MARIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (MCERA) POLICY REGARDING ADOPTION OF ACTUARIAL ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

Adopted: November 3, 2010
Amended: February 9, 2011
Amended: February 8, 2012
Amended: March 13, 2013
Reviewed: March 12, 2014
Amended: May 6, 2015
Amended: May 4, 2016
Amended: May 10, 2017
Amended: November 8, 2017
Amended: December 12, 2018
Amended: January 8, 2020
Amended: May 5, 2021
Amended: May 4, 2022
Amended: October 31, 2023

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In accordance with its plenary authority and fiduciary responsibilities over the administration of MCERA and actuarial services as provided in the California Constitution, Art. XVI, section 17 and the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937 (Gov. Code sec. 31450, et seq.), including without limitation, Government Code sections 31453 and 31454.1, and the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (Gov. Code sec. 7522, et seq.), including without limitation Government Code section 7522.30, the Board of Retirement of MCERA ("Board") has adopted actuarial assumptions at least every three years based upon the analysis, valuation, and recommendation of MCERA's actuary ("actuarial valuation").

The Board adopts such assumptions based upon the information gathered through its experience studies, which are conducted by MCERA's actuary approximately every three years, or other recommendation of the actuary.

The Board has determined that MCERA's actuarial economic assumptions set forth in the actuarial valuations should also be set forth in Board Policy.

II. POLICY

The actuarial assumptions that are included in MCERA's actuarial valuation as of the end of each fiscal year, which valuations have been adopted by the Board, include long-term actuarial economic assumptions relating to the following: investment rate of return (also referred to as the discount rate); projected wage increases; projected pensionable payroll growth; projected growth in inflation; and cost of living adjustments. The Board adopts the assumptions based on the findings and recommendations in MCERA's most recent Experience Study and the recommendations of its actuary as deemed appropriate.

The MCERA actuary will present recommendations for actuarial economic assumptions in the Experience Study for consideration by the Board. Based on the actuarial economic assumptions adopted by the Board, the actuary develops the actuarial valuation. The actuary will present a draft valuation and recommendations to the Board no later than April of each year as a non-action item. The Board will consider those recommendations and provide direction as to the valuation being prepared. The actuary will present its final recommended valuation to the Board for adoption no later than May of that year.

The economic assumptions that the Board adopted are set forth in the attached Appendix A. Those assumptions will remain in effect until the effective date of new actuarial economic assumptions adopted by the Board, which will be automatically incorporated into Appendix A of this Policy without further Board action.

III. POLICY REVIEW

The Retirement Board shall review this Policy annually in conjunction with its adoption of its actuarial valuation. The Policy may be amended from time to time by majority vote of the Board.

IV. RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATOR'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jeff Wickman, the duly appointed Retirement Administrator of the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association, hereby certify that this policy was amended and made effective on OCTOBER 31, 2023.

____
Retirement Administrator

APPENDIX A

Effective: Valuation ending June 30, 2022

Long Term rate of return on pension assets (discount rate): 6.75 percent composed of the real return (4.25%) plus CPI (2.50%)

Annual growth in pensionable payroll assumption: 2.75 percent

Increase in prices measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI): 2.50 percent

Annual wage increases: 3.0 percent, plus service-based rates

Cost of living adjustments (COLA): 100% of CPI up to 2/3/4% annually with banking: Assumed COLA growth rates are 1.9, 2.4 and 2.5 percent for the 2, 3 and 4 percent post retirement COLAs