

2018 POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

1998 2002 2006 2010 2014

It All Adds Up

80 YEARS OF SERVICE



“For 80 years at LACERA, we have kept sight of what our work all adds up to: the financial security of our members, who have dedicated their careers to public service.”

Lou Lazatin
Chief Executive Officer

This Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) summarizes the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018; it does not replace the CAFR. Financial data presented herein is derived from the CAFR and prepared in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board’s reporting guidelines and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles of the United States of America (GAAP). The CAFR will be available on lacera.com in January 2019.

ABOUT LACERA

In 1937, Los Angeles County established a pension trust fund to provide defined retirement and death benefits to eligible County employees. In 1938, LACERA was introduced to administer it. Since 1971, LACERA has also administered the Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program.

Our Services

LACERA is an independent governmental entity, separate and distinct from the County of Los Angeles (County), that administers and manages the retirement fund for the County and outside districts. We are one of the largest county retirement systems in the United States, and our mission is to produce, protect, and provide the promised benefits.

Our Management

LACERA is governed by two boards. Both boards are composed of elected and appointed members. The LACERA Board of Retirement is responsible for the overall management of the retirement system and the LACERA-administered Retiree Healthcare Benefits Program (or Other Post-Employment Benefits Program), which is subsidized by the County. The LACERA Board of Investments is responsible for establishing LACERA’s investment policy and objectives, as well as exercising authority and control over the investment management of the fund.

It All ADDS UP

INVESTMENTS

LACERA is responsible for the administration and investment of two separate funds (Fund or Funds): the County defined benefit retirement plan (Pension Plan or Plan), the assets of which provide retirement benefits for employees of the County and outside districts; and the LACERA Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust (OPEB Trust or Trust), the assets of which are accumulated to provide benefits such as retiree healthcare for employees of the County, LACERA, and the Superior Court of California (Court).

Asset Allocation Policy

In its role as a fiduciary, the LACERA Board of Investments adopts and periodically reviews distinct Investment Policy Statements (IPS), which provide an overall framework for the governance and management of the Pension Plan’s and the OPEB Trust’s assets. A fundamental principle that serves as the cornerstone of each Fund’s IPS and implementation approach is that the Funds are managed for the sole benefit of LACERA’s members.

An investment fund’s strategic asset allocation policy is generally recognized to have the most impact on a fund’s investment performance. During fiscal year 2018, the LACERA Board of Investments conducted a strategic asset allocation analysis for both the Pension Plan and OPEB Trust and approved updated investment return assumptions, additional investment strategies, and a new asset allocation overlay that will enhance the focus on risk management across both portfolios. The Pension Plan’s new policy will be implemented in stages, with an expected time frame of 18 to 24 months for the portfolio to be transitioned in full. When fully implemented, the new strategic asset allocations are expected to increase portfolio diversification while maintaining expected returns.

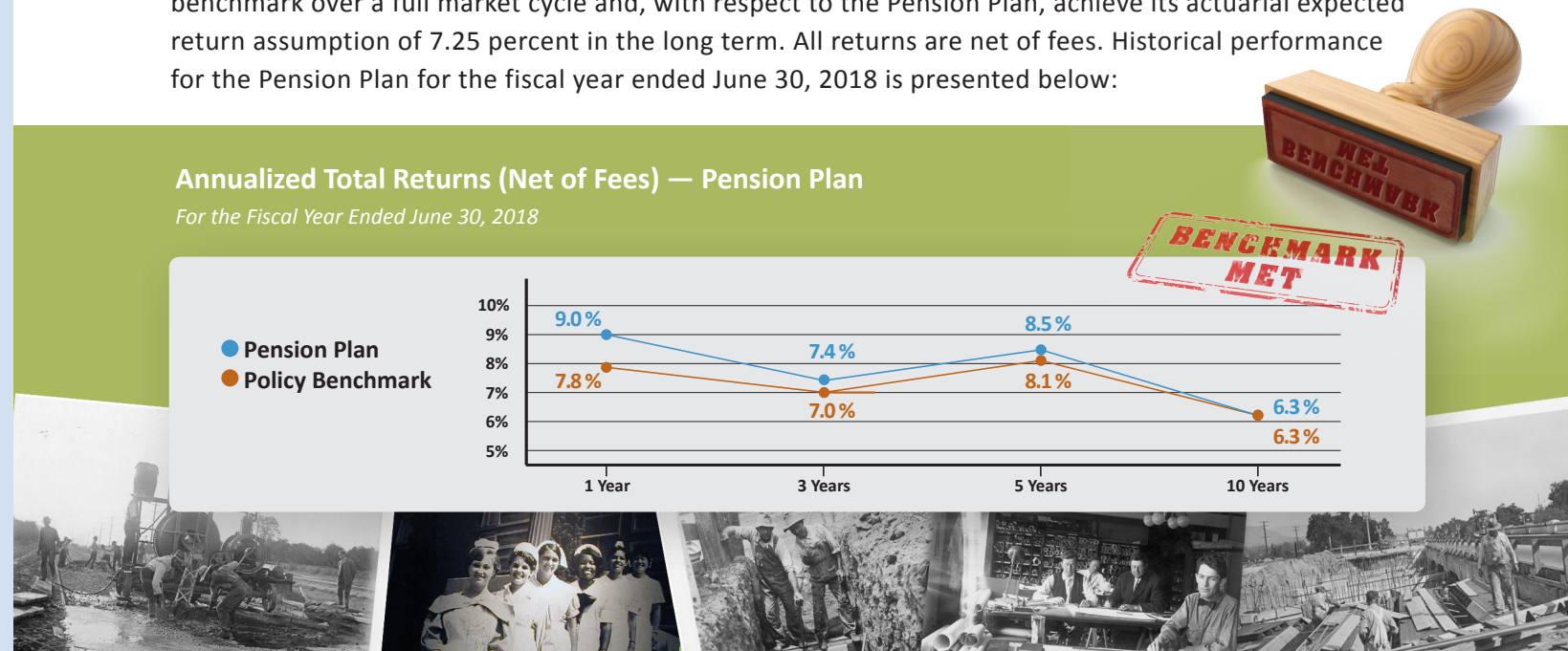
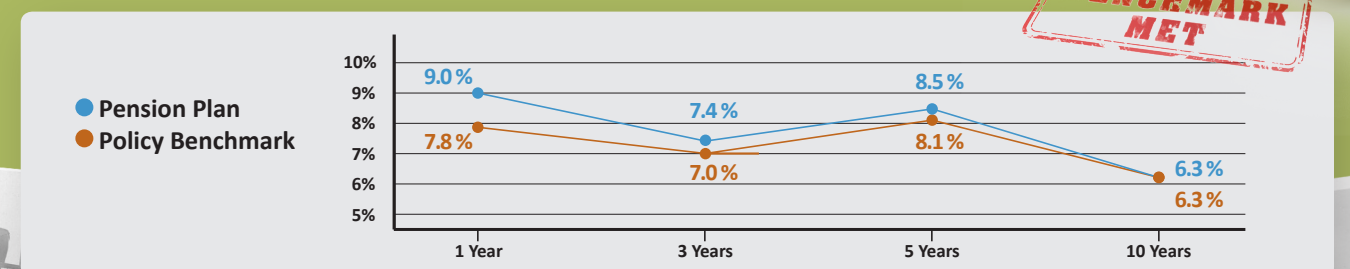
PENSION PLAN

Annual Returns

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the Pension Plan returned 9.0 percent, outperforming its policy benchmark return and actuarial investment return assumption of 7.8 percent and 7.25 percent, respectively. The Pension Plan’s investment portfolio outperformed its custom benchmark on an annualized basis in the one-, three-, and five-year periods ended June 30, 2018 and matched its benchmark in the 10-year period. LACERA’s goal is to meet or slightly exceed each Fund’s policy benchmark over a full market cycle and, with respect to the Pension Plan, achieve its actuarial expected return assumption of 7.25 percent in the long term. All returns are net of fees. Historical performance for the Pension Plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 is presented below:

Annualized Total Returns (Net of Fees) — Pension Plan

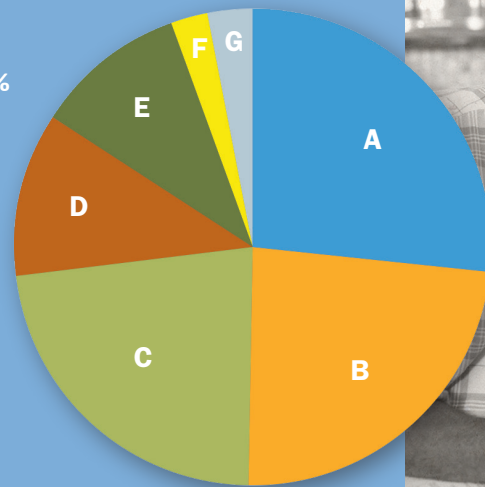
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018



Pension Plan Actual Asset Allocation*

As of June 30, 2018

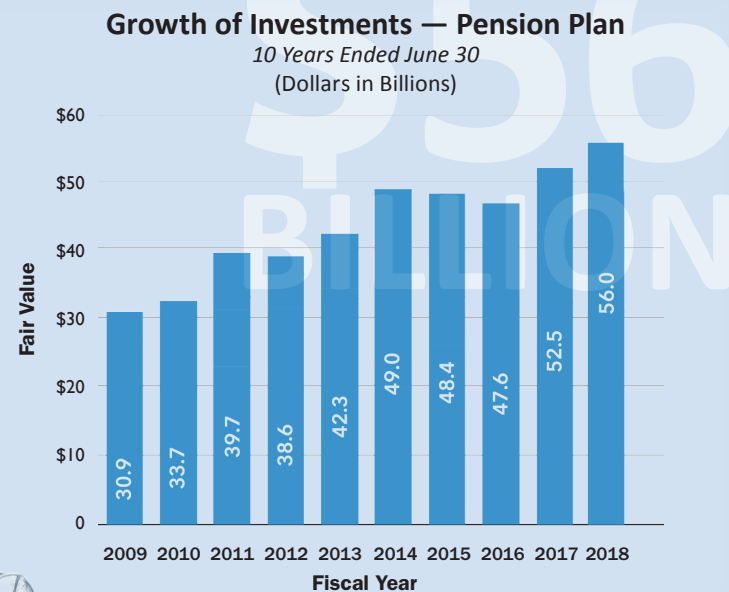
- A** Fixed Income & Cash 26.8%
- B** U.S. Equity 23.5%
- C** Non-U.S. Equity 22.8%
- D** Real Estate 11.2%
- E** Private Equity 10.3%
- F** Commodities 2.5%
- G** Hedge Funds 2.9%



*Asset allocation based on Investment Manager classifications.



Over the last 10 years, LACERA's Pension Plan investment portfolio has nearly doubled in size from over \$30 billion to \$56 billion. The LACERA Board of Investments strives to implement policies that position the portfolio for continued long-term growth.



Fiduciary Net Position Restricted for Benefits

As of June 30, 2018, the Fiduciary Net Position Restricted for Benefits totaled \$56.3 billion, and represents the assets available for future payments to retirees and their beneficiaries. This amount represents an increase of \$3.6 billion, or 6.7 percent, from the prior year.

The primary sources that finance the promised benefits LACERA provides are investment income and the collection of member (employee) and plan sponsors (employers) retirement contributions. For fiscal year 2018, Total Additions amounted to \$6.8 billion, achieved through investment returns and retirement contributions.

The primary uses of LACERA's assets include the payment of promised benefits to members and their beneficiaries, the refund of contributions to terminated employees, and the cost of administering the Plan. Total Deductions for fiscal year 2018 amounted to \$3.3 billion.

Additions and Deductions in Fiduciary Net Position — Pension Plan

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2018, 2017, and 2016

(Dollars in Millions)

	2018	2017	2016
Contributions	\$2,116	\$1,858	\$1,902
Net Investment Income	4,722	6,136	83
Total Additions	\$6,838	\$7,994	\$1,985
Benefits and Refunds	\$(3,203)	\$(3,030)	\$(2,889)
Administrative Expenses and Miscellaneous	(79)	(67)	(67)
Total Deductions	\$(3,282)	\$(3,097)	\$(2,956)
Net Increase/(Decrease) During the Year	\$3,556	\$4,897	\$(971)
Beginning Net Position Restricted for Benefits	52,744	47,847	48,818
Ending Net Position Restricted for Benefits	\$56,300	\$52,744	\$47,847

Funded Status

In order to determine whether the Net Position Restricted for Benefits will be sufficient to meet future obligations, an independent actuary conducts an actuarial valuation to calculate the actuarial funded status of the Pension Plan and measure the Pension Plan's funding progress. An actuarial valuation is similar to an inventory process. On the valuation date, the assets available for the payment of the promised benefits are appraised. These assets are compared with the actuarial liabilities, which are the actuarial present value of all future promised benefits expected to be paid for each member. The purpose of the valuation is to determine future contribution amounts required from the members and the plan sponsors to pay all expected future promised benefits. Under the terms of the LACERA Board of Investments' Retirement Benefit Funding Policy, changes to the employer contribution rates are recommended by the actuary to ensure liabilities not funded through portfolio earnings and employee contributions are satisfied.

LACERA's independent consulting actuary, Milliman, performed the latest actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2017 and determined that the Funded Ratio of the actuarial assets to the actuarial accrued liabilities increased to 79.9 percent, as compared to 79.4 percent as of the June 30, 2016 valuation.

LACERA Funded Ratio For the Last Five Actuarial Valuations

Valuation Date	Funded Ratio
June 30, 2017	79.9%
June 30, 2016	79.4%
June 30, 2015	83.3%
June 30, 2014	79.5%
June 30, 2013	75.0%

LACERA Membership

For the Last Three Fiscal Years Ended June 30

	2018	2017	2016	(2018-2017) % Change	(2017-2016) % Change
Active Members	106,943	105,562	103,682	1.3%	1.8%
Retired Members	64,881	63,295	61,893	2.5%	2.3%
Total Membership	171,824	168,857	165,575	1.8%	2.0%

Cost-of-Living Adjustment

LACERA members may receive more than one type of cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

COLA (“April 1st COLA”): By law, LACERA retirement and survivor allowances are subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The adjustment is driven by changes in the cost of living over the previous 12-month period as of December 31.

Each year, the LACERA Board of Retirement is required to review the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metro area to determine whether there has been an increase or decrease in the cost of living over the prior year. The difference is reflected as a percentage. The maximum allowable COLA adjustment is determined by the provisions of each LACERA retirement plan. Plan A allows a maximum adjustment of 3 percent; the other LACERA plans allow a maximum of 2 percent.

By law, LACERA applies the percentage of annual increase or decrease in the cost of living, rounded to the nearest one-half of one percent, to each total retirement and survivor allowance. Any percentage above the maximum allowable amount is added to the COLA Accumulation to supplement future COLA benefits. The adjustment is effective annually on April 1 and begins with April allowances. Members who retired prior to April 1 and eligible survivors of members who died prior to April 1 are eligible for a COLA.

On February 15, 2018, the LACERA Board of Retirement approved the maximum allowable COLA increases based on retirement plan for retirees and eligible survivors, which was effective April 1, 2018.

Plan E COLA: Effective June 4, 2002, Plan E members and their survivors are also eligible for a COLA. Until 2002, only contributory members were eligible. The portion of the COLA percentage received by each Plan E member is a ratio of the member’s service credit earned on and after June 4, 2002, to total service credit. The portion of the full increase not awarded may be purchased by the member.

ANNUAL BUDGET

For fiscal year 2018, the LACERA Boards of Retirement and Investments jointly approved the \$83.6 million annual operating budget. The actual expenditures were \$78.2 million, which represents approximately 0.14 percent of total Net Position Restricted for Benefits in fiscal year 2018.

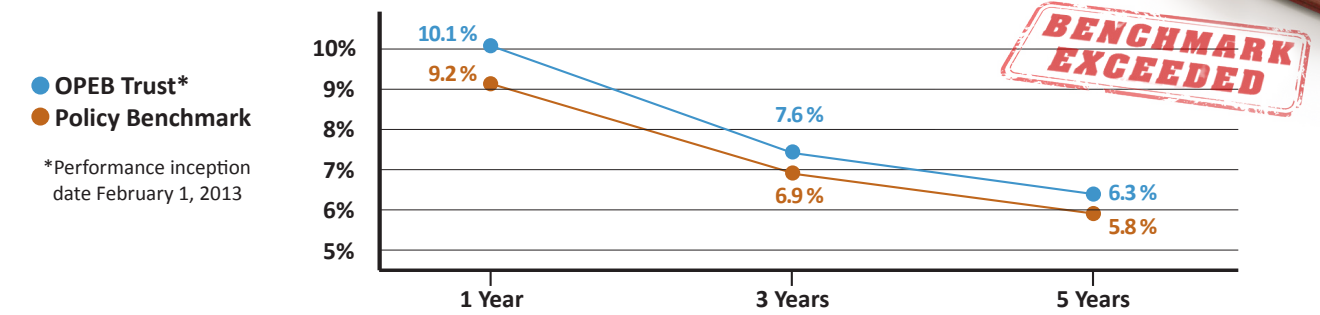
OPEB TRUST

Annual Returns

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the OPEB Trust gained 10.1 percent for the period, outperforming its policy benchmark return of 9.2 percent. The OPEB Trust surpassed its benchmark over the one-, three-, and five-year annualized periods. All returns are net of fees. Historical performance for the OPEB Trust for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 is presented on the next page.

Annualized Total Returns (Net of Fees) — OPEB Trust

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

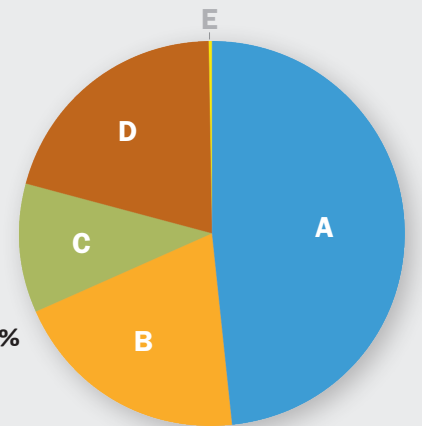


The LACERA Board of Investments’ revised asset allocation policy divides the OPEB Trust into four broad functional categories and contains both existing and new asset classes that align with the purpose of each investment portfolio approach and style. The revised allocation model expands the asset class diversification of the portfolio and is intended to provide enhanced risk-adjusted returns over a full market cycle.

OPEB Trust Actual Asset Allocation

As of June 30, 2018

- A** Growth **48.5%**
- B** Credit **20.1%**
- C** Risk Reduction & Mitigation **10.7%**
- D** Inflation Hedges **20.5%**
- E** Cash **0.2%**



The County and other plan sponsors continue to fund the current ongoing OPEB Program benefits due on a “pay-as-you-go” basis. In addition, plan sponsors made regular contributions to the OPEB Trust, which are accumulated and invested to offset current benefit liabilities.

Contributions — OPEB Trust

For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2018 and 2017

(Dollars in Thousands)

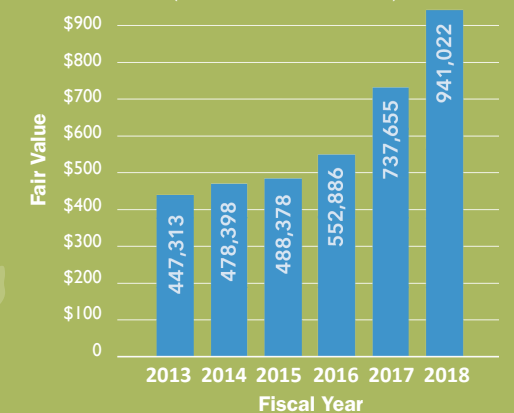
	2018	2017
Los Angeles County	\$120,796	\$61,145
LACERA	491	243
Superior Court	2,016	26,612
Total Contributions ¹	\$123,303	\$88,000

¹Contributions are limited to OPEB Trust pre-funding and exclude pay-as-you-go contributions, which are part of the OPEB Trust employer contributions in the CAFR’s Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

Growth of Investments — OPEB Trust

Six Years Ended June 30

(Dollars in Thousands)



The OPEB Trust has more than doubled over the past six years due to contributions from the County, LACERA, and the Superior Court, as well as investment earnings. The Fair Values include net investment income of \$785.5 million and administrative expenses of \$0.7 million as of June 30, 2018. The total Net Position Restricted for Benefits for the OPEB Trust as of fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 is \$941.0 million.

Administrative Services 355,988 Pieces of Mail Processed	Administrative Services 896,023 Member Documents Scanned & Indexed	Benefits 66,463 Monthly Retirement Allowances Paid	Benefits 3,060 New Retirees	lacera.com My LACERA 73,260 Registered Members	lacera.com My LACERA 183,489 Visits
lacera.com My LACERA 200,135 Retirement Benefit Estimates	Member Services 489 Workshop & Benefits Fairs (19,606 Attendees)	Member Services 20,732 One-on-one Counseling Sessions	Member Services 116,842 Call Center Phone Calls	Retiree Healthcare 55,609 Call Center Phone Calls	Retiree Healthcare 50,919 Annual Healthcare Packets Mailed

Accomplishments

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

For the 20th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) gave an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to LACERA for its Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. This prestigious national award recognizes conformance with the highest standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal for state and local government popular reports, and is valid for one year. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA for consideration again this year.

Board Members

MARVIN ADAMS

Secretary
 Board of Retirement
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2018

ALAN J. BERNSTEIN

Board of Retirement
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2019

VIVIAN H. GRAY

Chair
 Board of Retirement
 Elected by General Members
 Term Expires 2018

DAVID GREEN

Chair
 Board of Investments
 Elected by General Members
 Term Expires 2020

JAMES P. HARRIS

Board of Retirement Alternate Member
 Elected by Retired Members
 Term Expires 2020

SHAWN R. KEHOE

Vice Chair
 Board of Retirement
 Board of Investments
 Elected by Safety Members
 Term Expires 2019

JOSEPH KELLY

Board of Retirement
 Board of Investments
 County Treasurer and Tax Collector
 Ex-Officio Member

KEITH KNOX

Board of Retirement
 Board of Investments
 Chief Deputy County Treasurer and Tax Collector
 Alternate Ex-Officio Member

WAYNE MOORE

Secretary
 Board of Investments
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2020

DAVID L. MUIR

Board of Investments
 Elected by Retired Members
 Term Expires 2020

RONALD A. OKUM

Board of Investments
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2019

WILLIAM R. PRYOR

Board of Retirement Alternate Member
 Elected by Safety Members
 Term Expires 2019

LES ROBBINS

Board of Retirement
 Elected by Retired Members
 Term Expires 2020

GINA V. SANCHEZ

Board of Investments
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2020

HERMAN B. SANTOS

Vice Chair
 Board of Retirement (Term Expires 2020)
 Board of Investments (Term Expires 2018)
 Elected by General Members

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

Board of Investments
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2018

THOMAS WALSH

Board of Retirement
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2020

GINA ZAPANTA-MURPHY

Board of Retirement
 Appointed by Board of Supervisors
 Term Expires 2020

Executive Officers

LOU LAZATIN

Chief Executive Officer

ROBERT R. HILL

Assistant Executive Officer

JJ POPOWICH

Assistant Executive Officer