

# Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association

**Schedule of Employer Allocations and  
Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer  
As of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2023  
With Independent Auditor's Report**

**Employer Reporting Period: June 30, 2024**

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## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Retirement and  
Board of Investments  
Los Angeles County Employees  
Retirement Association

### **Opinions**

We have audited the schedule of employer allocations of Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 and the related notes. We have also audited the total for all entities of the columns titled net pension liability, total deferred outflows of resources (excluding contributions made subsequent to June 30, 2023), total deferred inflows of resources, and total pension expense (the "specified column totals"), included in the accompanying schedule of pension amounts by employer of LACERA as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes.

In our opinion, the accompanying schedules referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the employer allocations and net pension liability, total deferred outflows of resources, total deferred inflows of resources, and total pension expense for the total of all participating entities for the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedules* section of our report. We are required to be independent of LACERA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### **Emphasis of Matter**

As explained in Note 2 to the schedules, the schedules include investments that are part of the calculation of the net pension liability, which are valued at \$26,537,410,000 (36 percent of net position) at June 30, 2023, whose fair values have been estimated by management in the absence of readily determinable market values. Given that publicly listed prices are not available, management's estimates are based on alternative sources of information, including audited financial statements, audited interim reports, independent appraisals, and other similar sources of information to determine the fair value of investments. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Schedules**

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

To the Board of Retirement and  
Board of Investments  
Los Angeles County Employees  
Retirement Association

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedules***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule of employer allocations and the specified column totals included in the schedule of pension amounts by employer are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the schedule of employer allocations and the specified column totals included in the schedule of pension amounts by employer.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedule of employer allocations and the specified column totals included in the schedule of pension amounts by employer, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the schedule of employer allocations and the specified column totals included in the schedule of pension amounts by employer and the related disclosures.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of LACERA's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the schedule of employer allocations and the specified column totals included in the schedule of pension amounts by employer.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Other Matter***

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and our report thereon dated October 13, 2023 expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial statements.

### ***Restriction on Use***

Our report is intended solely for the information and use of LACERA's management, the retirement board, LACERA's employers, and its auditors and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Plante & Moran, PLLC*

April 3, 2024

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Schedule of Employer Allocations

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

Employer	Measurement Date 6/30/2023				
	Actual Employer Contribution (1)	Employer Contribution Percentage	Adjusted Contribution Percentage	Employer Proportion	Employer Net Pension Liability
Los Angeles County	\$ 2,216,111,000	96.28123%	96.28123%	96.28123%	\$ 14,073,963,000
Los Angeles County Superior Court	85,407,000	3.71060%	3.71060%	3.71060%	542,399,000
South Coast Air Quality Management District	-	0.00000%	0.00000%	0.00000%	-
Los Angeles County Office of Education	-	0.00000%	0.00000%	0.00000%	-
Local Agency Formation Commission	177,000	0.00769%	0.00769%	0.00769%	1,124,000
Little Lake Cemetery District	11,000	0.00048%	0.00048%	0.00048%	70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,301,706,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 14,617,556,000</b>

- (1) Employer contributions exclude any pickup contributions and include contributions from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Our understanding is that the MTA is a nonemployer contributing entity that is not in a special funding situation. We have considered contributions from the MTA as a county contribution in the above table.

See accompanying Notes to the Schedule of Employer Allocations and Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer  
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

Employer Name	Deferred Outflows of Resources						Deferred Inflows of Resources			Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions		
	Net Pension Liability	Differences Between Expected and Actual Economic Experience	Net Differences between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings	Changes of Assumptions	Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	Differences between Expected and Actual Economic Experience	Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	Proportionate Share of Allocable Pension Expense	Net Amortization of Deferred Amounts from Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	Total Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions
Los Angeles County	\$ 14,073,963,000	\$ 1,598,001,000	\$ 100,005,000	\$ 2,340,769,000	\$ 22,070,000	\$ 4,060,845,000	\$ 5,720,000	\$ 16,093,000.00	\$ 21,813,000	\$ 2,792,382,000	\$ 4,974,000	\$ 2,797,356,000
Los Angeles County Superior Court	542,399,000	61,586,000	3,854,000	90,211,000	16,006,000	171,657,000	220,000	22,066,000	22,286,000	107,616,000	(4,966,000)	102,650,000
South Coast Air Quality Management District	-	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Los Angeles County Office of Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Agency Formation Commission	1,124,000	128,000	8,000	187,000	111,000	434,000	-	38,000	38,000	223,000	(12,000)	211,000
Little Lake Cemetery District	70,000	8,000	-	12,000	11,000	31,000	-	7,000	7,000	14,000	2,000	16,000
<b>Total for All Employers</b>	<b>\$ 14,617,556,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,659,723,000</b>	<b>\$ 103,867,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,431,179,000</b>	<b>\$ 38,204,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,232,973,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,940,000</b>	<b>\$ 38,204,000</b>	<b>\$ 44,144,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,900,235,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,900,235,000</b>

See accompanying Notes to the Schedule of Employer Allocations and Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to Schedule of Employer Allocations and

Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

### **(1) Plan Description**

Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) administers a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan for Los Angeles County and its affiliated Superior Court, plus four outside districts: Little Lake Cemetery District, Local Agency Formation Commission, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and South Coast Air Quality Management District. For additional information, please refer to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which can be found on LACERA's website at [www.LACERA.com](http://www.LACERA.com).

Plan benefits are specified in and provided to members based on the California Constitution, the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL), the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) and the regulations, procedures, and policies adopted by the LACERA Board of Retirement and the LACERA Board of Investments. The Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors may also adopt resolutions, as permitted by CERL, which may affect the benefits of LACERA members. Benefits are provided to members of the plan based on the provisions of PEPRA.

### **(2) Basis of Presentation and Significant Accounting Principles**

The Schedule of Employer Allocations and Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer presents amounts that are elements of the financial statements of the plan or of its participating employers. Accordingly, they do not purport to be a complete presentation of the financial position or changes in financial position of the plan or its participating employers. The accompanying schedules were prepared in accordance with the full accrual basis of accounting under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Revenue is recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Member and employer contributions are recognized in the period in which the contributions are due, pursuant to legal requirements. Benefits and refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of each benefit plan.

The preparation of these schedules requires management of LACERA to make a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts. Due to the inherent nature of these estimates, actual results could differ from those estimates.

The plan net position, which is part of the calculation of the net pension liability (per Note (4)), includes investments valued at \$26,537,410,000 (36 percent of net position) at June 30, 2023, whose fair values have been estimated by management in the absence of readily determinable market values. Given that publicly listed prices are not available, management uses alternative sources of information, including audited financial statements, unaudited interim reports, independent appraisals, and other similar sources of information, to determine the fair value of investments.

### **(3) Allocation Methodology**

GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, requires participating employers in the plan to recognize their proportionate share of the collective net pension liability, collective deferred outflows of resources, collective deferred inflows of resources, and collective pension expense. The employer allocation percentages presented in the Schedule of Employer Allocations and applied to amounts presented in the Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer are based on the ratio of each employer's contribution to the plan's total employer contributions during the measurement period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to Schedule of Employer Allocations and

Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

**(3) Allocation Methodology (Continued)**

Total contribution per the Schedule of Employer Allocations and per the LACERA audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023 is \$2,301,706,000.

**(4) Collective Net Pension Liability**

The components of the collective net pension liability of the participating employers at June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Total pension liability	\$ 88,469,442,000
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(73,851,886,000)</u>
Net pension liability	<u>\$14,617,556,000</u>

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The collective net pension liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, with updated procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2023. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation	2.75 percent
General wage growth	3.25 percent
Projected salary increases	3.66 percent to 12.54 percent
Projected COLAs	Post-retirement benefit increases of either 2.75 percent or 2.0 percent per year are assumed for the valuation in accordance with the benefits provided. Supplemental Targeted Adjustment for Retirees (STAR) benefits are assumed to be substantively automatic at the 80 percent purchasing power level until the STAR Reserve is projected to be insufficient to pay further STAR Program benefits.
Investment rate of return	7.13 percent, compounded annually, net of investment expense

Mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 mortality tables and included projection for expected future mortality improvement using the MP-2021 Ultimate Projection Scale.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

**Long-term Expected Rate of Return**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table. The asset class return assumptions are presented on a real basis, after the effects of inflation, and all assumptions incorporate a base inflation rate assumption of 2.75 percent.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to Schedule of Employer Allocations and

Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

**(4) Collective Net Pension Liability (Continued)**

**Long-term Expected Rate of Return (Continued)**

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (After Expected 2.75% Inflation Rate) (Geometric)
<b>Growth</b>	<b>53.0%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>
Global Equity	32.0%	5.0%
Private Equity	17.0%	7.0%
Non-Core Private Real Estate	4.0%	6.5%
<b>Credit</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
Liquid Credit	4.0%	2.2%
Illiquid Credit	7.0%	3.3%
<b>Real Assets and Inflation Hedges</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Core Private Real Estate	6.0%	3.2%
Natural Resource and Commodities	3.0%	3.9%
Infrastructure	5.0%	4.9%
TIPS	3.0%	0.1%
<b>Risk Reduction &amp; Mitigation</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Investment Grade Bonds	7.0%	0.2%
Diversified Hedge Fund Portfolio	6.0%	2.1%
Long-Term Government Bonds	5.0%	0.7%
Cash Equivalents	1.0%	-0.8%

*Single Discount Rate*

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.13 percent. This rate reflects the long-term assumed rate of return on assets for funding purposes of 7.00 percent, net of all expenses, increased by .13 percent, gross of administrative expenses.

The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rates. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be sufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to Schedule of Employer Allocations and

Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

**(4) Collective Net Pension Liability (Continued)**

*Sensitivity of the Collective Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate*

The following presents the collective net pension liability calculated using a discount rate of 7.13 percent, as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (6.13 percent) or 1 percentage point higher (8.13 percent) than the current rate:

	<b>1% Decrease</b>	<b>Current Discount</b>	<b>1% Increase</b>
	<b>(6.13%)</b>	<b>Rate (7.13%)</b>	<b>(8.13%)</b>
Collective net pension liability	\$26,342,181,000	\$14,617,556,000	\$4,898,389,000

**(5) Collective Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

The following presents a summary of changes in the collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources (excluding employer specific amounts) for the year ended June 30, 2023:

	Year of Deferral	Amortization Period (years)	Beginning of Year Balance	Additions	Deductions	End of Year Balance
<b>Deferred Outflow of Resources:</b>						
Difference between expected and actual experience	2023	7	-	\$ 377,821,000	53,974,000	323,847,000
	2022	8	343,017,000	-	49,002,000	294,015,000
	2021	8	454,174,000	-	75,696,000	378,478,000
	2020	8	496,848,000	-	99,369,000	397,479,000
	2019	8	251,493,000	-	62,874,000	188,619,000
	2018	8	115,929,000	-	38,644,000	77,285,000
Subtotal			1,661,461,000	377,821,000	379,559,000	1,659,723,000
Difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	2023	5	-	125,691,000	25,138,000	100,553,000
	2022	5	5,375,185,000	-	1,343,796,000	4,031,389,000
	2020	5	1,130,202,000	-	565,101,000	565,101,000
	2019	5	189,753,000	-	189,753,000	-
Subtotal			6,695,140,000	125,691,000	2,123,788,000	4,697,043,000
Changes of assumptions	2023	7	-	855,336,000	122,191,000	733,145,000
	2020	8	1,641,314,000	-	328,263,000	1,313,051,000
	2017	8	769,970,000	-	384,987,000	384,983,000
Subtotal			2,411,284,000	855,336,000	835,441,000	2,431,179,000
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources			<u>\$ 10,767,885,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,358,848,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,338,788,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,787,945,000</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Difference between expected and actual experience	2017	8	\$ 11,878,000	\$ -	\$ 5,938,000	\$ 5,940,000
	2016	8	54,629,000	-	54,629,000	-
Subtotal			66,507,000	-	60,567,000	5,940,000
Difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	2021	5	6,889,764,000	\$ -	\$ 2,296,588,000	\$ 4,593,176,000
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources			<u>\$ 6,956,271,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,357,155,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,599,116,000</u>

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Notes to Schedule of Employer Allocations and

Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

**(5) Collective Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources (Continued)**

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources (excluding employer specific amounts) related to pensions will be recognized (amortized) in pension expense as follows:

<u>Years Ending June 30</u>	
2024	\$ 846,503,000
2025	(97,644,000)
2026	2,160,301,000
2027	753,636,000
2028	300,861,000
Thereafter	<u>225,172,000</u>
Total	\$ <u>4,188,829,000</u>

*Changes in Proportion*

The previous amounts do not include employer specific deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to changes in proportion. These amounts should be recognized (amortized) by each employer over the average of the expected remaining service lives of all plan members, which is eight years for the 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016 amounts and 7 years for the 2023 amount.

**(6) Pension Expense**

The components of allocable pension expense for the year ended June 30, 2023 (excluding employer specific pension expense for changes in proportion) are as follows:

Service cost	\$ 1,635,318,000
Interest on the total pension liability	5,950,906,000
Member contributions	(793,244,000)
Projected earnings of plan investments	(4,966,842,000)
Net miscellaneous income	(4,551,000)
Administrative expense	97,015,000
(Amortization) recognition of deferred outflows and inflows of resources:	
Difference between expected and actual experience	318,992,000
Difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	(172,800,000)
Changes of assumptions	<u>835,441,000</u>
Total	\$ <u>2,900,235,000</u>