

**Investment Policy Statement  
For**

**Marin County Employees' Retirement Association**



**FINAL  
December 2022**

**MARIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Marin County Employees' Retirement Association ("MCERA") was established to provide retirement benefits to county employees and other local public agencies. The Board of Retirement (the "Board" and/or the "Board of Retirement") is comprised of the County Director of Finance, four members appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, four members elected by the membership, plus one alternate retiree and one alternate safety member. The Director of Finance may also designate a deputy, who is employed under the Director of Finance's authority, to act in his or her place and stead on the Board or any of its committees.

MCERA was organized in accordance with the provisions of California's 1937 County Employees Retirement Law ("1937 Act"). The powers and duties of the Board of Retirement are set forth in the 1937 Act and in Article XVI, section 17, of the State Constitution. This document provides a framework for the investment of the assets of MCERA. The Board of Retirement has established a standing Investment Committee, which is composed of all members of the Board of Retirement ("Investment Committee" or "Committee"). As set forth in the Investment Committee's Charter, the Committee has been delegated all investment authority of MCERA as set forth therein. The purpose of the Investment Policy is to assist the Board, through the Investment Committee, in effectively supervising and monitoring the assets of MCERA (the "Plan" or the "Fund"). Specifically, it will address the following issues:

- The general goals of the investment program;
- The policies and procedures for the management of the investments;
- Specific asset allocations, rebalancing procedures and investment guidelines;
- Performance objectives; and
- Responsible parties.

The Investment Committee establishes this investment policy in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal laws. The Board and Committee members exercise authority and control over the Plan, by setting policy which the Staff executes either internally or through the use of external prudent experts. The Board and Committee oversee and guide the Plan subject to the following basic fiduciary responsibilities:

- Solely in the interest of, and for the exclusive purpose of, providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries, minimizing contributions thereto, and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan.
- Invest and manage Fund assets as a prudent investor would, by considering the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the Fund. In satisfying this standard of care, the trustees shall exercise reasonable care, skill, and caution.
- Diversify the investments of the Plan 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. Diversification is applicable to the deployment of the assets as a whole.

This policy statement is designed to allow for sufficient flexibility in the management oversight process to capture investment opportunities as they may occur, while setting forth reasonable parameters to ensure prudence and care in the execution of the investment program.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The policies and procedures of MCERA's investment program are designed to maximize the probability that the investment goals will be fulfilled. Investment policies will evolve as Fund conditions change and as investment conditions warrant.

### *Asset Allocation Policy*

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

- A projection of actuarial assets, liabilities and benefit payments and the cost of contributions;
- Historical and expected long-term capital market risk and return behavior;
- An assessment of future economic conditions, including inflation and interest rate levels; and
- The current and projected funding status of the Plan.

This policy provides for diversification of assets in an effort to maximize the investment return of the Plan consistent with market conditions. Asset allocation modeling identifies asset classes the Plan will utilize and the percentage that each class represents of the total Fund. Due to the fluctuation of market values, positioning within a specified range is acceptable and constitutes compliance with the policy. It is anticipated that an extended period of time may be required to fully implement the asset allocation policy, and that periodic revisions will occur. MCERA's Staff and external consultants will monitor and assess the actual asset allocation versus policy and will evaluate any variation deemed significant.

The Board and Committee will implement the asset allocation policy (i) through the use of investment managers to invest the assets of MCERA in accordance with the investment guidelines incorporated into the investment management agreements executed with MCERA and/or (ii) through its investment in limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, commingled funds, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles, which invest allocated assets in accordance with the governing documents for the investment vehicle. When appropriate, passive management strategies may also be utilized.

## **INVESTMENT GOAL STATEMENT**

The Plan's general investment goals are broad in nature. The objective shall be to efficiently allocate and manage the assets dedicated to the payment of Plan benefits and administrative expenses. The following goals, consistent with the above described purpose, are adopted:

- The overall goal of MCERA'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.
- MCERA's assets will be managed on a total return basis. While MCERA recognizes the importance of the preservation of capital, it also adheres to the principle that varying degrees of investment risk are generally rewarded with compensating returns.
- The total portfolio over the long term will be expected to:
  1. Meet or exceed a long-term total portfolio real (above inflation) return commensurate with the target asset allocation contained in Appendix A to this document (annualized, net of fees, over a full market cycle, normally defined as 5-7 years);
  2. Meet or exceed the assumed actuarial rate of return over long-term periods; and
  3. Meet or exceed a weighted index of the total Plan's asset allocation policy and component benchmarks over rolling five-year periods by an appropriate amount (annualized, net of fees, over a full market cycle).
- MCERA'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. The investment activities are designed and executed in a manner that serves the best interests of the members and beneficiaries of the Association.
- All transactions undertaken will be for the sole benefit of MCERA's members and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to them, minimizing contributions to the Plan and defraying reasonable associated administrative expenses.
- MCERA has a long-term investment horizon, and utilizes an asset allocation plan that encompasses a strategic, long-run perspective of capital markets. It is recognized that a strategic long-run asset allocation plan implemented in a consistent and disciplined manner will be the major determinant of the Plan's investment performance.

Investment recommendations and subsequent actions are expected to comply with "prudent expert" standards. Board and Committee members are expected to comply with "prudent investor" standards.

## **Manager Utilization and Selection**

The selection of investment managers is accomplished in accordance with all applicable local, State and Federal laws and regulations. Each investment manager and consultant functions under a formal contract which delineates responsibilities and appropriate performance expectations. A formal set of investment guidelines and investment administrative requirements for each investment manager has been established and is provided as an addendum to this document. With regard to investment in limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, commingled funds, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles, the management of the relevant investment vehicle and the investment guidelines will be as set forth in the fund's legal documentation.

## **Manager Authority**

The Plan's investment managers, unless otherwise noted in their contract, shall have designated discretion to direct and manage the investment and reinvestment of assets allocated to their accounts in accordance with this document; applicable local, State and Federal statutes and regulations; and individual management investment plans and executed contracts. Commingled investments, including but not limited to investments in mutual funds, trusts, limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles, are expected to comply with the guidelines established in the governing documents or fund prospectus.

The Board, Committee, and Staff will consider the comments and recommendations of consultants in conjunction with other available information in making informed, prudent decisions.

## **Proxy Voting**

MCERA acknowledges that the ownership of equities requires proxies to be voted. MCERA commits to managing its proxy voting rights with the same care, skill, diligence and prudence as is exercised in managing its other assets. As responsible fiduciaries, the Board of Retirement will exercise its proxy voting rights in the sole interest of the Plan's members and beneficiaries in accordance with all applicable statutes and MCERA's Proxy Voting and Corporate Governance Policy.

## **Securities Lending**

The Board and/or Committee may authorize the execution of a "Securities Lending Program" which will be performed by the Plan custodian or qualified third-party securities lending agent(s). The program will be established by a written agreement authorized by the Board and/or Committee and monitored and reviewed by the Staff.

The following are the general guidelines for the securities lending program:

1. The lending program may be implemented through the use of agent lenders or principal lenders;

2. The lenders may lend financial securities including, but not limited to, U.S. and non-U.S. equities, corporate bonds, and U.S. and non-U.S. government securities;
3. If an agent program is implemented, the agent shall have full discretion over the selection of borrowers and shall continually review the creditworthiness of potential borrowers through extensive analysis of relevant information;
4. All loans shall be fully collateralized with cash, government securities or irrevocable bank letters of credit;
5. Cash collateral received from securities borrowers will be deposited upon receipt in a pre-approved short-term investment vehicle or vehicles;
6. Loans of U.S. securities are initially collateralized at 102% of the market value of the borrowed securities if the borrowed securities and the collateral are denominated in the same currency and at 105% if the borrowed securities and the collateral are denominated in different currencies. As the market value of the collateral falls below 102% (105%) of the market value of the borrowed securities, the borrower is marked to market each business day using yesterday's closing prices, subject to the lending agent's de minimis rules of change;
7. Securities on loan should be marked-to-market on a daily basis to assess adequacy of collateralization;
8. The lender shall provide periodic performance reports to MCERA;
9. The securities lending program should in no way inhibit the portfolio management activities of the other investment managers of the system;
10. Staff shall be responsible for making an annual report to the Board and/or Committee on securities lending activity; and
11. All other operational aspects of MCERA's securities lending program are hereby delegated to Staff.

### **Derivatives and Leverage**

MCERA's investment managers may be permitted under the terms of individual investment guidelines to use derivative instruments to implement market decisions and security positions and to control portfolio risk. Derivatives are contracts or securities whose returns are derived from the returns of other securities, indices or instruments including, but not limited to, futures, forwards, options, swaps and options on futures. Examples of appropriate applications of derivative strategies include hedging interest rate and currency risk, rebalancing portfolio exposures, securitizing Fund level and manager cash, maintaining exposure to a desired asset class while effecting asset allocation changes and adjusting portfolio duration for fixed income. Portfolio liabilities associated with investments (i.e. mortgage forward bond purchases, futures, in-the-money short puts, reverse repurchase agreements, etc.) shall be backed by cash equivalents or deliverable securities.

MCERA's investment managers are not allowed to utilize derivatives for speculative purposes. All derivatives must be backed by collateral in the form of deliverable securities equal to or greater than the value of the total derivative exposure. In no circumstances can individual managers borrow funds to purchase derivatives. No derivatives positions can be established that create portfolio characteristics outside of portfolio guidelines. Managers must ascertain and carefully monitor the creditworthiness of any third parties involved in derivative transactions.



## **Rebalancing**

Staff shall, on an ongoing basis in accordance with market fluctuations, rebalance the Fund's portfolio so as to remain within the range of targeted allocations and distributions among investment managers and asset allocations. MCERA has a long-term investment horizon and utilizes an asset allocation plan that encompasses a strategic, long-run perspective of capital markets. It is recognized that a strategic long-run asset allocation plan implemented in a consistent and disciplined manner will be the major determinant of the Plan's investment performance.

MCERA will not attempt to time rises or falls in equity or bond markets by moving away from long-term targets.

Systematic rebalancing, implemented when the asset classes move outside their target ranges or when significant cash flows occur, will be used to maintain or to move asset allocations within these appropriate ranges.

## **GENERAL INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES**

### **Equity Portfolios**

Each equity investment manager retained by MCERA will follow a specific investment style and will be evaluated against a specific market index that represents their investment style. In addition, in the case of active managers, investment results may also be compared to returns of a peer group of managers with similar styles. Benchmarks for the various equity portfolios may include the following indices as well as those proposed by the managers reviewed by the Staff and approved by the Investment Committee or Board:

#### **Domestic Equity Portfolio – Russell 3000 Index**

*Large Cap Stocks – Russell 1000 Index*

*Small Cap Stocks – Russell 2000 Index*

#### **International Equity Portfolio – MSCI ACWI ex-US IMI Index**

*International Large Cap Stocks – MSCI EAFE Index*

*International Small Cap Stocks – MSCI EAFE Small Cap Index*

*International Emerging Markets Stocks – MSCI Emerging Markets Free Index*

General equity guidelines for active managers include the following:

- American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) and foreign securities listed on a major US stock exchange or on the NASDAQ are permitted if specified in the manager's guidelines.
- Convertible securities may be held in equity portfolios and shall be considered equity holdings.
- Securities must be traded on a regulated stock exchange, or listed on the NASDAQ or a comparable foreign market operation.
- Forward or futures contracts for foreign currencies may be entered into for hedging purposes or pending the selection and purchase of suitable investments in, or the settlement of, any such securities transactions only in international equity portfolios.
- The following transactions are not permitted unless specifically authorized in the investment manager agreement or in the specific manager guidelines in the appendix:
  - The use of borrowed funds
  - Short sales or margin sales
  - Private placements (except 144As)
  - Futures, options, currency forwards and futures, and other derivative securities.

## **Fixed Income Portfolios**

The fixed income portfolios will be managed on a total return basis, following specific investment styles and evaluated against specific market indices that represent a specific investment style or market segment. In addition, investment results may also be compared to returns of a peer group of managers investing with a similar style. The benchmarks for the various fixed income portfolios may include the following indices:

### **Fixed Income Portfolio – Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index**

*U.S. Core Plus Fixed Income – Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index*

General fixed income guidelines include the following:

- Unless specified in the manager’s guidelines, the minimum average quality rating of the securities in any portfolio will maintain an average weighted credit quality of not more than 2 rating notches below the benchmark’s average weighted credit quality, at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, if the benchmark is rated AA-, then 2 notches below would be A.
- Ratings method: The ratings method used to test both the benchmark’s average credit rating and the portfolio’s average credit rating will be “split to the highest rating” of the three major rating agencies.
- Derivatives, including forward or futures contracts for foreign currencies, may be used to hedge the portfolio, or to effect portfolio management decisions in a timely, cost-effective manner. Borrowed funds shall not be used.
- An individual investment manager’s portfolio shall have an effective duration between 75% - 125% of the effective duration of the appropriate index, unless a broader range is permitted with the specific manager guidelines in the Appendix.
- The following transactions are prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Investment Committee or Board or by the specific manager guidelines in the Appendix:
  - Private placements (except 144As);
  - Interest Only CMOs, Principal Only CMOs, inverse floaters and any tranche that has a leveraged component embedded in the structure.

## **Real Estate Portfolios**

The Real Estate portfolios will be managed on a total return basis, through a combination of income and appreciation, following specific investment styles and evaluated against a specific market index. In addition, investment results may also be compared to returns of a peer group of managers investing with a similar style. The benchmark for the various Real Estate portfolios may include the following index:

### **Real Estate Portfolio – NFI-ODCE Equal Weighted Index (Net)**

*Core Real Estate – NFI-ODCE Equal Weighted Index (Net)*

- All investments in real estate shall be managed by external advisors.
- MCERA may invest in real estate through diversified institutional commingled vehicles. The vehicles can be limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles.
- The vehicle’s manager(s) will have discretion with respect to the management of the fund’s investment program, operating within the parameters delineated in the fund’s legal documentation.

## **Real Assets Portfolio**

The real assets portfolio will be managed on a total return basis, following specific investment styles and evaluated against specific market indices that represent a specific investment style or market segment. In addition, investment results may also be compared to returns of a peer group of managers investing with a similar style. The benchmarks for the various real assets portfolios may include the following indices:

### **Real Assets Portfolio – Blended Benchmark (25% Bloomberg U.S. TIPS Index, 25% Bloomberg Commodities Index, 25% S&P Global Natural Resources Index, 25% Dow Jones U.S. Select Real Estate Securities Index)**

*Treasury Inflation Protected Securities – Bloomberg U.S. TIPS Index*

*Commodities – Bloomberg Commodities Index*

*Global Natural Resources Equity – S&P Global Natural Resources Index*

*Real Estate Investment Trusts – Dow Jones U.S. Select Real Estate Securities Index*

- MCERA may invest in real assets through separate accounts or diversified institutional commingled vehicles.
- The vehicle’s manager(s) will have discretion with respect to the management of the fund’s investment program, operating within the parameters delineated in the fund’s legal documentation.

- The investment objective of the real assets program is to create a portfolio of high-quality real assets investments that will enhance long-term investment performance, meet inflation objectives, and diversify the asset base for the entire MCERA investment portfolio.

### **Private Equity Portfolios**

MCERA will invest in private equity through institutional closed-end, finite-life commingled private equity fund-of-funds vehicles. The fund-of-funds vehicles will be limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles.

- Private equity investments will consist primarily of limited partnership investments in diversified private equity portfolios (e.g., venture capital, acquisition, special situation, subordinated debt, restructuring funds, and others).
- The vehicle's manager(s) will have discretion with respect to the management of the fund-of-funds investment program, operating within the parameters delineated in the investment vehicle's legal documents.
- The investment objective of the private equity allocation is to achieve consistent positive real returns and to maximize long-term total return net of fees within prudent levels of risk through capital appreciation and diversification.
- While the investment guidelines of each investment vehicle will be determined by the fund-of-funds legal documentation, the fund's manager, in managing the portfolio, should take prudent care.

### **Opportunistic Portfolio**

MCERA may invest in opportunistic investments that will vary by assignment. Performance objectives or guidelines will be defined by MCERA in its retention of managers or selection of suitable investments and will be evaluated to test progress toward attainment of longer-term goals.

- MCERA may invest in opportunistic investments through separate accounts and diversified institutional commingled vehicles which may include limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles.
- The manager(s) will have discretion with respect to the management of the separate account or fund's investment program, operating within the parameters delineated in the separate account or fund's legal documentation.
- The investment objective of the opportunistic allocation is to achieve consistent positive real returns and to maximize long-term total return net of fees within prudent levels of risk through capital appreciation and diversification.

### **Short Term Investment/Cash Equivalents**

MCERA is restricted from investing short term funds and cash equivalents in investment vehicles other than the Treasurer's Pool, the State Pool and the STIF funds maintained at the custodian bank. Retirement funds shall be invested in investments with an average maturity of one year or less.

Any exemption from these general guidelines requires prior written approval from the Board or Investment Committee.

### **Policy Implementation Overlay**

The Board or Investment Committee may retain a "policy overlay manager" to rebalance portfolio exposures, bridge exposure gaps during transitions, 'securitize' Fund level cash, and securitize residual cash positions held by each manager. The policy overlay manager may use futures or swaps, when appropriate, to gain market exposure on existing cash positions. The manager will not use futures or other derivative instruments for speculative purposes.

## **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY**

MCERA will utilize externally managed portfolios based on specific styles and methodologies. The manager will acknowledge in writing, as more particularly set forth in Appendix B, that they are fiduciaries to MCERA with respect to the assets they manage and/or invest on MCERA's behalf, and will have discretion and authority to determine investment strategy, security selection and timing within their asset class and subject to the Policy guidelines and any other guidelines specific to their portfolio. Performance of the portfolio will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis relative to each portfolio component's benchmark return and relative to peer groups of managers with similar investment styles where applicable.

Investment managers, as prudent experts, will be expected to know MCERA's investment policies (as outlined in this document) and any specific guidelines for their portfolios, and to comply with those policies and guidelines. It is each manager's responsibility to identify policies that may have an adverse impact on performance, and to initiate discussion with Staff toward possible amendment to said policies through Board or Investment Committee action.

The Investment Committee and Staff will also review each investment manager's adherence to its investment policy, and any material changes in the manager's organization (e.g., personnel changes, new business developments, etc.). The investment managers retained by MCERA will be responsible for informing the Investment Committee and Staff of all such material changes on a timely basis.

Investment managers under contract with MCERA shall have discretion to establish and execute transactions with established regional and national securities broker/dealers as needed. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board or Investment Committee, these investment managers must obtain the best available prices and most favorable executions with respect to all of the portfolio transactions as market conditions permit.

Unless specifically authorized by the Board or Investment Committee, the following transactions will be prohibited: short sales; selling on margin; "prohibited transactions" as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA); transactions that involve a broker acting as a "principal", where such broker is also the investment manager who is making the transaction, and any or all investment activities forbidden by the SEC or other applicable governing bodies.

### **Selection Criteria for Investment Managers**

Criteria will be established for each manager search undertaken by MCERA, and will be tailored to MCERA's needs in such a search. In general, eligible managers will possess attributes including, but not limited to, the following:

- The firm must be experienced in managing money for institutional clients in the asset class/product category/investment style specified by MCERA.

- The firm must display a record of stability in retaining and attracting qualified investment professionals, as well as a record of managing asset growth effectively, both in gaining and retaining clients.
- The firm must have an asset base sufficient to accommodate MCERA's portfolio. In general, managers should have at least \$100 million of discretionary institutional assets under management, and MCERA's portfolio should make up no more than 20% of the firm's total asset base. Exceptions shall be made on a case-by-case basis.
- The firm must demonstrate adherence to the investment style sought by MCERA, and adherence to the firm's stated investment discipline.
- The firm's fees should be competitive with industry standards for the product category.
- The firm must comply with the "Duties of the investment managers" outlined herein and conform to the CFA Institute standards for performance reporting.

### **Criteria for Investment Manager Termination and Watchlist**

MCERA reserves the unilateral right to terminate a manager at any time for any reason. The occurrence of certain events will result in specific actions being taken. This section describes these events, the course of action that will be taken and the responsible parties. It also establishes a "Watchlist" as a means of monitoring and evaluating managers who meet any of the items identified under the Criteria For Investment Manager Termination. If a manager is on the Watchlist no additional assets will be allocated to the manager until the manager has been removed from the Watchlist, provided however that if the Investment Committee determines, after review and discussion with staff and its Investment Consultant, that it is appropriate and in alignment with the other goals established under this policy to make additional funds to a manager on the Watchlist then the Committee can vote to direct the staff to take this action. The Investment Committee will determine where to invest any additional assets that would otherwise have been allocated to the manager. Each manager on the Watchlist will be monitored closely by Staff and the Consultant and may be required to make special presentations to the Investment Committee and Staff if requested. MCERA may place a manager on the Watchlist at any time and when it is deemed warranted due to improved conditions, a manager may be removed from the Watchlist.

*Illegal or Unethical Practice.* The manager will report this event in writing to the Retirement Administrator not later than the close of the business day following discovery of the illegal or unethical practice. The Retirement Administrator will inform the Investment Committee in writing of this practice as soon as administratively possible. If the illegal or unethical practice has a material adverse effect upon the MCERA portfolio, or any attempt was made by the manager to hide this practice, the manager will normally be terminated upon review and action by the Investment Committee. If the practice is procedural and has been properly referred to the appropriate regulatory authorities, the Retirement Administrator will recommend to the Investment Committee whether or not to terminate the manager.



*Guideline Violation.* The manager will report any guideline violation in writing to the Retirement Administrator not later than the close of the second business day following discovery along with the manager's proposed remedy. If the violation results in a loss to MCERA, the manager will compensate MCERA for this loss. If the manager refuses to correct this violation, or if other violations occur, the Retirement Administrator may recommend termination of the manager to the Investment Committee. Guideline violations that have been corrected will be reported to the Investment Committee at their next regular meeting. Violations that have not been corrected, or violations that persist, will be reported to the Investment Committee as soon as administratively possible.

*Deviation from Investment Process.* If the Retirement Administrator determines that the manager has deviated materially from its stated investment process or philosophy, the Retirement Administrator will report to the Chair of the Investment Committee as soon as possible. The Retirement Administrator may also recommend termination of the manager, as soon as administratively possible, to the Investment Committee.

*Loss of Key Personnel or Change in Ownership.* The manager will inform the Retirement Administrator in writing within 24 hours following the loss of key personnel or a change in ownership. Loss of key personnel may result in termination of the manager. A material change in the ownership of the manager may result in the termination of the manager. The Retirement Administrator will make a recommendation regarding termination to the Investment Committee as soon as administratively possible.

*Lack of Cooperation with Reasonable Requests.* The manager is required to provide information, attend meetings and comply with other reasonable requests. Failure to do so may result in a recommendation to terminate the manager.

*Underperformance.* MCERA understands the cyclical nature of investment performance and the potential for its investment managers not to meet objectives over short-term periods. While it is not the Investment Committee's intention to terminate a manager for short-term underperformance relative to objectives, the Investment Committee has implemented the following process as a means of monitoring and evaluating managers that have experienced performance difficulties in the short-term to assess the impact on longer-term performance.

If a manager trails its relevant benchmark by more than 100 basis points (net of fees) and ranks in the bottom quartile of its peer universe (gross of fees ranking) for the trailing three years, or if a manager trails its relevant benchmark (net of fees) or ranks below median of its peer universe (gross of fees ranking) for the trailing five years, then the manager may be placed on the Watchlist.

If the underperformance of a manager on the Watchlist persists over a reasonable period in the future (as defined by the Staff, Investment Committee and Consultant based on the unique circumstances surrounding the manager and current market conditions), the Investment Committee may and will consider termination.

*Procedures Following the Initiation of Watch Status.*

The watch period will be established for a one-year total duration.

If at the end of the watch period, performance has improved to above-benchmark and/or above the manager median over a market cycle, the manager will be removed from the Watchlist.

If at the end of the watch period, the manager is underperforming the manager may be terminated or remain on the Watchlist for a period defined by the Investment Committee.

Unlike open-end funds and separate accounts for public market securities which are more easily liquidated, exiting open-end or closed-end commingled funds for private markets may have liquidity constraints. For these reasons, the Watchlist and terminating procedures used for traditional public market vehicles are not applicable for private market vehicles. Staff with the assistance of the Investment Consultant will make appropriate recommendations for exiting such positions.

## **PRIVATE EQUITY POLICY**

MCERA's private equity investments allocation will consist primarily of limited partnership investments in diversified private equity portfolios (e.g., venture capital, acquisition, special situation, subordinated debt, and restructuring funds and others). MCERA will invest in private equity through institutional closed-end, finite-life commingled private equity fund-of-funds vehicles. The fund-of-funds vehicles will be limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles. Investments directly in stand-alone corporate finance limited partnerships and direct investments in companies are not currently considered appropriate. The vehicle's manager(s) will have discretion with respect to the management of the fund-of-funds investment program, operating within the parameters delineated in the fund's legal documentation. The investment manager of the fund-of-funds will acknowledge in writing by side letter or otherwise that they are Plan fiduciaries and will acknowledge having read and understood the guidelines set forth in this section of the Investment Policy Statement and any other guidelines specific to their portfolio as more particularly set forth in Appendix C.

To maintain an appropriate funded status on a net asset value basis, MCERA may be required to make periodic commitments to additional fund-of-funds vehicles managed by either the same or different fund-of-funds managers. MCERA's staff will work with the investment consultant and the managers to determine appropriate commitment timing and amounts and present a recommended plan to the Investment Committee annually.

To ensure adequate access and diversification, MCERA may utilize multiple fund-of-funds providers. There is no specific limit on the number of vendors to be utilized. However, to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, MCERA will limit the number of vendors employed to the extent practical. Only those firms committed to providing ongoing access to the private equity arena through fund-of-funds offerings, who have a demonstrated record of investing client funds in top tier private equity partnerships and who limit assets accepted for management to sums that can in fact be committed in top tier funds will be considered.

MCERA recognizes that many well-qualified fund-of-funds providers make direct private equity investments within the fund-of-funds vehicle (e.g. secondary or co-investments). Such investments are permissible provided that they constitute a comparatively small portion of the total fund-of-funds' asset base (typically less than 35%).

### **Investment Objectives**

The investment objective of the private equity allocation is to achieve consistent positive real returns and to maximize long-term total return within prudent levels of risk through capital appreciation and diversification. MCERA's holdings will be professionally managed on a cash-to-cash basis and will have broad exposure to key private corporate finance strategies (e.g., venture capital, acquisition, special situation, etc.), with allocations to the various strategies diversified in a manner consistent with institutional private equity programs generally.

## Selection Criteria for Private Equity

### Partnership Selection

As requested by MCERA, the investment consultant shall develop a proposed “Manager Candidate Profile” that will serve as the basis for evaluation of potential fund-of-funds providers consistent with MCERA’s investment policy. This document will specify the minimum selection criteria for potential vendors and also detail preferred characteristics. The consultant will then evaluate prospective candidates and submit a listing of those firms that appear to best meet the requirements and preferences. Staff and consultant will discuss these candidates and identify those that should be advanced for Board and/or Investment Committee consideration. Ultimately, the Investment Committee will determine which firms shall be retained.

The targeted private equity investments will be fund-of-funds vehicles that are commingled, closed-end, and finite-life limited liability entities.

Due to the inevitability of short-term market fluctuations that may cause variations in the investment performance, it is intended that the performance objectives outlined below will be achieved by the fund-of-funds over the life of the vehicle(s), generally 15 years. The Investment Committee will evaluate the Funds’ interim performance to test progress toward attainment of these longer-term goals. However, it is understood that there are likely to be short-term periods during which performance will deviate from expectations. Minimum expectations are as follows:

- For policy benchmarking purposes, over the long-term (rolling 10-year periods) the private equity portfolio is expected to generate returns in excess of the combined benchmark, consisting of 60% Russell 3000 and 40% MSCI ACWI ex-US IMI, employing a time-weighted return calculation.
- The private equity portfolio and manager returns will also be measured employing a dollar-weighted, internal rate of return (IRR) calculation and benchmarked against relevant peer group information from a recognized private equity database provider. The portfolio will also be benchmarked employing standard private equity performance ratio measures: Total Value to Paid-In Capital (TVPI) and Distributed Value to Paid-In Capital (DPI). IRR and ratio performance should be above median relative to recognized private equity industry peer database returns. Measures should be focused on returns net of all partnership fees and expenses.

Attainment of these objectives does not guarantee future investment by the Investment Committee in a specific manager’s fund-of-funds vehicles, nor does failure to achieve these guidelines ensure a lack of future investment support for follow-on vehicles. Providers are selected at the discretion of the Investment Committee.

In addition, the following stipulation(s) apply:

- The investment manager of the fund-of-funds vehicle shall be a Bank or a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 (1940 Act).
- If the fund-of-funds vehicle provides distributions in cash or securities, the Fund will opt to receive cash.

### Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements will be governed by the fund-of-funds legal documentation, which at a minimum will provide for quarterly unaudited financial statement and other relevant investment holdings related exhibits, and annual audited financial statements and relevant investment holdings-related exhibits.

It is expected that the fund-of-funds investment managers will meet with the Board or Investment Committee as reasonably requested and at least annually.

### Coordination with Total Fund Performance Reporting

MCERA relies on its custodian to generate short-term time-weighted performance statistics. This information is utilized by the Fund's investment consultant to evaluate ongoing investment performance. An integral part of the performance evaluation is a comparison of the total Fund's return in relation to a policy benchmark index comprised of market indices weighted in the same manner as the Fund's strategic asset allocation policy.

Given the private market nature of private equity investments and the long lead-time associated with such investments, a public market equity index shall be used in lieu of the private equity database return set forth in Appendix B for the private equity component of the total portfolio. The index used shall be a composite of the equity component of MCERA's total policy benchmark: 60% Russell 3000 and 40% MSCI ACWI ex-US IMI.

## **DUTIES OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

### **Duties of the MCERA Board of Retirement and Investment Committee**

The Board of Retirement has the responsibility for administration of MCERA for the benefit of plan participants. The County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, Government Code Chapter 3, Part 3, Division 4, Title 3, Article 5, permits the Board of Retirement at its discretion to invest the assets of the Plan 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. In the interest of efficient and prudent administration of MCERA and investment of its assets, the Board of Retirement has delegated its responsibilities with respect to the investments to the Investment Committee, which consists of all members of the Board of Retirement. Although it is not the intent of the Investment Committee to become involved in the day-to-day investment decisions, the Investment Committee or its designee(s) will adhere to the following procedures in the management of MCERA's assets:

- The Investment Committee develops and approves guidelines for the execution of MCERA's investment program. Only the Board, through the Investment Committee, in its sole discretion can delegate its decision-making authority regarding the investment program. Staff is responsible for the timely implementation and administration of these decisions.
- A formal review of MCERA's investment structure, asset allocation and financial performance will be conducted annually or more frequently as the need arises. The review will include recommended adjustments to the long-term strategic asset allocation to reflect any changes in applicable regulations, long-term capital market assumptions, actuarial assumptions or MCERA's financial condition.
- The Investment Committee shall review MCERA's investments quarterly, or as needed, to ensure that policy guidelines continue to be met. The Investment Committee shall monitor investment returns on both an absolute basis and relative to appropriate benchmarks and peer group comparisons. The source of information for these reviews shall come from Staff, outside consultants, the custodian and MCERA's investment managers.
- The Investment Committee is comprised of all Board members.
- The Investment Committee may retain investment consultants to provide services such as conducting performance reviews, asset allocation, manager reviews and investment research. The comments and recommendations of the consultants will be considered in conjunction with other available information to aid the Investment Committee in making informed, prudent decisions.
- Trustees shall direct questions from managers regarding MCERA's Investment Policy or other matters relating to the Plan to the Retirement Administrator and/or investment consultant.

- The Investment Committee shall be responsible for taking appropriate action if investment objectives are not being met or if policies and guidelines are not being followed. Reviews for separate portfolios managed by external managers will focus on:
  1. Material changes in the managers' organizations, such as investment philosophy, personnel changes, acquisitions or losses of major accounts, etc. The managers will be responsible for keeping MCERA advised of any material changes in personnel, investment strategy, or other pertinent information potentially affecting performance.
  2. Investment performance relative to each manager's stated performance benchmark(s) as set forth in the manager's investment guidelines.
- The Investment Committee shall expect Staff to administer MCERA's investments in a cost-effective manner subject to Committee approval. These costs include, but are not limited to, management, consulting and custodial fees, transaction costs and other administrative costs chargeable to MCERA.
- The Board shall be responsible for selecting a qualified custodian with advice from Staff.
- The Investment Committee shall perform due diligence on each new manager prior to funding, and on each existing manager in accordance with the Due Diligence policy found at: <https://www.mcera.org/retirementboard/governance-policies>
- To maintain and strengthen the investment management of MCERA's Plan, Staff and Board/Investment Committee members shall be expected to participate in educational conferences/seminars related to their direct responsibility for the investment activities of MCERA in accordance with the Education Policy found at:
  - <https://www.mcera.org/retirementboard/governance-policies>

### **Duties of the Staff**

The Retirement Staff, as designated by the Board and/or Investment Committee, plays a significant role in the management and oversight of the Plan. Staff duties include:

- Authority to invest the Fund's cash without requiring Board or Investment Committee permission, and as set forth elsewhere in MCERA's Investment Policy.
- Monitoring investment managers for adherence to appropriate policies and guidelines.
- Evaluating and managing the relationships with the consultants to the Fund to ensure that they are providing all the necessary assistance to Staff, Investment Committee, and the Board as set forth in their service contracts.
- Conducting manager searches, as set forth in this document, with necessary assistance from consultants as directed by the Board or Investment Committee.

- Restructuring portfolios following manager terminations with the assistance of consultants and managers, as needed.
- Organizing and/or participating in any special research required to manage the Plan more effectively or in response to any questions raised by Board/Investment Committee members.
- Supporting the Board or Investment Committee in the development and approval of the Investment Plan, implementing and monitoring the Plan, and reporting at least monthly on investment activity and matters of significance.
- Assisting with the negotiation of investment manager fees when needed.
- Ensuring that investment managers conform to the terms of their contracts and that their performance monitoring systems are sufficient to provide the Board or Investment Committee with timely, accurate and useful information.

### **Duties of the Public Markets Investment Managers**

The following duties apply to managers investing in public market securities:

- Provide the Plan with a written agreement to invest within the guidelines established in the Investment Policy.
- Provide the Plan with proof of liability and fiduciary insurance coverage. Updated policy information will be provided to MCERA upon renewal and/or changes to the policy.
- Be an SEC-Registered Investment Advisor under the 1940 Act, and be recognized as providing demonstrated expertise over a number of years in the management of institutional, tax-exempt assets within a defined investment specialty.
- Adhere to the investment management style concepts and principles for which they were retained, including, but not limited to, developing portfolio strategy, performing research, developing buy, hold and sell lists, and purchasing and selling securities.
- Execute all transactions for the benefit of the Plan with brokers and dealers qualified to execute institutional orders on an ongoing basis at the best net cost to the Plan.
- Reconcile monthly accounting, transaction and asset summary data with custodian valuations, and communicate and resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian.
- Submit written acknowledgement to the Retirement Administrator of these investment guidelines at the time of hire or upon any contract renewal or amendment.
- Maintain frequent and open communication with Staff and the Board or Investment Committee on all significant matters pertaining to the Investment Policy, including, but not limited to, the following:



- Major changes in the investment manager’s investment outlook, investment strategy and portfolio structure;
  - Significant changes in ownership, organizational structure, financial condition or senior personnel;
  - Any changes in the portfolio manager or client servicing personnel assigned to the Plan;
  - All pertinent issues which the investment manager deems to be of significant interest or material importance.
- Meet with the Board, Investment Committee or their designee(s) on an as-needed basis.

### **Duties of the Private Markets Investment Managers**

The following duties apply to managers investing in private markets:

- Be a SEC-Registered Investment Advisor under the 1940 Act.
- Adhere to the investment management style concepts and principles set forth in the legal documentation of the relevant investment vehicle.
- Provide reporting as specified by the legal documentation of the relevant investment vehicle.
- Meet with the Board, Investment Committee or their designee(s) on an as-needed basis.

### **Duties of the Master Custodian**

The master custodian shall be responsible for the following:

- Provide complete global custody and depository services for the designated accounts.
- Manage, if directed by the Board or Investment Committee, a Short Term Investment Fund (STIF) for investment of any cash not invested by managers, and ensure that all available cash is invested. If the cash reserves are managed externally, full cooperation must be provided.
- Provide in a timely and effective manner a monthly report of the investment activities implemented by the investment managers. If certain portfolios are custodied elsewhere, full cooperation must be provided.
- Collect all income and principal realizable and properly report it on the periodic statements.
- Provide monthly and fiscal year-end accounting statements for the portfolio, including all transactions; these should be based on accurate security values for both cost and market. These reports should be provided within acceptable time frames.

- Report to MCERA situations where accurate security pricing, valuation and accrued income is either not possible or subject to considerable uncertainty.
- Provide assistance to the Plan to complete such activities as the annual audit, transaction verification or other issues as required by the Board or Investment Committee.
- Manage a securities lending program to enhance income if directed by the Board or Investment Committee. If the securities lending program is managed externally, full cooperation must be provided.
- Securities transactions shall be settled under the contractual method.
- The use of due bills or substitute securities is expressly forbidden.

### **Duties of the General Investment Consultant**

The investment consultant will act as a fiduciary for all services provided to MCERA. The Investment Consultant shall be responsible for the following:

- Make recommendations to the Board or Investment Committee regarding investment policy and strategic asset allocation.
- Assist MCERA in the selection of qualified investment managers and sponsors of limited liability partnerships, limited liability corporations, group trusts or other commonly used investment vehicles and assist in the oversight of existing managers and said sponsors, including monitoring changes in personnel, ownership and their investment process.
- Assist in the selection of a qualified custodian (including a securities lending agent and/or a cash manager) if necessary.
- Prepare a quarterly performance report including performance attribution on MCERA's managers and total assets and adherence to investment style and discipline.
- Provide topical research and education on investment subjects that are relevant to MCERA.
- Assist with the negotiation of investment management and custodian assignment and fees.

## **POLICY REVIEW**

The Investment Committee will review this Policy at least every year to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate. The Policy may be amended at any time by majority vote.

**APPENDIX A**  
**MCERA'S LONG-TERM STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION TARGETS AND RANGES**

The strategic asset allocation targets have been developed as a function of the returns and risks of various asset classes and a rigorous analysis of MCERA's liabilities, taking into account the Board and Investment Committee's risk tolerance and long-term objectives. As asset class values change over time, deviations from the asset allocation targets may occur. Rebalancing the portfolio may be necessary to return the asset class allocations to targeted weights so as to ensure that the Board's intended strategy is consistently maintained over time. Rebalancing actions are the responsibility of the Staff and shall be reported to the Board or Investment Committee on a periodic basis.

Staff is authorized and directed (in the normal course of events) to act in accordance with this policy. Where particular circumstances arise and Staff determines rebalancing is not prudent, because doing so may generate unnecessary costs or otherwise not be in the best interests of MCERA, a full report of the actions taken or not taken shall be made to the Board or Investment Committee at the earliest opportunity.

MCERA's actual asset allocation shall be reviewed at the end of each quarter at a minimum and shall be based on current asset valuations. Estimated values may be used when current asset valuations are not available.

By using statistical models and employing a diversified portfolio strategy, MCERA seeks to create an efficient frontier, which is an optimal portfolio profile that accomplishes the lowest possible level of risk for a certain level of return. While asset allocation targets are an essential part of MCERA's investment policy, the inputs used to develop these benchmarks are not known with certainty. Indeed, the targets were derived using estimates of future returns and estimates of the risk of loss for each asset class. Because future results are only estimates based on historical returns and volatility for each asset class, a range of different allocations other than the target percentage may be statistically identical in risk-return terms to the targeted benchmark even though the actual allocations may be outside of the targeted percent. Thus, the efficient frontier is really a range of targeted allocations, rather than a strict target percent of asset allocations in a portfolio. In other words, the portfolio is on the efficient frontier if the allocations to each asset class are within a range around the target allocations.

The strategic policy asset allocation and rebalancing triggers are set out in the table below:

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Target Percent</b>	<b>Allowable Range</b>
<b><i>US Equity</i></b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>28.0% - 36.0%</b>
Large Cap Core	24.0%	21.0% - 27.0%
Small Cap Core	8.0%	6.0% - 10.0%
<b><i>Non-US Equities</i></b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>19.0% - 25.0%</b>
International Large Cap Value	6.6%	5.6% - 7.6%
International Large Cap Growth	6.6%	5.6% - 7.6%
International Small Cap Core	4.4%	3.9% - 4.9%
International Emerging Markets	4.4%	3.9% - 4.9%
<b><i>Fixed Income</i></b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>20.0% - 26.0%</b>
U.S. Core Plus Fixed Income	23.0%	20.0% - 26.0%
<b><i>Real Assets</i></b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>4.0% - 10.0%</b>
Treasury Inflation Protected Securities	1.75%	1.5% - 2.0%
Commodities	1.75%	1.5% - 2.0%
Global Natural Resources Equity	1.75%	1.5% - 2.0%
Real Estate Investment Trusts	1.75%	1.5% - 2.0%
<b><i>Real Estate</i></b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>4.0% - 12.0%</b>
<b><i>Private Equity</i></b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>0.0% - 12.0%*</b>
<b><i>Opportunistic</i></b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0% - 5.0%</b>

\* MCERA acknowledges that because of the nature of private equity investment, it may take several years to fund the private equity allocations and during the initial funding period, its allocation to private equity in market value terms may fall below the 8% target. During the initial funding period, as a proxy for private equity, MCERA intends to keep the assets committed to private equity partnerships invested in domestic and international equity. The result will be overweights in both of these asset classes relative to the long-term targets described above.

The following principles apply when asset allocations are outside the allowable ranges noted above:

1. Cash held by MCERA and cash awaiting investment in private equity investments or other alternative investments may be securitized with exchange-traded futures to a Fund policy mix by MCERA's overlay manager. The use of derivative instruments is

permitted as long as it does not create economic leverage in the portfolio and the instruments comply with the Derivatives section of this investment policy.

2. In order to rebalance as efficiently as possible and save transactions costs, allocations may be brought back within the allowable range rather than exactly to the target percentage.
3. Private market portfolios, such as Real Estate, Private Equity, and certain Opportunistic allocations, because of their illiquid nature, are very costly to rebalance. MCERA's Staff will make reasonable attempts to keep these asset classes within the allowable ranges defined above. Given their illiquidity, the risk of these asset classes moving outside of the allowable ranges for an extended period is heightened. In these cases, MCERA's Staff will document a plan to rebalance the allocations within the allowable ranges in the most timely and cost-efficient manner possible given market and other conditions. It is noteworthy that the risk of these asset classes drifting outside of the efficient frontier is mitigated by the relatively small exposure to these classes as a percentage of the entire portfolio.
4. When physical securities are traded, assets will be moved between investment managers in accordance with the following principles:
  - a) Assets will be taken from investment managers in the overweight asset class(es) with consideration given to asset class structure, investment manager target weights, and confidence in the investment managers themselves. With respect to private market allocations, the illiquid nature of these classes will be taken into account and trading will normally be avoided where possible.
  - b) Primary emphasis should be on significantly different asset classes (e.g. equity vs. fixed income).
  - c) Assets will be directed to investment managers in the underweight asset class(es) with consideration given to the same factors listed above.

**APPENDIX B - 1**  
**STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (SSGA)**  
**RUSSELL 1000 INDEX STRATEGY (LARGE CAP CORE)**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

The objective of the Russell 1000 Index strategy is to provide returns consistent with the US equity market as measured by the Russell 1000 Index.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Match the return, gross of management fees, of the Russell 1000 Index over a complete market cycle.
- Minimize tracking error relative to the Russell 1000 Index.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments shall be managed in a diversified and prudent manner, subject to compliance with the Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association as set forth in this Appendix B-1 and the Statement of Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines set forth in the Investment Management Agreement between MCERA and SSGA, dated January 11, 2019, as amended from time to time (the "SSGA Agreement").
- Sector and security selection, portfolio structure and timing of purchase and sales are delegated to SSGA subject to the SSGA Agreement.
- The following transactions are prohibited: short sales, selling on margin, writing options other than covered options, and "prohibited transactions" as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), unless in reliance on an applicable Prohibited Transaction Exemption.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines is to be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the Fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.

- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception. These will be sent to MCERA’s Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Review every month transaction data with custodian reports, and communicate and seek to resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian.
- State Street Global Advisors will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- State Street Global Advisors will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. To the extent legally possible, SSGA will use its best efforts to promptly notify MCERA of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.



**APPENDIX B - 2**  
**DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS (DFA)**  
**DOMESTIC SMALL CAP EQUITY**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

**Investment Approach**

The strategy will be invested in a broadly diversified portfolio of companies that are generally in the lowest 10% of total market capitalization or companies whose market capitalizations are smaller than the 1,000<sup>th</sup> largest U.S. company, whichever results in the higher market capitalization break, in each case as reasonably determined by Manager at the time of purchase. In general, with respect to companies eligible for purchase the higher the relative market capitalization of the U.S. small cap company, the greater its representation in the Managed Assets. Manager may also adjust the representation within the Managed Assets of an eligible company, or exclude a company, after considering such factors as market capitalization, free float, momentum, trading strategies, liquidity, profitability, and other factors that Manager determines to be appropriate, given market conditions.

**MCERA Performance Objectives**

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the Russell 2000 Index (the “Benchmark”) over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of small cap core equity managers over a complete market cycle.

**Investment Guidelines**

- All investments shall be managed in a diversified and prudent manner, subject to compliance with the Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines for the Marin County Employees’ Retirement Association.
- Sector and security selection, portfolio structure and timing of purchase and sales are delegated to the manager subject to the investment management contract.
- The following transactions are prohibited: short sales, selling on margin, writing options other than covered options, and “prohibited transactions” as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
- Transactions shall be executed on the basis of seeking “best price and execution” and pursuant to Investment Manager’s best execution and trading policies for the sole benefit of the Marin County Employees’ Retirement Association.
- The use of foreign equity instruments which trade on U.S.-based exchanges or on NASDAQ, including American Depository Receipts (ADRs), are acceptable as domestic equity investments

but shall not constitute more than 15% of the portfolio (at market). Companies headquartered in the US will be considered domestic even if they are incorporated in a foreign jurisdiction.

- Securities in the Benchmark are permitted.
- Any security purchased or received in a corporate action is permitted.
- If not otherwise permitted herein, the use of other non-U.S. equity securities is prohibited. Notwithstanding the foregoing, securities of companies listed on exchanges or markets in the United States are permitted.
- The portfolio is expected to remain fully invested in that cash holdings should not exceed 10% of the market value in the portfolio; provided that such limit may be exceeded in situations where substantial withdrawals or inflows occur.
- DFA shall not purchase stock (or securities convertible into stock) of any single issuer if the purchase would cause this portfolio to include more than 5% of the outstanding voting stock, or more than 5% in (market) value of all outstanding securities of single issuer (assuming all shares are converted).
- Other than in connection with a corporate action, DFA shall not purchase private placements unless authorized in writing by the Board or Investment Committee.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected promptly upon discovery and provided that a reasonable market exists.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected promptly upon discovery, provided that in the event that the correction requires the buying and/or selling of securities, the Manager shall execute such purchase or sell trades of the applicable securities in an orderly fashion based upon prevailing market conditions.

#### Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA’s Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Review every month transaction data with custodian reports, and communicate and seek to resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian.

- DFA will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. One of the lead portfolio managers will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- DFA will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. DFA will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 3**  
**MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**  
**NON U.S. VALUE EQUITY**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

Morgan Stanley uses a bottom-up approach to build a diversified portfolio of primarily non US companies to generate long-term outperformance with an emphasis on reducing downside participation. The portfolio consists of a combination of high-quality companies characterized by their high returns on operating capital employed and strong free cash flow generation, and more cyclical companies with improving or mis-priced fundamentals, the mix of which varies over time based on valuations and company prospects.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the MSCI EAFE Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of Non-U.S. value equity managers over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- The Morgan Stanley International Equity Trust is subject to provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended (“ERISA”). The Agreement governs all aspects of investment with respect to the Trust, including an ERISA-mandated standard of care.
- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the Trust is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees’ Retirement Association. The Manager shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the Agreement.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the Fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

## Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Asset (portfolio) statement and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs (to be provided annually). These will be sent to MCERA’s Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Morgan Stanley will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative of Morgan Stanley will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- Morgan Stanley will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. Morgan Stanley will notify MCERA promptly of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 4**  
**ARTISAN PARTNERS**  
**NON U.S. GROWTH EQUITY**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

Artisan uses a fundamental bottom-up investment process to construct a diversified portfolio of international growth companies regardless of market capitalization, concentrating on industries or themes that the investment team believes present long-term growth opportunities and companies that are well positioned to capitalize on that growth. The portfolio has a primary emphasis on developed markets but also invests in emerging markets and is constructed without regard to index weightings.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the MSCI EAFE Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of Non-U.S. growth equity managers over a complete market cycle.

Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Asset (portfolio) statement and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception. These will be sent to MCERA’s Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Artisan will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the fund and its performance.
- Artisan will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. Artisan will notify MCERA promptly of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 5**  
**TIMESQUARE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST**  
**TIMESQUARE INTERNATIONAL SMALL CAP FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

TimesSquare Capital Management believes fundamental equity growth research with a particular emphasis on the assessment of management quality, an in-depth understanding of superior business models, and valuation discrepancies enables them to create a diversified international small cap fund that will generate quality risk-adjusted returns.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the MSCI EAFE Small Cap Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of International Small Cap equity managers over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the TimesSquare International Small Cap Fund is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. TimesSquare shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Asset (portfolio) statement and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- A representative of TimesSquare will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the fund and its performance.

- TimesSquare will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. The fund or its representative will notify MCERA promptly of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.



**APPENDIX B - 6**  
**FIDELITY INSTITUTIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT (FIAM)**  
**SELECT EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

**Investment Approach**

Fidelity Institutional Asset Management's (FIAM) investment philosophy is based on the premise that international and emerging markets are semi-efficient and pricing anomalies exist. The strategy seeks to exploit these inefficiencies through bottom-up stock selection based on fundamental company research, implemented within a framework of quantitative risk control.

**MCERA Performance Objectives**

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of MSCI Emerging Markets Index (net) over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of emerging markets equity managers over a complete market cycle.

**Investment Guidelines**

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in FIAM's Select Emerging Markets Equity commingled pool is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. FIAM shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

**Reporting Requirements**

- Monthly – Asset (portfolio) statement and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- A representative of FIAM will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the fund and its performance.

- FIAM will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. FIAM will notify MCERA promptly of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 7**  
**WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT COMPANY**  
**CORE PLUS FIXED INCOME**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

Wellington will invest in a diversified portfolio of investment grade and below investment grade fixed income securities. Wellington will add value primarily from sector and issue selection decisions. Interest rate anticipation and duration management will play a limited role in the portfolio.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of core plus fixed income managers over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments are subject to compliance with the Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association, with applicable State and Federal statutes, and shall be managed in a diversified and prudent manner. The manager shall invest within the scope of their stated style.
- Sector and security selection, portfolio structure and timing of purchase and sales are delegated to the manager subject to the investment management contract.
- The following transactions are prohibited: short sales where securities are borrowed solely for the purpose of shorting, selling on margin, and "prohibited transactions" as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
- Transactions shall be executed on the basis of "best price and execution" for the sole benefit of the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association's beneficiaries.
- The duration on the portfolio shall range between 75% - 125% of the duration on the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index.
- MCERA expects its domestic fixed income investment managers to maintain diversified portfolios by sector and by issuer. No more than 5% of the portfolio shall be invested with a single investment grade issuer other than obligations of the US Government and its agencies. No more than 2% of the portfolio shall be invested with a single below investment grade issuer.

- Futures, options, swaps, forwards and other derivative securities are permitted investments. Any use of these instruments by Wellington will be in a non-leveraged manner, defined as follows:
  - The use of financial leverage is prohibited. The Account will not be considered leveraged as a result of authorized derivative positions provided the Account maintains cash and securities at least equal to the value of the obligations created by its net derivative positions in order to cover the obligations created by such positions.
- Wellington may invest up to 20% of the portfolio in securities rated below investment grade by all three of the major credit rating agencies. In the case of split ratings in which the three agencies have different ratings, the highest rating will be used in determining the credit rating of the security. If an issue is unrated, then an equivalent credit rating, as deemed by Wellington Management, may be used.
- Wellington may invest up to 20% of the portfolio in non-dollar denominated securities and currencies. The Portfolio may take currency positions unrelated to underlying portfolio holdings.
  - Non-dollar securities may be held on a currency hedged or un-hedged basis. The portfolio may invest in currency exchange transactions on a spot or forward basis. Both long and short currency exposures are permissible.
  - With respect to the 20% non-dollar investment limitation listed above, the Investment Manager may take effective foreign currency exposure up to 20% of the total portfolio (e.g. the entire non-dollar portfolio may be unhedged). Foreign currency exposure will be based on the absolute value of all positions (long and short) versus the dollar, except in the case of same country and currency exposures where these can be netted. Both long and short foreign currency positions may be held without owning securities denominated in such currencies.
- Wellington may invest up to 20% of the portfolio in private placements, including those issued pursuant to Rule 144A and/or Reg S and other restricted securities, the liquidity of which Wellington Management deems consistent with the Portfolio's investment objective.
- Wellington may invest up to 5% of the portfolio in U.S. and non-U.S. preferred and perpetual securities.
- Wellington will maintain an average weighted credit quality of not more than 2 rating notches below the benchmark's average weighted credit quality, at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, if the benchmark is rated AA-, then 2 notches below would be A.
  - Ratings method: The ratings method used to test both the benchmark's average credit rating and the portfolio's average credit rating will be "split to the highest rating" of the three major rating agencies.
- Investment in mortgage interest only (IO), principal only (PO), inverse floaters or other CMO derivatives that have highly uncertain or volatile duration or price movements are limited to 5% of the market value of the portfolio.

- Bank loans are permitted investments.
- All percentage limits refer to “at time of purchase.”

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

#### Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA’s Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Review every month transaction data with custodian reports, and communicate and resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian.
- Wellington will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. One of the lead portfolio managers will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- Wellington will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. Wellington will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 8**  
**WESTERN ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY**  
**CORE PLUS FIXED INCOME**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

In adhering to these guidelines, Western will invest in a diversified portfolio of investment grade and below investment grade fixed income securities. Western will add value primarily from sector and issue selection decisions. Interest rate anticipation and duration management will play a limited role in the portfolio.

Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of core plus fixed income managers over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments are subject to compliance with the Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association, with applicable State and Federal statutes; accordingly, as of the date of this amendment these guidelines conform to all applicable rules and regulations and the Client will notify Western if any change thereof materially impact these guidelines. Moreover, the portfolio shall be managed in a diversified and prudent manner. The manager shall invest within the scope of their stated style.
- Sector and security selection, portfolio structure and timing of purchase and sales are delegated to the manager subject to the investment management contract. For the avoidance of doubt, the following are Eligible Investments:
  - UST, US Agencies and US GSEs
  - Sovereigns/non-US
  - International Agencies
  - Non-US Local Authorities
  - US Munis
  - Suprasnationals
  - Corporates, including convertibles and preferreds
  - Bank Loans
  - Mortgage-backed (agency and non-agency, including CMBS), Asset-backed and CLO/CDO/CBO
  - Cash and Cash equivalents, including REPO and STIF
  - Futures, Options and Swaps

- Currency Forwards
  - Credit linked notes (max 3%)
  - Commingled vehicles (excluding Western Asset affiliated Registered Investment Companies)
  - Pure privates, including 144a, Reg S and 4(2) Commercial Paper
  - Equity (only related to corporate actions, tenders and workouts and exchanges)
  - At time of purchase illiquids are ineligible (illiquids defined as securities that cannot be sold within 7 days at or around the carry).
- The following transactions are prohibited: short sales where securities are borrowed solely for the purpose of shorting, selling on margin, and “prohibited transactions” as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
  - Transactions shall be executed on the basis of “best price and execution” for the sole benefit of the Marin County Employees’ Retirement Association’s beneficiaries.
  - The duration on the portfolio shall range between 75% - 125% of the duration on the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index.
  - MCERA expects its domestic fixed income investment managers to maintain diversified portfolios by rating and by issuer. To this end, the following limits apply:
    - Max 5% per issuer in issues rated investment grade (other than obligations of the US Government and its agencies and excluding STIF) and,
    - Max 2% per issuer in issues rated below investment grade.
  - Futures, options, swaps, forwards and other derivative securities are permitted investments. Any use of these instruments by Western will be in a non-leveraged manner, defined as follows:
    - The use of financial leverage is prohibited. The Account will not be considered leveraged as a result of authorized derivative positions provided the Account maintains cash and securities at least equal to the value of the obligations created by its net derivative positions in order to cover the obligations created by such positions.
  - Western may invest up to 20% of the portfolio in securities rated below investment grade. In the case of split ratings in which the three agencies have different ratings, the highest rating will be used in determining the credit rating of the security. If an issue is unrated, then an equivalent credit rating, as deemed by Western, may be used.
    - Western may invest up to 20% of the portfolio in non-USD denominated securities and up to 20% of the portfolio may be invested in non-USD exposure via unhedged non-USD securities and foreign currency transactions. The Portfolio may take currency positions unrelated to underlying portfolio holdings.

- Non-dollar securities may be held on a currency hedged or un-hedged basis. The portfolio may invest in currency exchange transactions on a spot or forward basis. Both long and short currency exposures are permissible.
- Western will net within currencies and the resulting value will contribute to the max percentage permitted. Both long and short foreign currency positions may be held without owning securities denominated in such currencies.
- Western may invest up to 20% of the portfolio in private placements, including those issued pursuant to Rule 144A and/or Reg S and 4(2) commercial paper, the liquidity of which Western deems consistent with the Portfolio's investment objective.
- Western may invest up to 5% of the portfolio in U.S. and non-U.S. preferred and perpetual securities.
- Western will maintain an average weighted credit quality of not more than 4 rating notches below the benchmark's average weighted credit quality, at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, if the benchmark is rated AA-, then 4 notches below would be BBB+.
- Ratings method: The ratings method of the portfolio, including to test both the benchmark's average credit rating and the portfolio's average credit rating, will be "split to the highest rating" of the three major rating agencies (S&P, Moody's, Fitch), for unrated ok to use Manager's internally generated rating.
- Investment in mortgage interest only (IO), principal only (PO), inverse floaters or other CMO derivatives that have highly uncertain or volatile duration or price movements are limited to 5% of the market value of the portfolio.
- All percentage limits refer to "at time of purchase."

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the Fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

#### Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus written certification of compliance with guidelines, performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.



- Review every month transaction data with custodian reports, and communicate and resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian.
- Western will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. One of the lead portfolio managers will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- Western will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. Western will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 9**  
**BLACKROCK**  
**US TREASURY INFLATION PROTECTED SECURITIES FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

**Investment Approach**

The objectives of the US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities Fund are to provide returns consistent with the US TIPS market as measured by the Bloomberg US TIPS Index.

**MCERA Performance Objectives**

- Match the return as closely as practicable, gross of management fees, of the Bloomberg US TIPS Index over a complete market cycle.
- Minimize tracking error relative to the Bloomberg US TIPS Index.

**Investment Guidelines**

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities Fund is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. BlackRock shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines is to be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

**Reporting Requirements**

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus, performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- BlackRock will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative of BlackRock will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.

- BlackRock will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. BlackRock will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 10**  
**INVESCO**  
**BALANCED-RISK COMMODITY**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

The Invesco Balanced-Risk Commodity strategy uses an active approach to commodity investing due to some of the unique return sources available in the commodity markets. The investment strategy focuses on four key drivers of commodity returns: term structure weighting, equal risk contribution, optimal roll, and tactical allocation.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the Bloomberg Commodities Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of commodity managers over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in Invesco's Balanced-Risk Commodity Fund is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. Invesco shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines is to be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the Fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Invesco will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative of Invesco will be available to meet with MCERA

annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.

- Invesco will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. Invesco will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 11**  
**KBI GLOBAL INVESTORS**  
**GLOBAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

KBI Global Investors' (KBIGI) Global Resource Solutions strategy invests in companies providing solutions to the greatest global resource challenges. There are compelling investment opportunities in companies providing solutions to resource scarcity across water, food and energy.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the S&P Global Natural Resources Index over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the KBIGI Global Resource Solutions Fund is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. KBIGI shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines is to be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- KBIGI will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative of KBIGI will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.

- KBIGI will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. KBIGI will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 12**  
**BLACKROCK**  
**REIT INDEX FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

The objectives of the REIT Index Fund are to provide returns consistent with the US REIT market as measured by the Dow Jones US Select Real Estate Securities Index.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Match the return as closely as practicable, gross of management fees, of the Dow Jones US Select Real Estate Securities Index over a complete market cycle.
- Minimize tracking error relative to the Dow Jones US Select Real Estate Securities Index.

Investment Guidelines

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the REIT Index Fund is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. BlackRock shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines is to be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio and benchmark for the month will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, year-to-date, one year, three years, five years and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- BlackRock will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. A representative of BlackRock will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.



- BlackRock will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. BlackRock will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 13**  
**UBS**  
**CORE REAL ESTATE**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

UBS Trumbull Property Fund is an open-ended core real estate commingled fund. UBS strives to invest predominantly in income producing properties diversified by both geographical region and by property type.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the NCREIF Open-Ended Core Diversified Equity (ODCE) Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of Open-Ended Core Real Estate managers over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the UBS Trumbull Property Fund is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. UBS shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the UBS Trumbull Property Fund.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

Reporting Requirements

- Quarterly – Performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, one year, three years, five years and since inception. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- UBS will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. Members of the investment team will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- UBS will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. UBS will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B - 14**  
**AEW CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**  
**CORE REAL ESTATE**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

**Investment Approach**

AEW Core Property Trust is an open-ended core real estate commingled fund. AEW strives to invest predominantly in income producing properties diversified by both geographical region and by property type.

**MCERA Performance Objectives**

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the NCREIF Open-Ended Core Diversified Equity (ODCE) Index over a complete market cycle.
- Perform in the top half of a peer universe of Open-Ended Core Real Estate managers over a complete market cycle.

**Investment Guidelines**

- MCERA is responsible for determining that its investment in the AEW Core Property Trust is in compliance with its Investment Guidelines (other than this document) for the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association. AEW shall invest within the scope of its style as stated in the governing documents for the AEW Core Property Trust.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

**Reporting Requirements**

- Quarterly – Performance of the portfolio and benchmark for the quarter, one year, three years, five years and since inception. These will be sent to MCERA's Retirement Administrator and MCERA's Investment Consultant.
- AEW will meet with the MCERA Board and/or Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. Members of the investment team will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- AEW will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. AEW will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.

**APPENDIX B-15**  
**CARVAL INVESTORS**  
**CREDIT VALUE FUND V LP**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

CarVal Investors Credit Value Fund V LP is a closed-end fund that will make investments in distressed and credit-intensive assets within loan portfolios, corporate securities, structured credit, hard assets, and special opportunities.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index + 250 basis points over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments are subject to compliance with the investment management style concepts and principles set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.

Reporting Requirements

- Reporting requirements will be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation.
- A representative of CarVal will generally be available to meet or have discussions with MCERA, the Board of Retirement and/or Investment Committee, or their designee(s) as reasonably necessary to review the portfolio and its performance.

Any and all legal obligations related to MCERA's investment in the Partnership would be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation, notwithstanding anything in this Investment Policy Statement and any related appendices to the contrary.

**APPENDIX B-16**  
**FORTRESS INVESTMENT GROUP**  
**FORTRESS CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES FUNDS V EXPANSION**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

Fortress Credit Opportunities Funds V Expansion is a closed-end fund that will make investments in a range of distressed and undervalued credit investments.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index + 250 basis points over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments are subject to compliance with the investment management style concepts and principles set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.

Reporting Requirements

- Reporting requirements will be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation.
- A representative of Fortress will generally be available to meet or have discussions with MCERA, the Board of Retirement and/or Investment Committee, or their designee(s) as reasonably necessary to review the portfolio and its performance.

Any and all legal obligations related to MCERA's investment in the Partnership would be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation, notwithstanding anything in this Investment Policy Statement and any related appendices to the contrary.

**APPENDIX B-17**  
**VÄRDE MANAGEMENT, L.P**  
**THE VÄRDE DISLOCATION FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

The Värde Dislocation Fund is a closed-end fund that will make investments in a broad universe of mispriced, stressed, and distressed credit opportunities.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Exceed the return, net of management fees, of the S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index + 250 basis points over a complete market cycle.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments are subject to compliance with the investment management style concepts and principles set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.

Reporting Requirements

- Reporting requirements will be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation.
- A representative of Värde will generally be available to meet or have discussions with MCERA, the Board of Retirement and/or Investment Committee, or their designee(s) as reasonably necessary to review the portfolio and its performance.

Any and all legal obligations related to MCERA's investment in the Partnership would be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation, notwithstanding anything in this Investment Policy Statement and any related appendices to the contrary.

**APPENDIX B - 18**  
**PARAMETRIC PORTFOLIO ASSOCIATES**  
**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION OVERLAY SERVICE**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Investment Approach

Parametric Portfolio Associates will use futures contracts to “securitize” cash investments in the portfolio, bridge exposure gaps during transitions, and to rebalance portfolio exposures.

MCERA Performance Objectives

- Produce returns approximately equal to the Fund’s guideline-based overlay portfolio benchmark.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments are subject to compliance with the Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines for the Marin County Employees’ Retirement Association, with applicable State and Federal statutes, and shall be managed in a diversified and prudent manner. The manager shall invest within the scope of their stated style.
- Security selection and timing of purchase and sales are delegated to the manager subject to the investment management contract.
- The following transactions are prohibited: writing options other than covered options, and “prohibited transactions” as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
- Transactions shall be executed on the basis of “best price and execution” for the sole benefit of the Marin County Employees’ Retirement Association’s beneficiaries.
- Futures contracts, including short positions, are permitted in order to “securitize” existing cash positions, bridge exposure gaps during transitions, and to rebalance portfolio exposures. Futures are not to be used for speculative purposes.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery. A realized loss to the Fund resulting from a material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines will require reimbursement of the amount of the loss by the manager.

## Reporting Requirements

- Monthly – Transaction statement, asset (portfolio) statement, and performance for the portfolio will be sent to the MCERA Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Quarterly – Same as monthly plus performance of the portfolio for the quarter, year-to-date and since inception, and review of transactions costs. These will be sent to MCERA’s Retirement Administrator and MCERA’s Investment Consultant.
- Review every month transaction data with custodian reports, and communicate and resolve any significant discrepancies with the custodian.
- Parametric Portfolio Associates will meet with the MCERA Board and/or the Investment Committee as often as deemed necessary by MCERA. One of the lead portfolio managers will be available to meet with MCERA annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.
- Parametric Portfolio Associates will keep MCERA apprised of relevant information regarding its organization and personnel. Parametric Portfolio Associates will notify MCERA within 24 hours of any change in the lead personnel assigned to manage the account.



**APPENDIX C-1**  
**PATHWAY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**  
**PATHWAY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND 2008 (PPEF 2008)**  
**PATHWAY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND INVESTORS 7 (PPEF I-7)**  
**PATHWAY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND INVESTORS 8 (PPEF I-8)**  
**PATHWAY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND INVESTORS 9 (PPEF I-9)**  
**PATHWAY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND INVESTORS 10 (PPEF I-10)**  
**PATHWAY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND INVESTORS 11 (PPEF I-11)**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

**Investment Approach**

The Partnership's investment strategy is to create a diversified portfolio of private equity funds that pursue a variety of investment strategies, including but not limited to, buyouts, venture capital, and special situations.

**MCERA Performance Objectives**

- Produce returns approximately equal to or in excess of the Refinitiv/Cambridge (All Regions) All Private Equity Index as provided and set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.

**Investment and other Guidelines**

- All investments are subject to compliance with the investment management style concepts and principles set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.
- The investment manager shall at all times be a SEC-Registered Investment Advisor under the Investment Advisors Action of 1940, as amended.

**Reporting Requirements**

- Reporting requirements will be governed by the Partnership's legal documentation.
- The investment manager shall meet or shall cause the General Partner of the Partnership to meet with the Board and/or the Investment Committee or their designee(s) annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.

**APPENDIX C-2**  
**ABBOTT CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**  
**ABBOTT PRIVATE EQUITY FUND VI, LP (ACE VI)**  
**ABBOTT PRIVATE EQUITY FUND VII, LP (ACE VII)**  
**ABBOTT ANNUAL PROGRAM 2016, LP (AP 2016)**  
**ABBOTT ANNUAL PROGRAM 2017, LP (AP 2017)**  
**ABBOTT ANNUAL PROGRAM 2021, LP (AP 2021)**  
**ABBOTT ANNUAL PROGRAM 2023, LP (AP 2023)**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

**Investment Approach**

The Partnership's investment strategy is to create a diversified portfolio of private equity funds that pursue a variety of investment strategies, including but not limited to growth equity buyouts, venture capital, and special situations.

**MCERA Performance Objectives**

- Produce returns approximately equal to or in excess of the Refinitiv/Cambridge (All Regions) All Private Equity Index as provided and set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.

**Investment and other Guidelines**

- All investments are subject to compliance with the investment management style concepts and principles set forth in the legal documentation of the Partnership.
- The investment manager shall at all times be a SEC-Registered Investment Advisor under the Investment Advisors Action of 1940, as amended.

Any material violation of these Investment Manager Guidelines shall be corrected immediately upon discovery.

**Reporting Requirements**

- Reporting requirements will be governed by the Partnership' legal documentation.
- The investment manager shall meet or shall cause the General Partner of the Partnership to meet with the Board, and/or the Investment Committee, or their designee(s) annually, or more often if deemed necessary by MCERA, to review the portfolio and its performance.

**APPENDIX D**  
**RESOLUTION 2010/11-03**  
**MARIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (MCERA)**  
**PLACEMENT AGENT PAYMENT DISCLOSURE RESOLUTION AND POLICY**

**Adopted: December 9, 2009**  
**Amended: February 9, 2011**  
**Amended: November 2, 2011**  
**Reviewed: May 6, 2015**  
**Reviewed: May 9, 2018**  
**Amended: May 5, 2021**

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 7513.85, chaptered on October 11, 2009 to be effective immediately ("Section 7513.85"), requires all California public retirement systems to develop and implement, on or before June 30, 2010, a policy requiring the disclosure of payments to placement agents made in connection with system investments in or through external managers ("Placement Agent Payment Disclosure Policy" or "Policy").

WHEREAS, placement agent as described in this Policy includes all those identified in California Government Code section 7513.8, as amended.

WHEREAS, the Board of Retirement ("Board") of the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association ("MCERA") has determined, upon the recommendation of the MCERA Governance Committee, that adoption of a Placement Agent Payment Disclosure Policy is consistent with the Board's fiduciary responsibilities.

WHEREAS, Section 7513.85 requires the Placement Agent Payment Disclosure Policy to include, but not be limited to, six of the requirements enumerated in the Policy, and new California Government Code section 7513.9 requires additional disclosures that also are enumerated in this Policy.

WHEREAS, the MCERA Governance Committee has recommended, and the Board has determined, that the Placement Agent Payment Disclosure Policy or similar acknowledgement must be agreed to in writing, and a report shall be filed annually, by all of MCERA's current and future external investment managers.

WHEREAS, in compliance with Section 7513.85, any external investment manager or Placement Agent that violates this Policy shall not solicit new investments from MCERA for five years after the violation is committed, unless the Board decides, in open session by majority vote, to waive the five year prohibition upon a showing of good cause.

WHEREAS, the Board reserves the right to impose an additional penalty of a fine on a external investment manager who violates this Policy, and does not establish good cause therefore to the reasonable satisfaction of the Board; provided, however, that said fine may not exceed the fees due from MCERA to the manager from the date of the violation to the date of the fee's imposition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

Prior to MCERA investing with any external investment manager, and contemporaneous with required annual filings of Statements of Economic Interests (Form 700) or similar disclosures with respect to all MCERA existing external investment managers, MCERA shall be provided with a written representation from the investment manager, in a form acceptable to MCERA's legal counsel, stating that (1) the external investment manager agrees with the disclosure and penalty provisions set forth in this Policy and (2) it has not used a Placement Agent in connection with MCERA's investment, or if the manager has used a Placement Agent, it will disclose the following:

1. The name of the Placement Agent(s) and the relationship between the external investment manager and Placement Agent(s).
2. A resume for each officer, partner, or principal of the Placement Agent detailing the person's education, professional designations, regulatory licenses, and investment and work experience.
3. A description of any and all compensation of any kind provided, or agreed to be provided, to the Placement Agent.
4. A representation that the compensation provided is the sole obligation of the external investment manager and not of MCERA or the limited partnership.
5. A description of the services performed, and to be performed, by the Placement Agent.
6. A statement whether the Placement Agent, or any of its affiliates, are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Financial Industry Regulatory Association, or any similar regulatory agent in a county other than the United States, and the details of that registration or explanation as to why no registration is required.
7. A statement whether the Placement Agent, or any of its affiliates, is registered as a lobbyist with any state or national government.
8. All campaign contributions made by the Placement Agent to any elected member of the Board, and to any member of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, during the prior 24-month period, which disclosure shall be amended if any campaign contributions are made during the time the Placement Agent is receiving compensation in connection with a system investment.
9. All gifts, as defined in Government Code section 82028, given by the Placement Agent to any member of the Board, or to the Board's investment consultant, during the time the Placement Agent is receiving compensation in connection with a system investment.
10. All current or former MCERA Board members, employees, or consultants or

11. A member of the immediate family of any such person who are either employed or receiving compensation from the Placement Agent.
12. The names of any current or former MCERA Board members, employees, or consultants who suggested the retention of the Placement Agent.

Policy Review

The Board shall review this Placement Agent Payment Disclosure Policy at least every three years to assure its efficacy and relevance. This Policy may be amended from time to time by majority vote of the Board.

Retirement Administrator's Certificate

I, Jeff Wickman, the duly appointed Retirement Administrator of the Marin County Employees' Retirement Association, hereby certify the amendment of this Policy.

Dated: May 5, 2021



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Retirement Administrator