pension expense during the measurement period, and the remaining difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments at June 30, 2020, is to be amortized over the remaining periods. The changes in assumptions and differences between expected and actual experience are recognized over the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through TCERA (active and inactive employees) determined as of June 30, 2019 (the beginning of the measurement period ending June 30, 2020) and is four years. Prior period changes of assumptions and differences between expected and actual experience are continued to be recognized based on the expected remaining service lives of all employees calculated as of those prior measurement dates.

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## investment section

## Independent Consultant's Report



October 1, 2020

The Board of Retirement Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association 136 N. Akers Street Visalia, California 93291

The investment portfolio of the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association maintained a total value of \$1.6 billion over the fiscal year and returned 0.6% for the period. This ranked the Plan in the bottom quartile of its peer group for the year and below its policy benchmark of 3.3%. Underperformance compared to peers was the result of several factors. First, the portfolio holds a lower allocation to equities relative to most peers, and the allocation weights within equity are more globally oriented relative to peers. US equity significantly outperformed international equity over the fiscal year, so U.S. investors that had a home country bias were rewarded. A second material source of underperformance was that active managers, particularly in fixed income, were caught largely by surprise as the global pandemic impacted investment markets in the first calendar quarter of 2020.

Over the past year, the Board took several steps to upgrade the Plan's strategic asset allocation to improve overall expected outcomes. First, the hedge fund and commodities portfolios were liquidated and are being repositioned into new allocations in value-add real estate equity and real estate debt. Also, additional capital was committed to core real estate and private equity to maintain the target allocation in those asset classes. A contingent credit fund put in place in 2018 in anticipation of a dislocation in credit markets was activated in the second calendar quarter of 2020 in response to the global pandemic. Finally, over the past year, the Board renegotiated fees with three existing managers to obtain a more favorable fee structure.

More recently, the Board decided to reduce its international equity allocation in favor of domestic equity with the expectation that the relative tail wind domestic equity has enjoyed since the global financial crisis will persist. Moving forward, the Board will continue to monitor the Plan's strategic asset allocation and its implementation for potential improvement opportunities.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Whalen, CFA, CAIA

Executive Managing Director, Senior Consultant

NOTE: Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Investment return calculations are time-weighted, market value based, and consistent with industry standards and best practices for performance measurement.

#### **Economic Conditions and Outlook**

#### **Investment Landscape**

Economy, COVID-19, Fiscal & Monetary Response

During the latter half of 2019, global economies generally exhibited moderate and positive economic growth, inflation remained mild, central bank policies were accommodative to further growth, labor markets had fully recovered from the Global Financial Crisis, and economic surprises were few. Risk assets delivered robust performance during the second half of the year. The U.S. showed leadership (S&P 500 +10.9 percent) with International Developed and Emerging Market Equities close behind (MSCI EAFE +7.0 percent, MSCI Emerging Markets 7.1 percent). Sovereign bonds largely moved sideways outside of U.S. Treasuries (Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury +1.6 percent) as longer-dated Treasury yields continued to trend lower. High-yield credit (Bloomberg Barclays Corporate High Yield +4.0 percent) posted solid performance, as credit spreads compressed modestly. Commodities posted solid performance as well (Bloomberg Commodity Index +2.5 percent), led by the precious metals (+9.2 percent) component as gold price soared.

Investors' main concerns in the market appeared to be around troubled U.S.-Chinese relations, the resulting trade conflict which could interrupt economic progress and corporate profits, and even the potential for military conflict. However, the relationship between the two superpowers was seemingly on a more conciliatory track. A series of meetings between the U.S. and Chinese officials culminated in a "phase one" deal addressing agricultural trade, intellectual property protections, and some loose agreements on how China would manage its currency.

In early 2020, the calm and relatively stable environment began to shift. A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) began spreading through Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province. Though Wuhan ranks as the 9th largest city in China with nearly 12 million inhabitants, it is materially larger than New York City by population. As the virus began to spread, the Chinese government essentially locked down Wuhan, and implemented a series of rather draconian containment measures in an attempt to keep the virus within the city. Unfortunately, containment efforts were ineffective, and the virus continued to spread, from China to Italy to Europe more broadly, to the United States, and to the rest of the world. By the end of July, the virus had spread to over 17 million people in 213 countries and territories, resulting in over 660,000 deaths. The sudden impact of this global pandemic on economic activity and markets was unprecedented. News flow over the first half of 2020 was centered on the trajectory of the virus, the status of voluntary and involuntary social distancing controls, and fiscal and monetary policy support provided in efforts to mitigate the economic damage of the pandemic.

One of the most immediate effects of the forced closure of businesses around the world was an unparalleled shock to the global labor market, which had been chugging along through the second half of 2019. In the United States, approximately 10 million workers applied for unemployment benefits in the last two weeks of March alone. In the single week ending March 27th, nearly seven million people applied for those benefits. For context, during the Global Financial Crisis, the greatest number of Americans that applied for unemployment assistance in a single week was

665,000. The unemployment rate rose from a 50-year low of 3.5 percent in February to 14.7 percent in April—the worst level since the Great Depression.

U.S. real GDP contracted sharply on a quarter-over-quarter basis in Q2, falling -32.9 percent, and down -9.5 percent over the past year. The slowdown consisted of decreased consumer spending, exports, inventory investment, fixed investment, as well as state and local government expenditures. Federal government spending partly offset the deceleration. While significant, this shock to the economy was in line with expectations. Investors appear to expect GDP to bounce back partially in 2020 with a near full recovery in 2021, aided by vast government fiscal and monetary policy responses.

Between December 2015 and December 2018, the Federal Reserve hiked rates nine times to a range of 2.25-2.5 percent. In the second half of 2019, the Fed cut rates by 0.25 percent three times, and then COVID-19 hit. The size and pace of the shutdowns necessitated central bank intervention on a massive scale to prevent a possible breakdown in financial market functioning. The Federal Reserve cut its range for the federal funds rate by 1.50 percent to 0.0-0.25 percent, and dusted off a variety of global financial crisis-era liquidity facilities to help calm markets, which were posting consecutive days of high single-digit (even double-digit) percentage moves. The Federal Reserve's balance sheet swelled from around \$4.7 trillion to \$7.2 trillion between the end of March and the beginning of June as the New York Fed's trading desk purchased massive amounts of U.S. Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities. Additionally, the Fed opened facilities allowing it to buy corporate debt through ETFs, and even expanded eligibility for those programs to include junk bonds that had held investment-grade credit ratings prior to the onset of the pandemic. On the fiscal front, Congress passed the CARES Act, resulting in the distribution of \$1,200 checks to most Americans, the establishment of the Paycheck Protection Program, and the implementation of \$600 in weekly additional unemployment benefits.

#### Markets and asset class performance

COVID-19 began to course through the U.S. in the first quarter, leading to a significant selloff in risk assets between February and March, though these assets went on to recoup most of those losses in the second quarter. The S&P 500 Total Return Index plunged -33.8 percent between February 19th and March 23rd, before rising +39.3 percent by the end of the second quarter. At quarter-end, the S&P 500 reached 3100—placing the index within 10 percent of the February high water mark of 3386.

Over the full trailing year, the S&P 500 (+7.5 percent) outperformed both emerging market equities (MSCI Emerging Markets Index -3.4 percent) and international developed equities (MSCI EAFE Index -5.1 percent) in U.S. dollar terms. China (MSCI China Index +13.1 percent) supported emerging market equity performance substantially, likely due to having moved into the recovery phase relatively quickly. The J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Currency Index, a basket of ten emerging market currencies, depreciated roughly -14.0 percent relative to the dollar, presenting material headwinds for U.S. investors in emerging market equities.

Bonds rallied for much of the fiscal year, and ten-year Treasury yields fell from 2.0 percent to 0.66 percent, establishing fresh all-time closing lows of 0.54 percent along the way. Holding duration

in portfolios provided a significant downside ballast. The Bloomberg Barclays Long Duration Treasury Index returned 25.4 percent, topping the fixed income performance table over the one-year period. The rally in European sovereign bonds was more muted, as yields had less room to fall and the European Central Bank preferred not to push their main deposit rate below -0.50 percent.

Credit spreads jumped considerably in Q1, leading to poor performance in credit over the quarter. On March 23rd, the option-adjusted spreads of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Corporate and Corporate High Yield indices topped out at 3.7 percent and 11.0 percent, respectively. From a sector perspective, stress in the energy market exacerbated the blowout in spreads as concerns over the crude oil outlook worked their way into debt pricing. In the second quarter, however, as corporate credit facilities announced by the Fed in March became operational, spreads fell—back down to 6.26 percent for high yield credit and 1.50 percent for investment grade credit—resulting in a performance comeback. Over the fiscal year, investment-grade credit posted performance of 9.5 percent while high-yield credit underperformed, returning 0.0 percent.

Exposure to commodities hurt investors over the fiscal year, but especially in the first half of 2020, primarily due to the precipitous decline in the oil market as demand dried up alongside the slowdown in global economic activity. The Bloomberg Commodity Index returned -17.4 percent over the fiscal year, and the Energy component of the index (Bloomberg Energy Sub-Index -45.7 percent) suffered far more severe losses. Precious metals, however, were a bright spot, and returning +24.2 percent over the fiscal year, primarily due to an incredible rally in gold prices. Spot gold prices rose from \$1,410/oz to \$1,781/oz, closing in on the prior all-time high level of \$1,900 which was established in late 2011.

#### Outlook

We will continue to monitor the progression of COVID-19 and its impacts on global health and economic activity, the shape and speed of the economic recovery here in the United States and elsewhere (which will likely determine the path of risk assets), central bank actions and the degree to which future support is offered to economies and markets, and, lastly, the evolving relationship between the world's two great superpowers—the United States and China—which will have farreaching implications based on the path which this relationship takes. Knowing how all these interconnected issues resolve themselves is of course, impossible, and so prudent diversification continues to be the best course of action.

Written by Verus Advisory

## **Investment Objectives**

The Board of Retirement (the Board) has adopted Investment Policies and Guidelines, which outline the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association's (TCERA, the Association, or the Plan) investment goals and objectives. The Investment Policy Statement combines planning and philosophy and contains a Policies and Procedures section, Statement of Investment Goals, and General Investment Goals and Guidelines.

The Plan's general investment goals are broad in nature. The primary objectives are to efficiently allocate and manage the assets in order to satisfy the liabilities of the Plan. The following goals, consistent with the above-described purpose, are adopted:

- The overall goal of TCERA's investments is to provide Plan participants with retirement, disability, and death and survivor benefits, as provided for under the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937. This will be accomplished through a carefully planned and executed long-term investment program.
- The total portfolio over the long-term will be expected to:
  - 1. Produce a total portfolio, long-term real (above inflation) return commensurate with the target asset allocation (annualized, net of fees, over a full market cycle, normally defined as 3-5 years);
  - 2. Exceed the assumed actuarial rate of return over rolling five-year periods; and
  - 3. Exceed a weighted index of the total Plan's asset allocation policy and component benchmark over rolling five-year periods by an appropriate amount (annualized, net of fees, over a full market cycle).
- TCERA's Investment Policy has been designed to produce a total portfolio, long-term real return. Consequently, prudent risk-taking is warranted within the context of overall portfolio diversification to meet this goal.

#### Asset Allocation

The Board adopts and implements an asset allocation policy that is predicated on a number of factors, including:

- Expected long-term capital market risk and return behavior;
- Projected assets, liabilities, benefit payments, and contributions provided by TCERA's actuary;
- An assessment of future economic conditions, including inflation and interest rate levels; and
- The specific investment objectives set forth by TCERA.

The Plan will be diversified both by asset class (e.g., common stocks, bonds, real estate, other alternatives) and within asset classes (e.g., within common stocks by economic sector, industry, quality, and market capitalization). The purpose of diversification is to provide reasonable assurance that no single security or class of securities will have a disproportionate impact on the total Plan.

The basis of the data presented is fair value as of June 30, 2020 prior to adjustments for accruals and cash positions. Performance reported is based on time-weighted returns based on the market rate of return.

## Target Asset Allocation

As of June 30, 2020

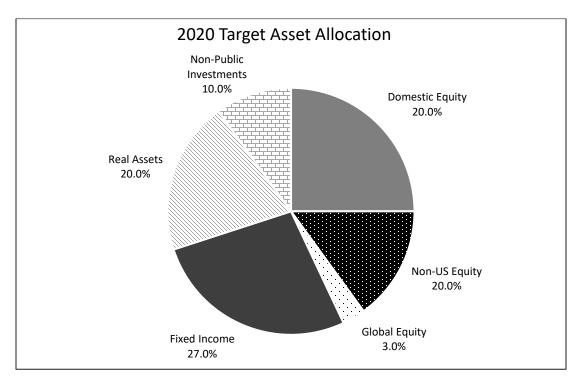
The target asset allocation for the investment portfolio is determined by the Board to facilitate the achievement of the investment program's long-term investment objectives within the established risk parameters. Due to the fact that the allocation of funds between asset classes may be the single most important determinant of the investment performance over the long run, the Plan's assets shall be divided into the following asset classes:

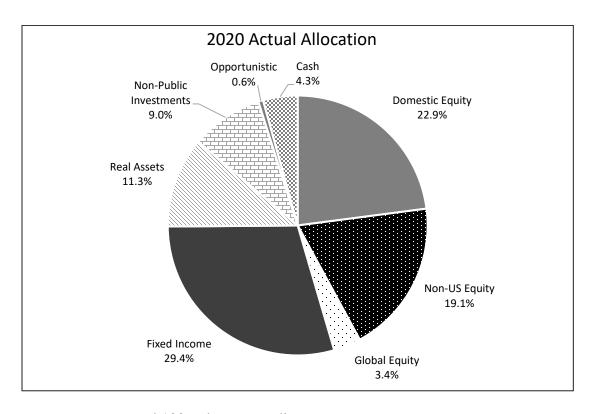
Asset Class	Minimum Percent	Maximum Percent	Target Percent
<b>Domestic Equity</b>	10%	30%	20%
Large Cap	10%	25%	15%
Small Mid Cap	0%	10%	5%
Non-U.S. Equity (Developed and Emerging)	10%	30%	20%
Global Equity	0%	5%	3%
Fixed Income	15%	35%	27%
Core-Plus Fixed Income	10%	30%	17%
Global Fixed	0%	10%	5%
Emerging Market Debt	0%	10%	5%
Real Assets	15%	35%	20%
Core Real Estate	5%	15%	10%
Value-Add Real Estate	0%	10%	5%
Real Estate Debt	0%	10%	5%
<b>Alternative Investments</b>	0%	30%	10%
Private Equity/VC	0%	10%	5%
Private Credit	0%	10%	5%

Formal asset allocation studies will be conducted at least every five years, with annual evaluations of the validity of the adopted asset allocation based on updated return projections. Any change in capital market assumptions or liabilities will require consideration of revision to the asset allocation policy.

## Target Asset vs. Actual Asset Allocation

As of June 30, 2020





Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

### Fair Value of Investments

As of June 30, 2020

Type of Investments	Fair Value	Percentage of Total Fair Value
Domestic Corporate Bonds	\$127,364,190	8.0%
MBS	\$44,311,710	2.8%
U.S. Government/Agency Instruments	\$80,120,707	5.0%
ABS	\$47,935,668	3.0%
CMO	\$5,405,919	0.3%
Municipal Bonds	\$1,185,017	0.1%
Global Fixed Income Fund	137,229,225	8.6%
Other	26,430,227	1.7%
Total Bonds	\$469,982,661	29.5%
Domestic Equity	366,886,158	23.0%
Non-U.S. Equity	306,638,720	19.3%
Global Equity	53,827,988	3.4%
Private Equity	74,743,184	4.7%
Total Equity	\$802,096,051	50.4%
Hedge Funds	\$93,982	0.0%
Real Estate	\$179,713,388	11.3%
Cash	\$63,391,243	4.0%
Other	\$77,460,145	4.9%
<b>Total Investments</b>	\$1,592,737,469	100.0%
Plan Adjustments for Payables, Receivables, Cash and Accruals	(25,479,469)	
Net Investments	\$1,567,258,000	

Individual Categories for purposes of this report are determined by the Investment Consultant and may not reflect the categories as reported from the custodial bank in the financial statements. Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

## **Investment Results**

For the Periods Ended June 30, 2020\*

			Annua	alized	
Account	Current	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year
<b>Equity</b>					
SSGA S&P 500 Flagship Fund	7.5	9.0	10.7	12.5	10.8
QMA Large Cap Core	4.0	5.5	9.0	11.2	9.5
S&P 500	7.5	9.0	10.7	12.5	10.7
Ivy Large Cap Growth	20.8	18.3	21.1	20.8	16.0
Russell 1000 Growth	23.3	17.3	19.0	19.3	15.9
Boston Partners Large Cap Value	-8.4	-1.9	2.0	6.5	4.5
Russell 1000 Value	-8.8	-0.6	1.8	5.1	4.6
SSGA Russell Small Cap Completeness Index	0.8	1.6	6.4	10.0	6.8
Russell Small Cap Completeness	0.9	1.6	6.5	10.1	6.9
William Blair SMID Cap Growth	7.0	9.0	14.0	16.4	12.6
Russell 2500 Growth	9.2	7.7	12.1	14.4	9.6
Lee Munder Small Value	-14.1	-9.2	-3.2	2.4	2.6
Russell 2000 Value	-17.5	-12.0	-4.3	2.2	1.3
Total Domestic Equity	4.5	6.3	9.8	12.2	9.7
SSGA MSCI ACWI Ex US Index Fund	-4.5	-1.5	1.4	6.0	2.6
MSCI ACWI ex USA Gross	-4.4	-1.3	1.6	6.1	2.7
PIMCO RAE Fundamental Global Ex US Fund	-14.5	-8.0	-3.4	3.0	0.1
MSCI ACWI ex USA Value Gross	-14.8	-7.4	-3.4	2.9	-0.2
SGA Global Growth	7.0	9.0			-
MSCI ACWI ex USA Growth Gross	6.1	4.6	6.4	9.2	6.0
Total International Equity	-3.6	0.0	2.1	6.6	3.2
Skellig Water Fund (aka KBI)	-2.9	-0.1	2.8	7.2	5.6
MSCI ACWI Gross	2.6	4.5	6.7	9.7	7.0
Total Global Equity	-2.9	-0.1	2.8	7.2	5.6
Fixed Income					
BlackRock Fixed Income	9.3	8.8	5.7	4.3	4.7
Doubleline Core Plus	4.3	5.8	4.0	3.4	
MacKay Shields Core Plus	9.0	8.4	5.6	4.8	
BBgBarc US Aggregate TR	8.7	8.3	5.3	3.9	4.3
Franklin Templeton Global Bond Plus	-7.5	-0.7	-0.8	1.5	0.7
JPM GBI Global TR USD	5.2	5.4	4.2	2.0	3.8
PGIM Emerging Markets Debt					
50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM Global Div	-1.1	4.7	2.4	3.4	3.9
Total Fixed Income	3.3	5.4	3.6	3.5	3.6

## *Investment Results (Cont.)*For the Periods Ended June 30, 2020\*

	Annualized			
Current	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year
5.3	6.0	6.4	6.3	7.6
2.2	4.3	5.7	6.2	7.3
2.2	4.3	5.7	6.2	7.3
5.3	6.0	6.5	6.2	7.5
8.1	8.5	9.8	7.9	5.4
13.7	24.1	30.2	21.8	
-23.1	-9.9	-4.4	-1.8	-2.0
4.9	15.2	18.9	16.3	
7.1	14.3			
-0.5	0.8	3.3	4.8	6.8
6.5	12.0	13.7	11.9	10.6
-4.5	3.0	4.6		
-4.5	3.0	4.6		
-7.3	-3.0	3.9	4.7	5.0
-76.0	-63.7	-35.4	-28.9	-23.7
-6.2	-6.2	4.3	4.6	4.4
0.9	3.5	4.9	6.6	5.1
3.3	5.1	5.9	7.1	5.7
	5.3 2.2 2.2 5.3  8.1 13.723.1 4.9 7.10.5 6.5  -4.5 -4.5 -4.5 -4.5 -7.3 -76.0 -6.2	5.3 6.0 2.2 4.3 2.2 4.3 5.3 6.0  8.1 8.5 13.7 24.123.1 -9.9 4.9 15.2 7.1 14.30.5 0.8 6.5 12.0  -4.5 3.0 -4.5 3.0 -76.0 -63.7 -6.2 -6.2  0.9 3.5	5.3 6.0 6.4 2.2 4.3 5.7	5.3 6.0 6.4 6.3 2.2 4.3 5.7 6.2 2.2 4.3 5.7 6.2 5.3 6.0 6.5 6.2  8.1 8.5 9.8 7.9 13.7 24.1 30.2 21.823.1 -9.9 -4.4 -1.8 4.9 15.2 18.9 16.3 7.1 14.30.5 0.8 3.3 4.8 6.5 12.0 13.7 11.9  -4.5 3.0 4.64.5 3.0 4.67.3 -3.0 3.9 4.7 -76.0 -63.7 -35.4 -28.9 -6.2 -6.2 4.3 4.6  0.9 3.5 4.9 6.6

<sup>\*</sup>Time-Weighted Return Based on the Market Rate of Return.

\*\* Policy Index: 20% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex US, 3% MSCI ACWI, 17% BBgBarc Agg., 5% JPM GBI Global, 5% (50% JPM EMBI Global Div/50% JPM GBI EM Global Div), 20% NCREIF ODCE, 5% actual Private Equity returns, 5% actual Private Credit returns

## List of Largest Stock and Bond Holdings

As of June 30, 2020

#### Largest Stock Holdings (by fair value)

	Shares	Stock	Fair Value (000)
1	66,418	MICROSOFT CORP	\$13,516,727
2	28,361	APPLE INC	\$10,346,093
3	2,670	AMAZON.COM INC	\$7,366,049
4	4,175	ALPHABET INC-CL A	\$5,920,359
5	23,403	FACEBOOK INC	\$5,314,118
6	24,520	VISA INC	\$4,736,528
7	12,564	UNITEDHEALTH GROUP INC	\$3,705,752
8	7,811	ADOBE INC	\$3,400,206
9	67,524	COCA-COLA	\$3,016,972
10	20,510	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC	\$2,874,066

#### Largest Bond Holdings (by fair value)

	Par (000)	Bond	Fair Value (000)
1	5,023,000	U S TREASURY NOTE 1.875% 07/31/2026 DD 07/31/19	\$5,464,672
2	3,368,000	COMMIT TO PUR FNMA SF MTG 2.500% 08/01/2050 DD 08/01/20	\$3,505,684
3	2,035,000	U S TREASURY NOTE 1.375% 08/31/2026 DD 08/31/19	\$2,153,356
4	1,390,000	U S TREASURY BOND 3.125% 11/15/2041 DD 11/15/11	\$1,882,255
5	1,670,000	U S TREASURY NOTE 0.625% 05/15/2030 DD 05/15/20	\$1,665,374
6	1,163,600	U S TREASURY NOTE 0.375% 04/30/2025 DD 04/30/20	\$1,168,871
7	730,000	U S TREASURY BOND 3.000% 02/15/2048 DD 02/15/18	\$999,334
8	924,000	COMMIT TO PUR FNMA SF MTG 4.000% 07/01/2050 DD 07/01/20	\$979,172
9	925,000	U S TREASURY NOTE 1.500% 09/30/2024 DD 09/30/19	\$974,284
10	919,153	COMMIT TO PUR FNMA SF MTG 3.000% 07/01/2050 DD 07/01/20	\$968,052

A complete list of portfolio holdings is available upon request.

## Schedule of Investment Management Fees

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

Domostia Fauity		
Domestic Equity Robeco Boston Partners	\$	266
State Street	Ψ	35
QMA		110
LMCG		211
Ivy Investments		354
William Blair		268
Total Domestic Equity	\$	1,244
International		
State Street	\$	68
PIMCO RAE		495
Kleinwort Benson Investors		421
SG Advisers		279
Total International	\$	1,263
Fixed Income		
BlackRock	\$	165
PGIM		363
Franklin Templeton		379
Mackay Shields DoubleLine		260
Total Fixed Income	\$	253 1,420
rotair ixed meome	<u> </u>	1,420
Hedge Funds		
Aetos	\$	249
Titan Advisors		238
Total Hedge Funds	\$	487
Private Equity		
Pantheon	\$	55
KKR Mezzanine Partners	Ψ	40
StepStone		206
BlackRock Alternative Advisors		60
Pathway Capital Mgmt		327
Ocean Avenue Capial		421
Total Private Equity	\$	1,109
D: 4 C 14		
Private Credit	•	000
TPG	\$	963
Total Private Credit	\$	963

**Schedule of Investment Management Fees (Cont.)**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

Futures Overlay		
The Clifton Group	\$	80
Total Futures Overlay	\$	80
Commodities		
Gresham Investment Management	\$	56
Wellington Management Company		57
Total Commodities	\$	113
Real Estate		
RREEF	\$	1,571
TA Associates Realty	•	36
Total Real Estate	\$	1,607
Total Investment Manager Fees	\$	8,286
Securities Lending Activity		
Management Fee	\$	10
Borrower Rebate		680
Total Securities Lending Activity	\$	690
Other Investment Expenses		
Investment Custodian	\$	348
Investment Consultant		243
Other		311
Total Other Investment Expenses		902
<b>Total Fees and Other Investment Expenses</b>	\$	9,878

## **Brokerage Policy/Commission Recapture**

TCERA charges its investment managers with the optimization of transaction expense, including commissions and execution costs, for the lowest possible transaction cost. TCERA encourages active equity managers to direct a specific percentage of brokerage transactions for Plan assets under their management through designated commission recapture brokers only when best execution can be assured. TCERA also encourages its fixed income managers, on a "best effort" basis, to utilize the services of designated commission recapture brokerage firms. Commission recapture brokerage firms must provide the best price and execution consistent with market conditions, bearing in mind the best interest of the Plan's beneficiaries and considering all relevant factors.

Commissions and Rebates for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020: (dollars in thousands)

#### **Commissions**

Base Commissions	\$ 222
Base Volume	\$ 329,261
Total Shares	5,623
Commissions/Share	\$ -
Commission Recapture Rebates	\$ 5

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# actuarial section

### Actuary's Certification Letter



Classic Values, Innovative Advice.

Via Electronic Mail

November 4, 2020

#### **Actuarial Certification**

This is the Actuary's Certification Letter for the Actuarial Section of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (the Plan) as of June 30, 2020. This letter includes references to two documents produced by Cheiron for the Plan: the actuarial valuation report as of June 30, 2020 (transmitted October 21, 2020) and the GASB 67/68 report as of June 30, 2020 (transmitted October 26, 2020).

### Actuarial Valuation Report as of June 30, 2020

The purpose of the annual actuarial valuation report as of June 30, 2020 is to determine the actuarial funding status of the Plan on that date and to calculate recommended contribution rates for the participating employers and Plan members for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The prior review was conducted as of June 30, 2019, and included recommended contribution rates for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Actuarial funding is based on the Entry Age Normal Cost Method. Under this method, the employer contribution rate provides for current cost (normal cost) plus a level percentage of payroll to amortize the Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL). As of the valuation date (June 30, 2020), the amortization policy specifies layered 19-year amortization. The UAL as of June 30, 2015 was amortized over a closed 19-year period and subsequent gains or losses are being amortized over new closed 19-year periods. The Board elected to phase in the impact of the assumption changes included in the current valuation on the employer contribution rate over the next three fiscal years.

The funding objective of the Plan is to accumulate sufficient assets over each Member's working life to provide for Plan benefits after termination of employment or retirement. For actuarial valuation purposes, Plan assets are valued at actuarial value. Under this method, the assets used to determine employer contribution rates take into account market value by spreading all investment gains and losses (returns above or below expected returns) over a period of 10 years, limited by a corridor that restrains the actuarial value to within 30% of the Market Value of Assets. Note that the Actuarial Value of Assets excludes the Supplemental Retiree Benefit Reserve.

The Board of Retirement is responsible for establishing and maintaining the funding policy of the Plan.

We prepared the following schedules, which we understand will be included in the Actuarial Section of the CAFR, based on the June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation. All historical information

prior to the June 30, 2015 actuarial valuation shown in these schedules is based on information reported by Buck Consultants.

- Schedule of Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Payroll
- Schedule of Funded Liabilities by Type
- Schedule of Funding Progress
- Schedule of Employer Contributions

The TCERA Board has the authority to select economic and demographic assumptions for the Plan. The assumptions used in this report reflect the results of an experience study performed by Cheiron, covering the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, and approved by the Board. Based on this study, the discount rate was lowered from 7.25% to 7.00%, the mortality improvement scale was updated to MP-2019, and a number of other demographic assumptions were updated to reflect recent experience. A full summary of all assumptions used in this report is provided in the actuarial valuation report as of June 30, 2020. The assumptions used in the valuation are intended to produce results that, in the aggregate, reasonably approximate the anticipated future experience of the Plan. The next experience analysis is expected to cover the years through 2023.

We certify that the valuation was performed in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices. In particular, the assumptions and methods used for funding purposes meet the requirements of the Actuarial Standards of Practice, including Standards No. 4, 27, 35, and 44. The actuarial cost method and the actuarial assumptions used for funding purposes are the same as those used for financial reporting purposes, with the exception of the discount rate, which is calculated as prescribed by GASB 67/68.

### **GASB 67/68 Report as of June 30, 2020**

The purpose of the GASB 67/68 Report as of June 30, 2020, is to provide accounting and financial reporting information under GASB 67 for the Plan and under GASB 68 for the County of Tulare and other participating employers. This report is not appropriate for other purposes, including the measurement of funding requirements for the Plan.

The Total Pension Liability (TPL) at the end of the measurement year, June 30, 2020, is measured as of a valuation date of June 30, 2020. The TPL at the beginning of the measurement year, June 30, 2019, was measured as of a valuation date of June 30, 2019.

Please refer to our GASB 67/68 report as of June 30, 2020, for additional information related to the financial reporting of the System. We prepared the following schedules for inclusion in the Financial Section of the CAFR based on the June 30, 2020, GASB 67/68 report:

- Change in Collective Net Pension Liability
- Sensitivity of Collective Net Pension Liability to Changes in Discount Rate
- Schedule of Changes in Collective Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios
- Schedule of Collective Employer Contributions
- Notes to the Schedule of Employer Contributions

We certify that the report was performed in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices and our understanding of the Code of Professional Conduct and applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice set out by the Actuarial Standards Board as well as applicable laws and regulations. In particular, the assumptions and methods used for disclosure purposes have been prepared in accordance with our understanding of generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated by the GASB.

#### **Disclaimers**

In preparing our reports, we relied on information (some oral and some written) supplied by the Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association. This information includes, but is not limited to, the 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.

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; and, changes in plan provisions or applicable law.

These reports are for the use of the Plan and the Plan auditor in preparing financial reports in accordance with applicable law and accounting requirements. Any other user of these reports is not an intended user and is considered a third party.

Cheiron's reports were prepared solely for the Plan for the purposes described herein, except that the Plan auditor may rely on these reports solely for the purpose of completing an audit related to the matters herein. They are not intended to benefit any third party, and Cheiron assumes no duty or liability to any such party.

We are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. These reports do not address any contractual or legal issues. We are not attorneys, and our firm does not provide any legal services or advice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheiron

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

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Stem Mr Hastrys

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## Summary of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

The Entry Age Normal Actuarial Cost Method was used in conjunction with the following actuarial assumptions. The Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) is being funded as a level percentage of payroll over a rolling 15 year period.

1. Interest: 7.00% per annum (6.88% compounded

semi-annually).

2. Interest Credited to Employee Accounts: 7.00% per annum net of investment and

administrative expenses

(6.88% compounded semi-annually).

3. Inflation: 2.75% per annum.

4. Asset Valuation: Smoothed actuarial value (over 10

years) beginning with fiscal year 2009, with 30% corridor around fair value.

5. Salary Scale: Salary increase assumptions vary by

years of service and by division, ranging from 0.5% to 9% for General Members

and Safety Members.

6. Rates of Termination of Employment: See "Probability of Occurrence" on page

91.

7. Spouses and Dependents: 80% of General male, 60% of General

female and 85% of Safety male, 65% of Safety female active employees assumed married at retirement, with wives assumed two years younger than

husbands.

8. Years of Life Expectancy After Retirement: General - RP-2014 Generational

Mortality Table for Males/Females with

MP-2019 projection.

Safety - RP-2014 Generational Mortality Table for Males with

blue-collar adjustment and MP-2019

projection.

General mortality rates are increased by 2.2% for males and 8.0% for females to reflect TCERA experience; Safety mortality rates are increased by 4.5% for males to reflect TCERA experience.

### Summary of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods (Cont.)

Years of Life Expectancy After Disability Retirement: RP-2014 Generational Disabled Annuitant Mortality Table for Males/Females, with MP-2019 projection.

10. Reciprocity Assumption:

60% of General and 65% of Safety members who terminate with a vested benefit are assumed to enter a reciprocal system. Salaries are assumed to increase by 3.5% for General and 4.0% for Safety members per year.

11. Deferral Age for Vested Terminations:

Age 60 for General members, age 55 for Safety members.

12. Duty-Related Deaths:

Percentages of Safety employee deaths assumed to be duty-related:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
20-24	37%
25-30	42%
31-34	45%
35-43	50%
44-45	52%
46-47	54%
48-49	56%
50-54	58%
55-56	60%
57-58	62%
59	63%

# Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Payroll

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2020

Plan Year Ended June 30	At Beginning of Year	Added During Year	Annual Allowances Added to the Rolls	Removed During Year	Annual Allowances Removed from the Rolls	At End of Year	Annual Retiree Payroll	Percent Increase in Annual Retiree Payroll	Average Annual Allowance
2011	2,181	191	\$ 4,602,464	59	\$ 873,415	2,313	\$ 45,224,268	8.99%	\$ 19,552
2012	2,313	181	\$ 4,736,189	70	\$ 985,645	2,424	\$ 48,974,812	8.29%	\$ 20,204
2013	2,424	183	\$ 4,745,718	65	\$ 483,264	2,542	\$ 53,237,266	8.70%	\$ 20,943
2014	2,542	224	\$ 4,198,797	75	\$ 659,212	2,691	\$ 56,776,851	6.65%	\$ 21,099
2015	2,691	218	\$ 4,360,151	88	\$ 1,432,880	2,821	\$ 59,960,567	5.61%	\$ 21,255
2016	2,821	185	\$ 4,540,356	66	\$ 986,150	2,940	\$ 64,292,378	7.22%	\$ 21,868
2017	2,940	191	\$ 4,483,587	59	\$ 895,529	3,072	\$ 68,669,924	6.81%	\$ 22,353
2018	3,072	178	\$ 5,487,994	58	\$ 830,938	3,192	\$ 73,731,771	7.37%	\$ 23,099
2019	3,192	174	\$ 4,705,555	54	\$ 1,098,384	3,312	\$ 78,971,061	7.11%	\$ 23,844
2020	3,312	163	\$ 4,626,973	67	\$ 925,421	3,408	\$ 84,412,237	6.89%	\$ 24,769

#### Active Member Valuation Data

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2020

Valuation					Monthly verage	Percent Increase in
Date	Plan Type	Number	Annual Payroll		Pay	Average Pay*
			•			
6/30/2011	General	3,383	\$ 167,904,886	\$	4,136	1.42%
	Safety	814	51,948,728		5,318	4.01%
	Total	4,197	\$ 219,853,614	\$	4,365	1.99%
6/30/2012	General	2 442	<u> የ 160 000 E40</u>	\$	4.000	-1.06%
6/30/2012	Safety	3,442 849	\$ 169,023,548 53,611,080	Ф	4,092 5,262	-1.05% -1.05%
	Total	4,291	\$ 222,634,628	\$	4,324	-0.94%
	Total	4,291	φ 222,034,020	φ	4,324	-0.94 /0
6/30/2013	General	3,503	\$ 175,385,741	\$	4,172	1.96%
	Safety	880	55,569,015	•	5,262	0.00%
	Total	4,383	\$ 230,954,756	\$	4,391	1.55%
6/30/2014	General	3,514	\$ 177,150,423	\$	4,201	0.70%
	Safety	900	57,418,578		5,317	1.05%
	Total	4,414	\$ 234,569,001	\$	4,429	0.87%
6/30/2015	General	3,506	\$ 180,978,576	\$	4,302	2.40%
0/30/2013	Safety	899	58,076,191	Ψ	5,383	1.24%
	Total	4,405	\$ 239,054,767	\$	4,522	2.10%
	rotai	1, 100	Ψ 200,001,707	Ψ	1,022	2.1070
6/30/2016	General	3,605	\$ 189,379,500	\$	4,378	1.77%
	Safety	891	59,134,379		5,531	2.75%
	Total	4,496	\$ 248,513,879	\$	4,606	1.86%
			•	_		
6/30/2017	General	3,660	\$ 195,555,207	\$	4,453	1.71%
	Safety	876	59,385,565		5,649	2.13%
	Total	4,536	\$ 254,940,772	\$	4,684	1.69%
6/30/2018	General	3,708	\$ 203,019,596	\$	4,563	2.47%
0/30/2010	Safety	873	59,694,221	Ψ	5,698	0.87%
	Total	4,581	\$ 262,713,817	\$	4,779	2.03%
		.,	¥ ===,: :=,=::	•	.,	
6/30/2019	General	3,726	\$ 209,592,852	\$	4,688	2.74%
	Safety	893	62,822,741		5,863	2.90%
	Total	4,619	\$ 272,415,593	\$	4,915	2.85%
0/00/2000		0.700	Φ 040 005 000	•	4.070	4.0407
6/30/2020	General	3,736	\$ 218,605,089	\$	4,876	4.01%
	Safety	869	65,666,913		6,297	7.40%
	Total	4,605	\$ 284,272,002	\$	5,144	4.66%

<sup>\*</sup>Reflects the increase in average salary for members at the beginning of the year versus those at the end of the year. It does not reflect the average salary increases received by members who worked the full year.

## Actuarial Solvency Test

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

#### **Actuarial Accrued Liabilities For:**

	710144	 <u> </u>	I GOG EIGDII	111100		4	
Valuation Date	Active Member ntributions		etirees and eneficiaries		(E F	Active Members Employer Financed Portion)	Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
6/30/2011	\$ 228,275	\$	546,553	;	\$	297,316	\$ 1,072,144
6/30/2012	\$ 231,491	\$	570,367	;	\$	299,598	\$ 1,101,456
6/30/2013	\$ 238,200	\$	621,125	;	\$	326,732	\$ 1,186,057
6/30/2014	\$ 252,883	\$	660,147	;	\$	358,802	\$ 1,271,832
6/30/2015	\$ 264,870	\$	698,147	;	\$	395,418	\$ 1,358,435
6/30/2016	\$ 272,740	\$	748,703	;	\$	409,993	\$ 1,431,436
6/30/2017	\$ 278,900	\$	808,799	;	\$	485,707	\$ 1,573,406
6/30/2018	\$ 287,078	\$	869,729	;	\$	499,550	\$ 1,656,357
6/30/2019	\$ 301,935	\$	925,027	;	\$	514,321	\$ 1,741,283
6/30/2020	\$ 319,562	\$	1,008,432	;	\$	547,804	\$ 1,875,797

## Portion of Accrued Liabilities Covered by Valuation Assets For:

		_		
Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Active Member Contributions	Retired/ Vested Members	Active Members (Employer Financed Portion)
6/30/2011	\$ 969,636	100%	100%	65.5%
6/30/2012	\$ 981,946	100%	100%	60.1%
6/30/2013	\$ 1,048,160	100%	100%	57.8%
6/30/2014	\$ 1,101,929	100%	100%	52.6%
6/30/2015	\$ 1,156,587	100%	100%	49.0%
6/30/2016	\$ 1,192,642	100%	100%	41.8%
6/30/2017	\$ 1,461,755	100%	100%	77.0%
6/30/2018	\$ 1,523,030	100%	100%	73.3%
6/30/2019	\$ 1,598,431	100%	100%	72.2%
6/30/2020	\$ 1,670,786	100%	100%	62.6%

Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

## Actuarial Analysis of Financial Experience

(dollars in thousands)

Plan Years	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Prior Valuation Unfunded Actuarial Liability	\$ 86,571	\$102,509	\$119,511	\$137,898	\$169,902
Expected Increase (Decrease)	1,611	-	-	-	(3,044)
Liability (Gain) Loss	(8,771)	(30,721)	23,027	(5,070)	(12,668)
Change in Actuary	-	-	-	-	33,161
Actuarial (Gain) Loss From Asset Sources	38,745	-	31,625	10,841	10,913
Non-Economic and Economic Assumption Changes	-	46,660	-	-	-
Change in Actuarial Assumptions	(15,647)	-	-	24,599	3,584
Change due to Contributions	-	1,063	(1,844)	5,138	-
Change Regarding Contingency Reserve	-	-	(34,421)	(3,504)	
Ending Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$102,509	\$119,511	\$137,898	\$169,902	\$201,848

Plan Years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Prior Valuation Unfunded Actuarial Liability	\$201,848	\$238,794	\$111,651	\$133,326	\$142,851
Expected Increase (Decrease)	1,212	(494)	(2,106)	(2,726)	(3,378)
Liability (Gain) Loss	(8,948)	(12,983)	286	(161)	5,587
Change in Actuary	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial (Gain) Loss From Asset Sources	33,948	35,034	23,696	10,746	15,577
Non-Economic and Economic Assumption Changes	-	-	-	-	-
Change in Actuarial Assumptions	9,170	82,259	-	-	42,435
Change due to Contributions	1,564	(230,959)	(201)	1,667	1,939
Change Regarding Contingency Reserve	-	-	-	-	
Ending Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$238,794	\$111,651	\$133,326	\$142,852	\$205,011

## **Probability of Occurrence**

Probabilities of Separation from Active Service

_		_	_
Rates	~£ T		-1:
RATES	OT I	ermin	ation

	Gene	eral Members	6	Safety Members					
Age	Svc < 3	Svc 3 - 5	<b>Svc &gt; 5</b>	Svc < 3	Svc 3 - 5	Svc > 5			
20	15.00%	12.00%	10.00%	11.00%	7.00%	6.00%			
25	15.00%	8.00%	8.00%	11.00%	7.00%	6.00%			
30	15.00%	8.00%	6.00%	11.00%	7.00%	4.50%			
35	15.00%	8.00%	5.00%	11.00%	7.00%	4.00%			
40	14.25%	8.00%	5.00%	11.00%	7.00%	4.00%			
45	13.50%	8.00%	5.00%	8.00%	6.00%	3.50%			
50	12.75%	5.00%	5.00%	8.00%	6.00%	0.00%			
55	12.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	6.00%	0.00%			
60	11.25%	5.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			
>=65	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			

#### **Rates of Disability**

	Safety Members				
Male	s	Fema	iles		
Ordinary	Service	Ordinary	Service	Ordinary	Service
0.000%	0.010%	0.000%	0.010%	0.000%	0.110%
0.010%	0.010%	0.010%	0.010%	0.050%	0.170%
0.010%	0.010%	0.010%	0.010%	0.050%	0.400%
0.020%	0.020%	0.080%	0.020%	0.050%	0.560%
0.030%	0.030%	0.140%	0.030%	0.075%	0.660%
0.050%	0.055%	0.200%	0.055%	0.095%	0.750%
0.090%	0.100%	0.300%	0.100%	0.300%	1.000%
0.180%	0.350%	0.400%	0.350%	0.550%	2.250%
0.280%	0.600%	0.540%	0.600%	0.000%	0.000%
0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%	0.000%
	Ordinary 0.000% 0.010% 0.010% 0.020% 0.030% 0.050% 0.090% 0.180% 0.280%	Males           Ordinary         Service           0.000%         0.010%           0.010%         0.010%           0.010%         0.010%           0.020%         0.020%           0.030%         0.030%           0.050%         0.055%           0.090%         0.100%           0.180%         0.350%           0.280%         0.600%	Ordinary         Service         Ordinary           0.000%         0.010%         0.000%           0.010%         0.010%         0.010%           0.010%         0.010%         0.010%           0.020%         0.020%         0.080%           0.030%         0.030%         0.140%           0.050%         0.055%         0.200%           0.090%         0.100%         0.300%           0.180%         0.350%         0.400%           0.280%         0.600%         0.540%	Males         Females           0.000%         0.010%         0.000%         0.010%           0.010%         0.010%         0.010%         0.010%           0.010%         0.010%         0.010%         0.010%           0.020%         0.020%         0.080%         0.020%           0.030%         0.030%         0.140%         0.030%           0.050%         0.055%         0.200%         0.055%           0.090%         0.100%         0.300%         0.100%           0.180%         0.350%         0.400%         0.350%           0.280%         0.600%         0.540%         0.600%	Males         Females           Ordinary         Service         Ordinary         Service         Ordinary           0.000%         0.010%         0.000%         0.010%         0.000%           0.010%         0.010%         0.010%         0.050%           0.010%         0.010%         0.010%         0.050%           0.020%         0.020%         0.080%         0.020%         0.050%           0.030%         0.030%         0.140%         0.030%         0.075%           0.050%         0.055%         0.200%         0.055%         0.095%           0.090%         0.100%         0.300%         0.100%         0.300%           0.180%         0.350%         0.400%         0.350%         0.550%           0.280%         0.600%         0.540%         0.600%         0.000%

#### **Rates of Retirement**

	General M	embers	Safety Members
Age	Svc < 30	Svc > 30	Svc < 30 Svc > 30
45	0.0%	0.00%	7.00% 7.00%
50	5.0%	10.00%	7.00% 7.00%
55	6.0%	10.00%	0.00% 18.00%
60	15.0%	20.00%	20.00% 40.00%
65	35.0%	35.00%	40.00% 75.00%
70	35.0%	35.00%	100.00% 100.00%
>=75	100.0%	100.00%	100.00% 100.00%

Note: Information compiled from Actuarial Report prepared by Cheiron dated June 30, 2020.

## Schedule of Funding Progress

(Dollars in thousands)

Actuarial Valuation Date		Actuarial Accrued Actuarial Liabilitly Value of (AAL) Entry Assets (a) Age (b)				-	unded AAL AAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	C	rojected Covered ayroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Projected Covered Payroll ((b-a)/c)	
6/30/2011		\$	969,681		\$ 1,072,144		\$	102,463	90.4%	\$	219,854	46.6%
6/30/2012		\$	981,946		\$ 1,101,456		\$	119,510	89.1%	\$	222,635	53.7%
6/30/2013		\$	1,048,160		\$ 1,186,057		\$	137,897	88.4%	\$	230,955	59.7%
6/30/2014		\$	1,101,929	1	\$ 1,271,832		\$	169,902	86.6%	\$	234,569	72.4%
6/30/2015		\$	1,156,587	2	\$ 1,358,435		\$	201,848	85.1%	\$	239,055	84.4%
6/30/2016		\$	1,192,642	3	\$ 1,431,436		\$	238,794	83.3%	\$	248,514	96.1%
6/30/2017	4	\$	1,461,755	5	\$ 1,573,406		\$	111,651	92.9%	\$	254,941	43.8%
6/30/2018	6	\$	1,523,030		\$ 1,656,357	7	\$	133,327	92.0%	\$	262,714	50.7%
6/30/2019		\$	1,598,431		\$ 1,741,283	7	\$	142,852	91.8%	\$	272,416	52.4%
6/30/2020		\$	1,670,786	8	\$ 1,875,797		\$	205,011	89.1%	\$	284,272	72.1%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reduction in assumed rate of return from 9.9% to 7.85%, inflation from 4.0% to 3.0%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Reduction in assumed rate of return from 7.85% to 7.65%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Reduction in assumed rate of return from 7.65% to 7.60%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Information for June 30, 2017 includes an accrual for Tulare County Pension Obligation Bond proceeds of \$250 million.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Reduction in assumed rate of return from 7.60% to 7.25%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Information for June 30, 2018 includes the receipt of \$250 million in Pension Obligation Bond proceeds.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This value reflects the information in the Actuarial Valuation report and is off by one due to rounding.

 $<sup>^{8}</sup>$  Reduction in Assumed rate of return from 7.25% to 7.00%, inflation from 3.0% to 2.75%.

## Summary of Major Plan Provisions

Eligibility

First pay period following date of employment.

**Final Average Salary** 

Highest 12 consecutive months of compensation earnable for Tier 1 members and highest 36 consecutive months of compensation earnable for Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 members. The compensation for Tier 4 members will be limited to the Social Security Wage Base on January 1, 2013, adjusted based on the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) each January 1 thereafter.

**Service Retirement** 

#### **Early Retirement**

**General Tiers 1-3** Age 50 and 10 years, or 30 years, or age 70

**General Tier 4** Age 52 and 5 years

Safety Tiers 1-3 Age 50 and 10 years, or 20 years, or age 70

Safety Tier 4 Age 50 and 5 years

#### **Benefit - General Members:**

For service prior to July 1, 2005 Tiers 1-3:

Benefits under Section 31676.11 (Tier 1) and Section 31676.1 (Tier 2 and Tier 3): 1/60 of final average salary times years of service times factor in the table on the following page.

For service after June 30, 2005 Tiers 1-3:

Benefits under Section 31676.12 (Tiers 1-3) 1/50 of final average salary times years of service times factor in the table on the following page.

For service for membership after December 31, 2012 Tier 4:

Benefits required by AB340 (Tier 4) of 2% of final average salary times years of service times factor on the following page.

#### **Benefit - Safety Members:**

For service for membership prior to January 1, 2013 (Tiers 1-3):

Benefits under Section 31664 (Tiers 1-3) of 2% of final average salary times years of service times factor on the following page.

For service for membership after December 31, 2012 (Tier 4):

Benefits required by AB340 (Tier 4) of 2% of final average salary times years of service times factor on the following page.

#### Summary of Major Plan Provisions (Cont.)

#### **Benefit Factors:**

Age	General Tier 1 31676.11	General Tiers 2 & 3 31676.1	General Tiers 1-3 31676.12	General Tier 4 AB340	Safety Tiers 1-3 31664	Safety Tier 4 AB340
41	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6258	n/a
42	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6625	n/a
43	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.7004	n/a
44	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.7397	n/a
45	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.7805	n/a
46	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.8226	n/a
47	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.8678	n/a
48	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.9085	n/a
49	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.9522	n/a
50	0.7454	0.7091	0.6681	n/a	1.0000	1.0000
51	0.7882	0.7457	0.7056	n/a	1.0516	1.0500
52	0.8346	0.7816	0.7454	0.5000	1.1078	1.1000
53	0.8850	0.8181	0.7882	0.5500	1.1692	1.1500
54	0.9399	0.8556	0.8346	0.6000	1.2366	1.2000
55	1.0000	0.8954	0.8850	0.6500	1.3099	1.2500
56	1.0447	0.9382	0.9399	0.7000	1.3099	1.3000
57	1.1048	0.9846	1.0000	0.7500	1.3099	1.3500
58	1.1686	1.0350	1.0447	0.8000	1.3099	1.3500
59	1.2365	1.0899	1.1048	0.8500	1.3099	1.3500
60	1.3093	1.1500	1.1686	0.9000	1.3099	1.3500
61	1.3608	1.1947	1.2365	0.9500	1.3099	1.3500
62	1.4123	1.2548	1.3093	1.0000	1.3099	1.3500
63	1.4638	1.3186	1.3093	1.0500	1.3099	1.3500
64	1.5153	1.3865	1.3093	1.1000	1.3099	1.3500
65	1.5668	1.4593	1.3093	1.1500	1.3099	1.3500
66	1.5668	1.4593	1.3093	1.2000	1.3099	1.3500
67	1.5668	1.4593	1.3093	1.2500	1.3099	1.3500

Non-Service Connected Disability Retirement

20% if 5 years of service plus 2% for each of the next ten years or service retirement benefit (if eligible).

Service Connected Disability Retirement

Greater of 50% of final average salary or service retirement benefit (if eligible).

Integration with Social Security

Tiers 1-3 members are integrated with Social Security. Benefits based on the first \$350 of monthly final average salary are reduced by 1/3.

#### Summary of Major Plan Provisions (Cont.)

Death Before Retirement

If non-service connected before eligible to retire, this benefit is a refund of contributions plus 1/12 of last year's salary per year of service up to

6 years.

If eligible for non-service connected disability or service retirement, the

benefit is 60% of member's accrued allowance.

If service connected death, the benefit is 50% of salary.

Death After Retirement

For service retirement or non-service connected disability, the benefit is

60% of member's allowance payable to an eligible spouse.

For service connected disability, the benefit is 100% of member's

allowance payable to an eligible spouse.

\$5,000 lump sum benefit payable to member's beneficiary.

Vesting

After five years of service.

Must leave contributions on deposit.

**Contributions** 

Member contributions based on entry age. Tiers 1-3 Members with 30 or

more years of service do not pay member contributions.

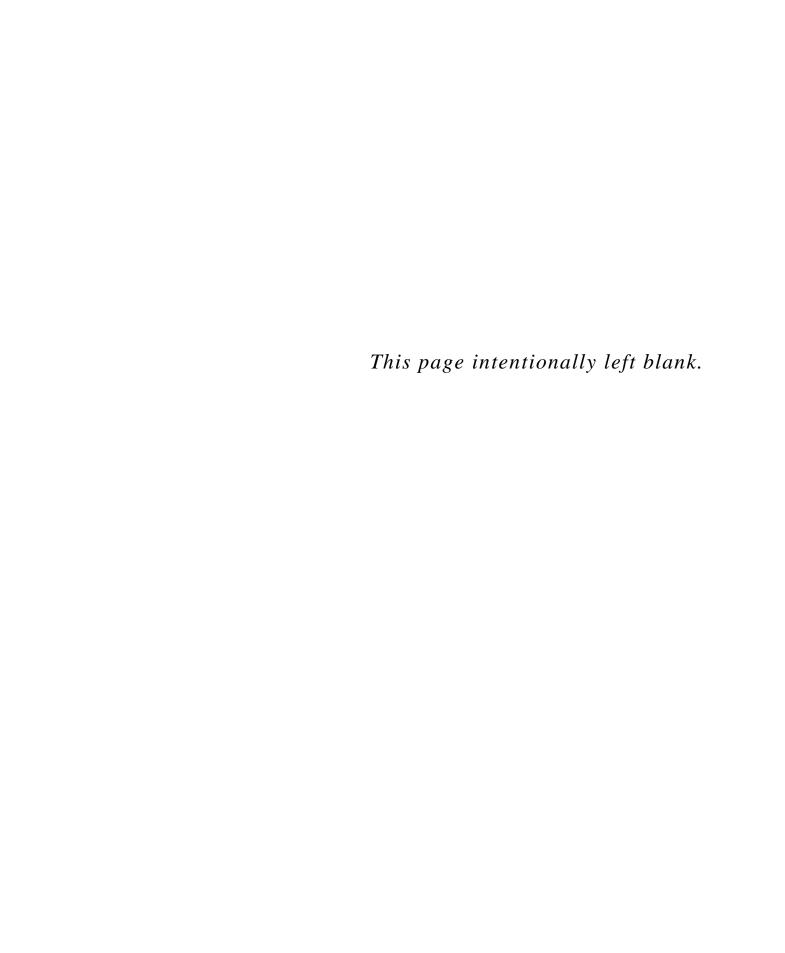
**Maximum Benefit** 

100% of final average salary.

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

Payable April 1. Up to 3% COLA for Tier 1 members, 2% for Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 members, depending on CPI (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario)

changes for the prior calendar year.



# statistical section

#### Statistical Section Overview

The Statistical Section of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report provides additional detailed information in order to promote a more comprehensive understanding of this year's financial statements, note disclosures, and supplemental information. In addition, the multi-year trend information for the financial and operating segments of the Plan provided in this section is intended to facilitate understanding of how the organization's financial activities and positions have changed over time. Information in this section is compiled from data in other sections of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as well as plan data maintained by TCERA.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 44 establishes five categories of information to be provided in the Statistical Section: Financial Trends, Revenue Capacity, Debt Capacity, Demographic and Economic Information, and Operating Information. As a public pension plan engaged in only fiduciary activities, reporting is not applicable in all categories.

**Financial Trends** – Financial trends information is intended to assist users in understanding and assessing how a government's financial position has changed over time. Reports addressing Financial Trends for TCERA include:

- Revenues by Source and Expenses by Type
- Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
- Benefit and Refund Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position by Type

Revenue Capacity - Entities engaged only in fiduciary activities are not required to present revenue capacity schedules.

**Debt Capacity** – The Plan has no long-term debt and therefore does not present debt capacity schedules.

**Demographic and Economic Information** – Entities engaged only in fiduciary activities are not required to present demographic and economic statistics schedules.

**Operating Information** – Operating Information is intended to provide additional details regarding the Plan's retired member benefits and principal participating employers. Reports addressing Operating Information for TCERA include:

- Retired Members by Type of Retirement
- Schedule of Average Benefit Payments
- Participating Employers and Active Members
- Retired Members by Type of Benefit
- Benefit and Refund Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position
- Average Benefit Payment

## Revenues by Source and Expenses by Type

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2020

#### **Revenues by Source**

(dollars in thousands)

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	nployee tributions	Employer Contributions		% of Annual Covered Payroll <sup>1</sup>	Investment Income (Loss)		Other come	Total
2011	\$ 17,799	\$	23,434	10.66%	\$ 183,507	\$	56	\$ 224,796
2012	\$ 16,471	\$	25,257	11.34%	\$ (12, 155)	\$	55	\$ 29,628
2013	\$ 18,430	\$	29,847	12.92%	\$ 112,289	\$	57	\$ 160,623
2014	\$ 18,969	\$	25,953	11.06%	\$ 176,828	\$	56	\$ 221,806
2015	\$ 18,888	\$	30,992	12.96%	\$ 10,877	\$	166	\$ 60,923
2016	\$ 16,814	\$	31,297	12.59%	\$ (20,474)	\$	166	\$ 27,803
2017	\$ 18,190	\$	33,616	13.19%	\$ 132,699	\$	166	\$ 184,671
2018	\$ 18,512	\$	286,263	108.96%	\$ 95,670	\$	187	\$ 400,632
2019	\$ 22,325	\$	33,494	12.30%	\$ 90,590	\$	189	\$ 146,598
2020	\$ 23,104	\$	35,310	12.42%	\$ 9,327	\$	188	\$ 67,929

#### **Expenses by Type**

(dollars in thousands)

Fiscal Year Ended June 30	inistrative penses	Refunds		Pension Benefits		Death Benefits		Total Benefits	Total
2011	\$ 1,695	\$	3,352	\$	50,142	\$	288	\$ 50,430	\$ 55,477
2012	\$ 1,720	\$	4,354	\$	54,034	\$	301	\$ 54,335	\$ 60,409
2013	\$ 1,780	\$	3,394	\$	58,114	\$	416	\$ 58,530	\$ 63,704
2014	\$ 2,049	\$	3,300	\$	62,199	\$	455	\$ 62,654	\$ 68,003
2015	\$ 2,408	\$	3,081	\$	65,192	\$	287	\$ 65,479	\$ 70,968
2016	\$ 2,616	\$	3,198	\$	68,166	\$	968	\$ 69,134	\$ 74,948
2017	\$ 2,612	\$	3,519	\$	72,742	\$	700	\$ 73,442	\$ 79,573
2018	\$ 2,666	\$	3,633	\$	76,644	\$	439	\$ 77,083	\$ 83,382
2019	\$ 2,806	\$	2,861	\$	81,715	\$	521	\$ 82,236	\$ 87,903
2020	\$ 2,853	\$	3,534	\$	87,311	\$	582	\$ 87,893	\$ 94,280

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Annual Covered Payroll for purposes of this calculation is the actual pensionable compensation for the fiscal year.

## Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ADDITIONS						
Contributions						
Employer Contributions	\$ 23,	434 \$	25,257	\$ 29,847	\$ 25,953	\$ 30,992
Plan Member Contributions	17,	799	16,471	18,430	18,969	18,887
Total Contributions	41,	233	41,728	48,277	44,922	49,879
Investment Income (Loss) (net of expense)	183,	507	(12,155)	112,289	176,828	10,877
Other Income		56	55	57	56	166
TOTAL ADDITIONS (DECLINES) TO FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	\$ 224,	796 \$	5 29,628	\$160,623	\$221,806	\$ 60,922
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b> (See Benefit and Refund Dec	luctions	from Fig	duciary Net	Postition by	Type)	
Benefits	\$ 50,	430 \$	54,335	\$ 58,530	\$ 62,654	\$ 65,479
Refunds of Contributions	3,	352	4,354	3,394	3,300	3,081
Administrative Expense	1,	695	1,720	1,780	2,049	2,408
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	\$ 55,	477 \$	60,409	\$ 63,704	\$ 68,003	\$ 70,968
CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	<b>\$ 169</b> ,	319	(30,781)	\$ 96,919	\$153,803	\$ (10,046)

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ADDITIONS		2010	2017	2016	2019	2020
Contributions	Φ.	04 007	Ф 00 040	<b>#</b> 000 000	<b>1</b> 00 101	Φ 05 040
Employer Contributions	\$	31,297	\$ 33,616	\$286,263	\$ 33,494	\$ 35,310
Plan Member Contributions		16,815	18,190	18,512	22,325	23,104
Total Contributions		48,112	51,806	304,775	55,819	58,414
Investment Income (Loss)		(20,474)	132,699	95,670	90,590	9,327
(net of expense)						
Other Income		165	166_	187_	189_	188_
TOTAL ADDITIONS (DECLINES)						
TO FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	\$	27,803	\$184,671	\$400,632	\$146,598	\$ 67,929
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b> (See Benefit and Refund Dec	luct	ions from	Fiduciary Ne	t Position by	Type)	
Benefits	\$	69,134	\$ 73,442	\$ 77,083	\$ 82,236	\$ 87,893
Refunds of Contributions	,	3,198	3,519	3,633	2,861	3,534
Administrative Expense		2,616	2,612	2,666	2,806	2,853
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	\$	74,948	\$ 79,573	\$ 83,382	\$ 87,903	\$ 94,280
CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION	<u> </u>	(47,145)	\$105,098	\$317,250	\$ 58,695	\$ (26,351)

## Retired Members by Type of Retirement

	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015
Service Retirement					
General	1,557	1,630	1,710	1,815	1,899
Safety	216	225	241	246	262
Total	1,773	1,855	1,951	2,061	2,161
Ordinary Disability					
General	74	89	96	99	107
Safety	6	9	9	11	12
Total	80	98	105	110	119
Duty Disability					
General	78	74	77	78	81
Safety	81	81	84	87	94
Total	159	155	161	165	175
Beneficiaries					
General	252	265	273	287	294
Safety	49	51	52	68	72
Total	301	316	325	355	366
Total Retirement Members					
General	1,961	2,058	2,156	2,279	2,381
Safety	352	366	386	412	440
Total	2,313	2,424	2,542	2,691	2,821
	0/20/2040	0/00/0047	0/00/0040	0/00/0040	0/00/0000

	6/30/2016	6/30/2017	6/30/2018	6/30/2019	6/30/2020
Service Retirement					
General	1,989	2,039	2,111	2,188	2,226
Safety	276	284	311	331	348
Total	2,265	2,323	2,422	2,519	2,574
Ordinary Disability					
General	103	111	107	109	105
Safety	14	15	17	19	18
Total	117	126	124	128	123
Duty Disability					
General	78	94	93	96	102
Safety	99	105	113	111	122
Total	177	199	206	207	224
Beneficiaries					
General	303	335	347	356	382
Safety	78	89	93	102	105
Total	381	424	440	458	487
Total Retirement Members					
General	2,473	2,579	2,658	2,749	2,815
Safety	467	493	534	563	593
Total	2,940	3,072	3,192	3,312	3,408

## Schedule of Average Benefit Payments

**Includes Retirees and Beneficiaries** 

Valuation	es and beneficialle	3	Annual	Annual Average	Percent Increase in Average
Date	Plan Type	Number	Benefits	Benefits	Benefits
6/30/2011	General	1,961	\$ 34,253,416	\$ 17,472	3.70%
0/00/2011	Safety	352	10,970,852	31,164	0.43%
	Total	2,313	\$ 45,224,268	\$ 19,548	2.78%
6/30/2012	General	2,058	\$ 37,246,457	\$ 18,096	3.57%
	Safety	366	11,728,355	32,040	2.81%
	Total	2,424	\$ 48,974,812	\$ 20,208	3.38%
6/30/2013	General	2,156	\$ 40,459,814	\$ 18,768	3.71%
	Safety	386	12,777,452	33,108	3.33%
	Total	2,542	\$ 53,237,266	\$ 20,940	3.62%
6/30/2014	General	2,279	\$ 43,087,370	\$ 18,912	0.77%
	Safety	412	13,689,481	33,228	0.36%
	Total	2,691	\$ 56,776,851	\$ 21,096	0.74%
6/30/2015	General	2,381	\$ 45,238,105	\$ 19,000	0.47%
	Safety	440	14,722,461	33,460	0.70%
	Total	2,821	\$ 59,960,566	\$ 21,255	0.75%
6/30/2016	General	2,473	\$ 48,616,638	\$ 19,659	3.47%
	Safety	467	15,675,740	33,567	0.32%
	Total	2,940	\$ 64,292,378	\$ 21,868	2.88%
6/30/2017	General	2,579	\$51,970,685	\$ 20,151	2.50%
	Safety	493	16,699,239	33,873	0.91%
	Total	3,072	\$68,669,924	\$ 22,353	2.22%
6/30/2018	General	2,658	\$55,107,749	\$ 20,733	2.89%
	Safety	534	18,624,022	34,876	2.96%
	Total	3,192	\$ 73,731,771	\$ 23,099	3.34%
6/30/2019	General	2,749	\$59,081,180	\$ 21,492	3.66%
	Safety	563	19,889,881	35,328	1.30%
	Total	3,312	\$ 78,971,061	\$ 23,844	3.23%
6/30/2020	General	2,815	\$62,618,882	\$ 22,245	3.50%
	Safety	593	21,793,355	36,751	4.03%
	Total	3,408	\$84,412,237	\$ 24,796	3.99%

## Participating Employers and Active Members

As of June 30

Year	County o	of Tulare	Tulare County Superior Court		Strathmo Utility D		Total Active Membership	
	Members	Percent	Members	Percent	Members	Percent	Members	Percent
2011	3,954	94.21%	240	5.72%	3	0.07%	4,197	100%
2012	4,054	94.48%	234	5.45%	3	0.07%	4,291	100%
2013	4,163	94.98%	217	4.95%	3	0.07%	4,383	100%
2014	4,198	95.11%	213	4.82%	3	0.07%	4,414	100%
2015	4,176	94.80%	226	5.13%	3	0.07%	4,405	100%
2016	4,261	94.77%	232	5.16%	3	0.07%	4,496	100%
2017	4,302	94.84%	231	5.09%	3	0.07%	4,536	100%
2018	4,333	94.59%	245	5.35%	3	0.06%	4,581	100%
2019	4,367	94.54%	250	5.41%	2	0.05%	4,619	100%
2020	4,352	94.51%	251	5.45%	2	0.04%	4,605	100%

## Retired Members by Type of Benefit

As of June 30, 2020

Amount of	Number of	Type of Retiremen							ent 1			
Monthly	Retired		GENERAL					SAFETY				
Benefit	Members	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Deferred	2,183											
\$1 - \$250	141	125	1	0	2	0		8	0	5	0	0
\$251 - \$500	213	187	6	0	3	2		13	1	1	0	0
\$501 - \$750	277	214	20	1	14	0		24	1	0	1	2
\$751 - \$1000	316	262	22	0	14	0		13	1	1	2	1
\$1001 - \$1250	282	230	20	1	6	0		19	4	1	1	0
\$1251 - \$1500	283	229	17	15	2	0		15	2	0	3	0
\$1501 - \$1750	247	181	24	16	1	1		20	1	3	0	0
\$1751 - \$2000	219	165	11	17	1	1		20	0	2	2	0
Over \$2000	1,430	915	22	65	1	1		275	11	132	6	2
TOTAL	3,408	2,508	143	115	44	5		407	21	145	15	5

		Option Selected <sup>2</sup>								
		U	1	2	3	4	CS			
\$1 - \$250	141	117	2	19	0	2	1			
\$251 - \$500	213	179	2	28	2	0	2			
\$501 - \$750	277	242	2	24	1	0	8			
\$751 - \$1000	316	278	1	26	1	0	10			
\$1001 - \$1250	282	249	4	23	1	0	5			
\$1251 - \$1500	283	249	3	27	0	2	2			
\$1501 - \$1750	247	231	2	14	0	0	0			
\$1751 - \$2000	219	197	1	18	0	0	3			
Over \$2000	1,430	1,324	6	91	0	1	8			
TOTAL	3,408	3,066	23	270	5	5	39			

#### Notes:

- 1 Service
- 2 Non-Service Connected Disability
- 3 Service Connected Disability
- 4 Beneficiary Payment Ordinary Death
- 5 Beneficiary Payment Duty Death

**U** Unmodified: Eligible Surviving Spouse receives 60% continuance

The following options reduce the retired member's monthly benefit.

The Beneficiary receives:

- 1 Funds remaining in member's account
- 2 100% continuance of member's reduced monthly benefit
- 3 50% continuance of member's reduced monthly benefit
- 4 Continuance for multiple beneficiaries calculated by actuary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Type of Retirement:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Option Selected:

## Benefit and Refund Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position

Last Ten Fiscal Years (dollars in thousands)

Type of Bene	efit	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Age and Serv	ice Benefits:					
9	General	\$29,630	\$32,283	\$35,060	\$37,612	\$39,877
	Safety	8,150	8,605	9,364	10,134	10,760
Disability Ben	nefits - Service:					
	General	1,537	1,740	1,800	1,799	1,924
	Safety	2,257	2,267	2,385	2,567	2,733
Disability Ben	nefits - Non-Service:					
	General	1,607	1,719	1,800	1,840	1,882
	Safety	138	179	164	239	375
Death Benefit	s - Ordinary:					
	General	261	266	281	432	398
	Safety	24	24	25	250	256
Death Benefit	s - Duty:					
	General	14	15	15	15	16
	Safety	180	221	237	355	127
SRBR Benefit	ts					
	General	5,306	5,536	5,758	5,718	5,626
	Safety	1,038	1,179	1,224	1,238	1,217
Death Benefit	rs .	288	301	417	455	288
Total Benefits	_	\$50,430	\$54,335	\$58,529	\$62,654	\$65,479
Type of Refu	nd					
Death		595	131	180	145	73
Separation		2,757	4,223	3,214	3,155	3,008
Total Refunds	<u>-</u>	\$3,352	\$4,354	\$3,394	\$3,300	\$3,081

## Benefit and Refund Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position (Cont.)

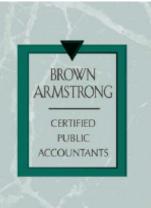
Last Ten Fiscal Years (dollars in thousands)

Type of Benefit		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Age and Ser	vice Repofits:							
Age and Ser	General	\$42,356	\$45,711	\$48,774	\$52,010	\$55,515		
	Safety	11,310	12,139	13,121	14,497	15,786		
	Jaiety	11,510	12,133	13, 12 1	14,437	13,700		
Disability Ber	nefits - Service:							
	General	1,868	2,129	2,110	2,181	2,382		
	Safety	3,016	3,183	3,418	3,536	3,821		
Disability Ber	nefits - Non-Service:							
	General	1,865	1,872	1,883	1,892	1,863		
	Safety	371	449	512	547	590		
Death Benefits - Ordinary:								
	General	404	389	395	429	449		
	Safety	210	245	252	258	265		
Death Benefi	•							
	General	16	62	51	51	52		
	Safety	129	130	129	125	159		
SRBR Benefi	its							
	General	5,409	6,130	5,706	5,847	6,044		
	Safety	1,212	303	293	342	385		
	·							
Death Benefi	ts	968	700	439	521	582		
Total Benefits	S	\$69,134	\$73,442	\$77,083	\$82,236	\$87,893		
Type of Refu	ınd							
Death		179	557	403	154	125		
Separation		3,019	2,962	3,230	2,707	3,409		
·		, 	· 	, 	<i>.</i> 	, 		
Total Refunds	5	\$3,198	\$3,519	\$3,633	\$2,861	\$3,534		

**Average Benefit Payment**For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2020

	Years Credited Service						
Retirement Effective Dates	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30+
Period 7/1/2010 to 6/30/2011 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 395 \$ 6,469 19	\$ 1,092 \$ 5,451 22	\$ 1,435 \$ 4,570 41	\$ 2,142 \$ 4,624 31	\$ 2,344 \$ 4,241 25	\$ 4,249 \$ 6,680 12	\$ 6,294 \$ 7,090 10
Period 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 478 \$ 6,454 15	\$ 786 \$ 5,034 15	\$ 1,342 \$ 4,400 33	\$ 2,318 \$ 5,468 20	\$ 2,602 \$ 5,058 15	\$ 3,839 \$ 5,528 14	\$ 5,532 \$ 6,492 17
Period 7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 353 \$ 7,620 13	\$ 1,055 \$ 6,192 19	\$ 1,573 \$ 4,612 37	\$ 2,325 \$ 5,216 23	\$ 2,898 \$ 4,957 16	\$ 4,387 \$ 6,604 15	\$ 5,682 \$ 6,299 21
Period 7/1/2013 to 6/30/2014 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 597 \$ 7,690 13	\$ 953 \$ 4,831 26	\$ 1,381 \$ 4,555 50	\$ 1,718 \$ 4,194 31	\$ 2,468 \$ 4,363 27	\$ 4,029 \$ 6,250 11	\$ 4,375 \$ 5,168 10
Period 7/1/2014 to 6/30/2015 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 424 \$ 6,752 17	\$ 825 \$ 4,916 29	\$ 1,340 \$ 4,401 60	\$ 2,063 \$ 4,583 30	\$ 2,377 \$ 4,217 17	\$ 3,465 \$ 5,248 14	\$ 5,470 \$ 6,514 16
Period 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 463 \$ 6,520 15	\$ 917 \$ 5,713 31	\$ 1,575 \$ 4,886 40	\$ 2,053 \$ 4,662 34	\$ 2,633 \$ 5,009 25	\$ 3,421 \$ 5,364 17	\$ 6,764 \$ 7,578 14
Period 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 606 \$ 6,130 19	\$ 1,113 \$ 5,337 24	\$ 1,597 \$ 5,280 38	\$ 2,081 \$ 4,974 28	\$ 2,537 \$ 4,318 27	\$ 2,962 \$ 5,024 16	\$ 5,275 \$ 6,749 14
Period 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 340 \$ 7,312 19	\$ 745 \$ 4,976 27	\$ 1,758 \$ 5,631 38	\$ 2,462 \$ 5,297 29	\$ 2,772 \$ 5,610 26	\$ 4,470 \$ 6,271 15	\$ 6,504 \$ 7,555 17
Period 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 333 \$ 7,813 18	\$ 1,030 \$ 6,401 31	\$ 1,935 \$ 6,175 32	\$ 2,523 \$ 5,436 23	\$ 3,826 \$ 6,985 25	\$ 4,298 \$ 6,438 12	\$ 4,900 \$ 5,830 23
Period 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020 Average Monthly Benefit Average Final Salary Number of Retired Members	\$ 510 \$ 9,153 17	\$ 1,263 \$ 6,668 20	\$ 1,838 \$ 5,925 26	\$ 2,677 \$ 6,010 20	\$ 3,090 \$ 6,058 25	\$ 2,945 \$ 4,611 19	\$ 6,069 \$ 7,204 25

## Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards



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#### BROWN ARMSTRONG

Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Retirement Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association Visalia, California

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Tulare County Employees' Retirement Association (TCERA), a pension trust fund of the County of Tulare, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the basic financial statements, which collectively comprise TCERA's basic financial statements, and the Schedule of Cost Sharing Employer Allocations, and the Schedule of Employer Pension Amounts Allocated by Cost Sharing Plan totals for all entities of the columns titled net pension liability, total deferred outflows of resources, total deferred inflows of resources, and total pension expense excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions, specified column totals (other information), as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated November 30, 2020.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements and other information, we considered TCERA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements and other information, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of TCERA's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of TCERA's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of TCERA's basic financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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#### Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether TCERA's basic financial statements and other information are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the basic financial statements and other information. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of TCERA's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering TCERA's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Brown Armstrong
Accountancy corporation

Brown Armstrong

Accountancy Corporation

Bakersfield, California November 30, 2020