# IN PERSON & VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING



\*The Committee meeting will be held prior to the Board of Investments meeting.



**TO VIEW VIA WEB** 



### **TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public may address the Committee orally and in writing. To provide Public Comment, you should visit the above link and complete the request form by selecting whether you will provide oral or written comment from the options located under Options next to the Committee meeting.

Attention: If you have any questions, you may email PublicComment@lacera.com. If you would like to make a public comment during the committee meeting, review the Public Comment instructions.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION 300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 650, PASADENA, CA

### AGENDA

### A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CREDIT AND RISK MITIGATION COMMITTEE

### AND THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS\*

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101

8:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

This meeting will be conducted by the Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee and Board of Investments both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953(f).

Any person may view the meeting in person at LACERA's offices or online at <u>https://LACERA.com/leadership/board-meetings</u>

The Committee may take action on any item on the agenda, and agenda items may be taken out of order.

COMMITTEE TRUSTEES:

David Ryu, Chair Mike Gatto, Vice Chair Trevor G. Fay Jason Green Patrick Jones, Alternate

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953(f)
  - A. Just Cause
  - B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests
  - C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

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### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee Meeting of August 9, 2023.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

(Members of the public may address the Board orally and in writing. To provide Public Comment, you should visit https://LACERA.com/leadership/board-meetings and complete the request form by selecting whether you will provide oral or written comment from the options located under Options next to the Board meeting.

If you select oral comment, we will contact you via email with information and instructions as to how to access the meeting as a speaker. You will have up to 3 minutes to address the Board. Oral comment request will be accepted up to the close of the Public Comment item on the agenda.

If you select written comment, please input your written public comment or documentation on the above link as soon as possible and up to the close of the meeting. Written comment will be made part of the official record of the meeting. If you would like to remain anonymous at the meeting without stating your name, please leave the name field blank in the request form. If you have any questions, you may email PublicComment@lacera.com.)

### V. REPORT

A. Risk Reduction and Mitigation Performance Review Vache Mahseredjian, Principal Investment Officer Chad Timko, Senior Investment Officer Krista Powell, Investment Officer Quoc Nguyen, Investment Officer Jason Choi, Senior Investment Analyst Josiah Bezet, Senior Investment Analyst (Presentation) (Memo dated March 29, 2024)

### VI. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

(This item summarizes requests and suggestions by individual trustees during the meeting for consideration by staff. These requests and suggestions do not constitute approval or formal action by the Board, which can only be made separately by motion on an agendized item at a future meeting.)

### VII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

(This item provides an opportunity for trustees to identify items to be included on a future agenda as permitted under the Board's Regulations.)

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- VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER (For information purposes only)
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

\*The Board of Investments has adopted a policy permitting any member of the Board to attend a standing committee meeting open to the public. In the event five or more members of the Board of Investments (including members appointed to the Committee) are in attendance, the meeting shall constitute a joint meeting of the Committee and the Board of Investments. Members of the Board of Investments who are not members of the Committee may attend and participate in a meeting of a Committee but may not vote, make a motion, or second on any matter discussed at the meeting. The only action the Committee may take at the meeting is approval of a recommendation to take further action at a subsequent meeting of the Board.

Documents subject to public disclosure that relate to an agenda item for an open session of the Board of Investments that are distributed to members of the Board of Investments less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the time they are distributed to a majority of the Board of Investments Members at LACERA's offices at 300 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 820, Pasadena, CA 91101, during normal business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Requests for reasonable modification or accommodation of the telephone public access and Public Comments procedures stated in this agenda from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, may call the Board Offices at (626) 564-6000, Ext. 4401/4402 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or email PublicComment@lacera.com, but no later than 48 hours prior to the time the meeting is to commence.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CREDIT AND RISK MITIGATION COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION 300 N. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 810, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101 8:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023

This meeting was conducted by the Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee and Board of Investments both in person and by teleconference under California Government Code Section 54953 (f).

### COMMITTEE TRUSTEES:

PRESENT: Onyx Jones, Acting Chair

David Ryu (Arrived at 8:08 a.m.)

Jason Green

ABSENT: Joseph Kelly

David Green, Alternate

OTHER BOARD OF INVESTMENT TRUSTEES:

Gina Sanchez

Herman Santos

Keith Knox

Patrick Jones (Arrived at 9:00 a.m.)

### STAFF, ADVISORS, PARTICIPANTS:

Jonathan Grabel, Chief Investment Officer

Jude Perez, Deputy Chief Investment Officer

### STAFF, ADVISORS, PARTICIPANTS (Continued):

Santos Kreimann, Chief Executive Officer

Steven Rice, Chief Legal Counsel

Vache Mahseredjian, Principal Investment Officer

Chad Timko, Senior Investment Officer

Krista Powell, Investment Officer

Quoc Nguyen, Investment Officer

Jason Choi, Senior Investment Analyst

Meketa

Timothy Filla, Managing Principal/Consultant

Albourne

Stephen Kennedy, Partner/Portfolio Analyst Coordinator

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jones at 8:03 a.m. in the Board Room of Gateway Plaza.

- II. PROCEDURE FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETING ATTENDANCE UNDER AB 2449, California Government Code Section 54953(f)
  - A. Just Cause
  - B. Action on Emergency Circumstance Requests
  - C. Statement of Persons Present at AB 2449 Teleconference Locations

There was nothing to report. No trustees participated under Section 54953(f).

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee Meeting of May 10, 2023.

This item was acted upon after Item V.

A motion was made by Trustee Ryu, seconded by Trustee O. Jones, to approve the Minutes of the Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee meeting of May 10, 2023. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Onyx Jones, David Ryu, Jason Green

Absent: Joe Kelly and David Green

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests from the public to speak.

- V. NON-CONSENT ITEMS
  - A. Recommendation as submitted by Vache Mahseredjian, Principal Investment Officer; Chad Timko, Senior Investment Officer; Krista Powell, Investment Officer; Quoc Nguyen, Investment Officer; and Jason Choi, Senior Investment Analyst: That the Committee advance the Credit Structure Review to the Board of Investments for approval. (Memo dated July 28, 2023).

Messrs. Mahseredjian, Timko, Nguyen, and Ms. Powell provided a presentation to and answered questions from the Committee and Board.

A motion was made by Trustee J. Green, seconded by Trustee Ryu, to advance the Credit Structure Review to the Board of Investments for approval, with the addition that, for this asset class, discretionary authority will be given to the Chief Investment Officer, followed by a report to the Board that will include the investment

V. NON-CONSENT ITEMS (continued)

made, due diligence efforts, and the results of consultant and LACERA investment committee review. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: David Ryu, Jason Green

No: Onyx Jones

Absent: Joe Kelly and David Green

B. Recommendation as submitted by Vache Mahseredjian, Principal Investment Officer; Chad Timko, Senior Investment Officer; Krista Powell, Investment Officer; Quoc Nguyen, Investment Officer; and Jason Choi, Senior Investment Analyst: That the Committee advance the Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review. (Memo dated July 28, 2023).

Messrs. Mahseredjian, Timko, and Choi provided a presentation to and answered questions from the Committee and Board.

A motion was made by Trustee J. Green, seconded by Trustee Ryu, to advance the Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review to the Board of Investments for approval. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Onyx Jones, David Ryu, Jason Green

Absent: Joe Kelly and David Green

### VI. ITEMS FOR STAFF REVIEW

Trustee J. Green requested that future presentations have a separate slide prepared if a footnote contains important information.

### VII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There was nothing to report.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER (For information purposes only)

There was nothing to report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately at 9:18 a.m.

# L//.CERA



April 1, 2024

 TO:
 Trustees - Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee

 FROM:
 Vache Mahseredjian, CFA, CAIA, FRM, ASA

 Principal Investment Officer
 Chad Timko, CFA, CAIA

 Krista Powell
 ₩

 Investment Officer
 Quoc Nguyen, CFA

 Investment Officer
 Investment Officer

Jason Choi, CFA <sup>JC</sup> Senior Investment Analyst Josiah Bezet Senior Investment Analyst

FOR: April 10, 2024 Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee Meeting

#### SUBJECT: RISK REDUCTION AND MITIGATION PERFORMANCE REVIEW

This Performance Review (**Attachment 1**) illustrates the role, objectives, implementation framework, and performance, of the Risk Reduction and Mitigation functional asset category. It reviews structure, performance, and portfolio objectives across portfolio components: Investment Grade Bonds, Long-Term Government Bonds, Hedge Funds and Cash. The presentation consists of an introductory overview followed by sections dedicated to each of the four portfolio components.

As a reminder, the target allocation to Risk Reduction and Mitigation from the most recent Strategic Asset Allocation is 19% of the total Fund. That 19% allocation is further subdivided into Investment Grade Bonds (7%) Long-term Government Bonds (5%), Hedge Funds (6%) and Cash (1%).

Attachment

Noted and Reviewed:

mm

Jonathan Grabel Chief Investment Officer





# **Risk Reduction and Mitigation**

# **Performance Review**

Credit and Risk Mitigation Committee Meeting April 10, 2024

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# **Risk Mitigation: Role & Objectives**

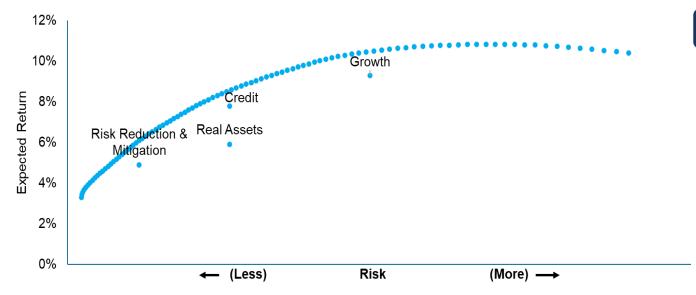
**Investment Grade** 

Bonds

interest rate risk exposure

Moderate duration





## **Risk Reduction & Mitigation**

- Source of liquidity
- Capital preservation
- Moderate income and total return
- Low correlation to growth risks

### Long-Term **Government Bonds**

- Source of liquidity for the total Fund
- Negative historical correlation to growth assets
- Long duration interest rate risk exposure

### **Hedge Funds**

- Reduce total Fund risk
- Enhance total Fund diversification
- Downside protection
- · Low sensitivity to major markets

#### Primary source of total Secondary source of total **Fund liquidity Fund liquidity** Capital preservation

Capital preservation

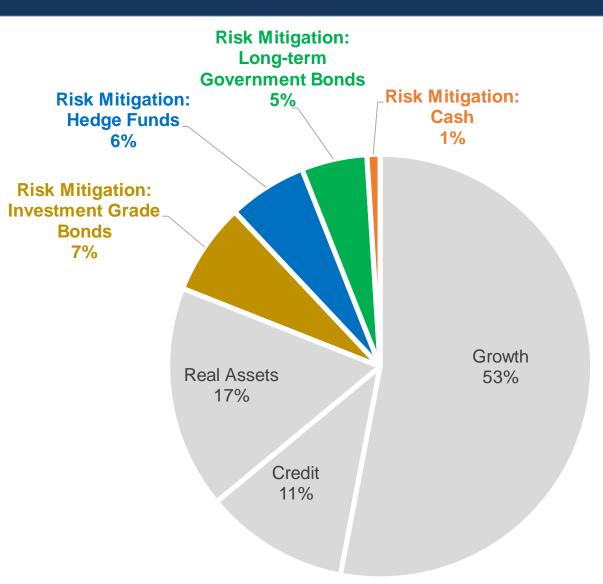
Cash

 Cash and cash equivalent exposures

# **Risk Mitigation: Allocation Targets**



- LACERA's Risk Mitigation portfolio has a 19% total Fund target allocation with four sub-categories
- Target allocations for the sub-categories are shown in the pie chart
- Each sub-category has nuanced objectives and characteristics



Allocation targets were approved by the BOI in 2021 as part of a strategic asset allocation study

# **Economic Environment**



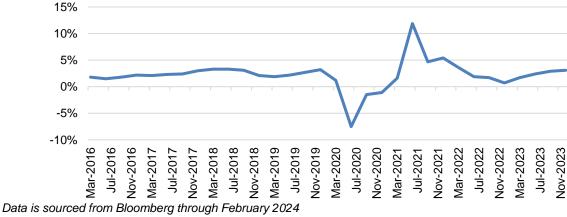
## The Fed's dual mandate is to achieve stable prices and maximum sustainable employment

10% 8% 6% 4% 2% 0% -2% -4% Jan-2013 Sep-2013 Jan-2005 Sep-2005 **May-2006 May-2008** Jan-2009 Sep-2009 May-2010 May-2012 May-2018 Jan-2019 Sep-2019 **May-2020** Jan-2023 Sep-2023 Vay-2016 May-2022 Jan-2007 Sep-2007 Jan-2011 Sep-2011 Jan-2017 Sep-2017 Jan-2021 Sep-2021 May-201 Jan-201; Sep-2015

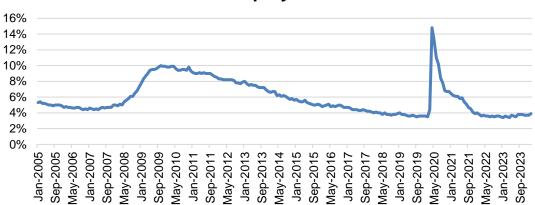
**U.S. Inflation Rates** 

- CPI - CPI Ex F&E - PCE Ex F&E

US GDP (Year over Year)



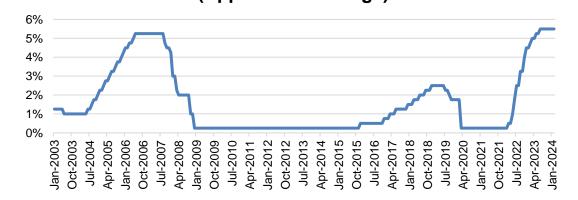
Select terms are further described in the Glossary



#### U.S. Unemployment Rate

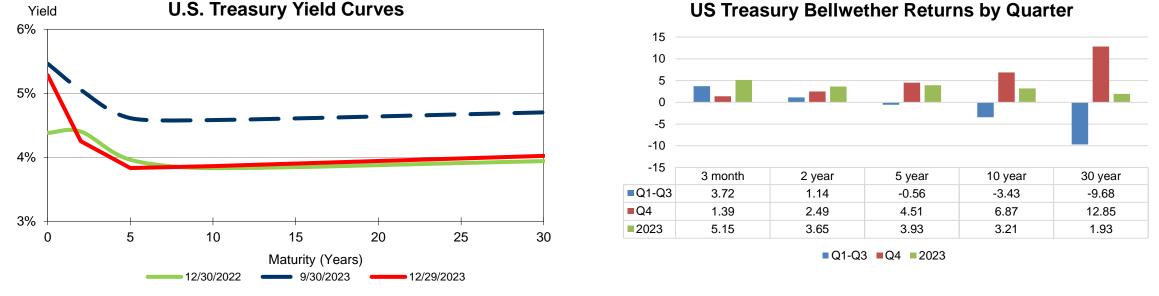
Fed Funds Target (Upper End of Range)

——Unemployment Rate



# **U.S. Treasury Bond Market Yields and Returns**





**US Treasury Bellwether Returns by Quarter** 

- Treasury Yields rose in the first three guarters, but declined in the fourth guarter, almost to start-of-year levels
- As a result, strong returns in the fourth quarter more than offset losses earlier in the year
- The 30-year Treasury bond generated a return of 12.85% in Q4, but for the full year, 3month T-bills outperformed longer- maturity Treasury securities

Data is sourced from Bloomberg Select terms are further described in the Glossarv

# **Investment Grade Bond Market Returns**





■Q1-Q3 ■Q4 ■2023

Aggregate Bond Index has little-to-no credit risk

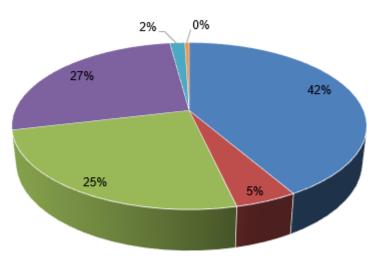
The combination of Treasury, Government-related, and Agency mortgage-

backed securities (MBS) sectors means that over 70% of the Bloomberg

#### **US Aggregate Bond Index Returns**

 Corporate bonds were the top performing sector of the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index in 2023

### Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index Sector Composition



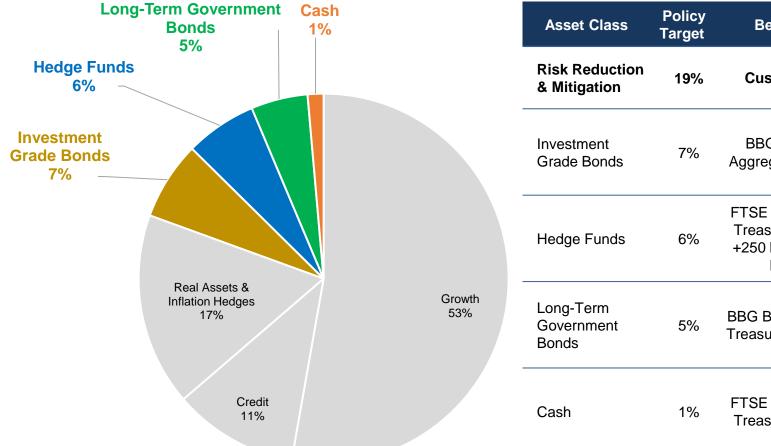
<sup>•</sup> Tsy • Gov-Rel • Corp • MBS • CMBS • ABS

Data is sourced from Bloomberg Select terms are further described in the Glossarv

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# **Risk Mitigation: Benchmarks**





| Asset Class                      | Policy<br>Target | Benchmark  | Description  | Investable |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|--|------------|
| Risk Reduction & Mitigation      | 19%              | Custom Blend   | -  | -          |
| Investment<br>Grade Bonds        | 7%               | BBG Barc U.S.<br>Aggregate TR Index                                      | Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond<br>Total Return Index, an index that constitutes<br>broad market exposure to US investment<br>grade bonds                               | Yes        |
| Hedge Funds                      | 6%               | FTSE 3-Month U.S.<br>Treasury Bill Index<br>+250 bps (1-Month<br>lagged) | Financial Times Stock Exchange 3-month<br>U.S. Treasury Bill Index, an index that<br>tracks the daily performance of 3-month US<br>Treasury bills +250 bps with 1-Month of lag | No         |
| Long-Term<br>Government<br>Bonds | 5%               | BBG Barc U.S. Long<br>Treasury Bond Index                                | Bloomberg Long U.S. Treasury Bond Index,<br>an index consisting of U.S. Treasury bonds<br>with maturities greater than 10 years  | Yes        |
| Cash                             | 1%               | FTSE 3-Month U.S.<br>Treasury Bill Index                                 | Financial Times Stock Exchange 3-month<br>U.S. Treasury Bill Index, an index that<br>tracks the daily performance of 3-month US<br>Treasury bills                              | Yes        |

Allocation targets were approved by the BOI in 2021 as part of a strategic asset allocation study



# **Investment Grade Bonds**

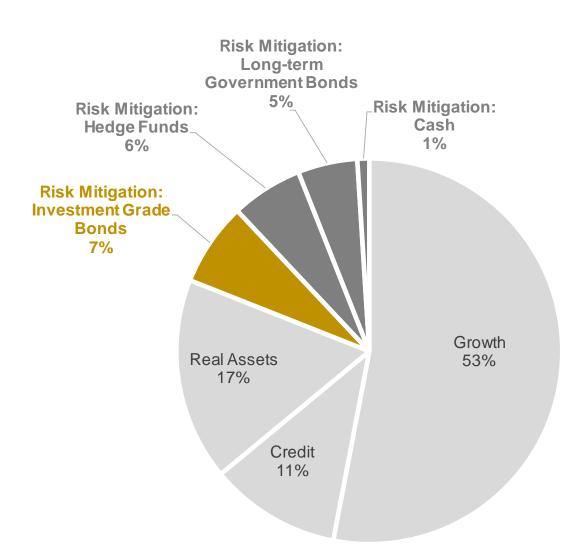
# **Investment Grade Bonds: Role and Objectives**

## Role

- Secondary source of near-term liquidity for the total Fund (after cash)
- Generate income
- Gain interest rate risk exposure

## **Objectives**

- Provide diversification by complementing economic growth risk
- Preserve capital when there is a "flight to safety" or investors otherwise seek high quality assets
- Reduce total Fund portfolio risk by having a low correlation to growth assets and low to moderate volatility

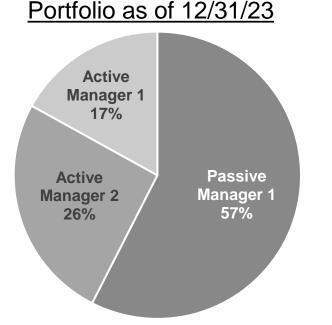






# **Portfolio Structure**

- A hybrid approach with both passive and active implementations
- Designed to be low active risk, low expected alpha



|         | Target Allocation | Allocation Ranges |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Passive | 70%               | 50% - 100%        |
| Active  | 30%               | 0% - 50%          |
|         |                   |                   |

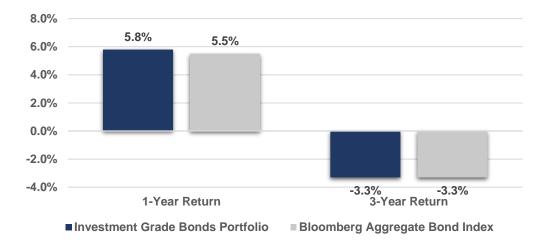
| Portfolio Guidelines      |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Benchmark                 | Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index   |  |  |  |  |
|                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aggregate<br>Duration     | Benchmark duration +/- 0.3 years   |  |  |  |  |
|                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eligible<br>Investments   | Investments consistent with the benchmark, which contains investment grade, U.S. dollar denominated, fixed rate taxable bonds. Index sectors include U.S. Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, agency mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and commercial mortgage-backed securities. Also eligible are exchange-traded funds benchmarked to the index, U.S. Treasury bond futures, and money market instruments |  |  |  |  |
|                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prohibited<br>Investments | Bonds from sectors not included in the index and purchasing securities on margin   |  |  |  |  |
|                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leverage                  | Not permitted  |  |  |  |  |

Approved by the BOI in the 2023 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review

# **Investment Grade Bonds: Performance**

- **Performed in-line** with market benchmark, consistent with goals and portfolio structure
- Achieved portfolio objectives to be a source of income and provide liquidity for benefit payments or portfolio rebalancing

### Trailing 1-year and 3-year returns as of 12/31/2023 Investment Grade Bonds



Data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023 Select terms are further described in the Glossary

| Effective Duration | Yield to Worst (YTW) |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 6.4 years          | 4.5%                 |

- Exposures consistent with higher credit quality of the index e.g. U.S. Treasuries, agency mortgage-backed securities, and Aaa rated corporate bonds
- For Investment Grade Bonds, the primary risk factor is interest rate risk, which is represented by duration
- The rise of U.S. interest rates beginning in 2022 had a material impact on the fixed income space, including investment grade bonds





# Long-Term U.S. Treasury Bonds

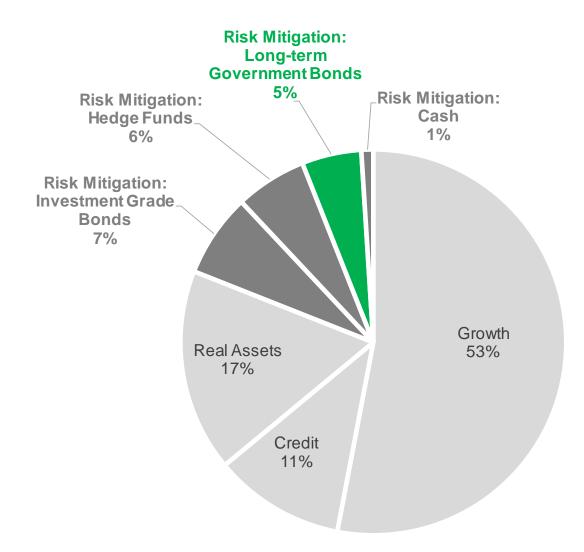
# Long-Term Government Bonds: Role and Objectives

# Role

- Be a source of liquidity for the Total Fund
- Generate income
- Gain long duration interest rate risk exposure

## **Objectives**

- Diversify and reduce overall risk to total Fund given its negative historical correlation to growth assets
- Preserve capital when there is a "flight to safety" or investors otherwise seek high quality assets
- Provide capital efficient way to access interest rate risk exposure

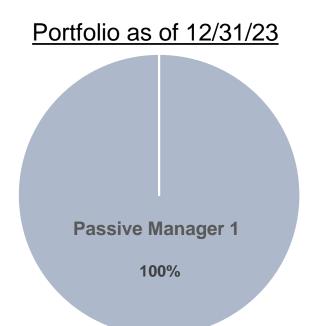


Approved by the BOI in the 2023 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review



# **Portfolio Structure**

- A passive strategy approach
- Designed to replicate benchmark positioning and performance



|         | Target Allocation | Allocation Ranges |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Passive | 100%              | 100%              |

| Portfolio Guidelines  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Benchmark Bloomberg Long U.S. Treasury Bond Index   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aggregate<br>Duration Benchmark duration +/- 0.3 years  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eligible<br>Investments U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. Treasury bond exchange traded funds, money market securities and instruments, cash, and cash equivalents |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prohibited<br>Investments   | Purchasing securities on margin and uncovered short sales |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leverage  | Not permitted   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Approved by the BOI in the 2023 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review

# Long-Term Government Bonds: Performance

- **Performed in-line** with market benchmark, consistent • with goals and portfolio structure
- Achieved portfolio objectives to be a **source of income** •
- Provided a **capital efficient** way for the total Fund to ٠ access interest rate risk exposure

### Trailing 1-year and since inception returns as of 12/31/2023

**US Long-Term Government Bonds** 3.1% 2.5% 4.0% 2.0% 0.0% -2.0% -4.0% -6.0% -8.0% -10.0% -12.0% -14.0% -16.0% -14.7% -14.8% -14.7% Since Inception (Nov 2021) 1-Year Return Long Treasury Bonds Portfolio Bloomberg US Treasury: Long

Data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023 Select terms are further described in the Glossary

| • | As with Investment Grade Bonds, the primary driver of |
|---|---|
|   | risk for long term treasuries is interest rate risk   |

**Effective Duration** 

15.8 years

- The rise in U.S. interest rates in 2022 had a material negative impact on Long-Term Government Bond returns
- Long-Term Government Bonds provide risk mitigation characteristics by providing capital efficiency for the total Fund, and have historically performed positively when equity markets perform negatively, notwithstanding calendar year 2022
- Deviation in performance is overstated due to pricing method differences between manager and custodian



Yield to Worst (YTW)

4.1%



# Hedge Funds

# Hedge Funds: Role and Objectives



# Role:

- Reduce total Fund risk
- Enhance total Fund diversification

# **Objective**:

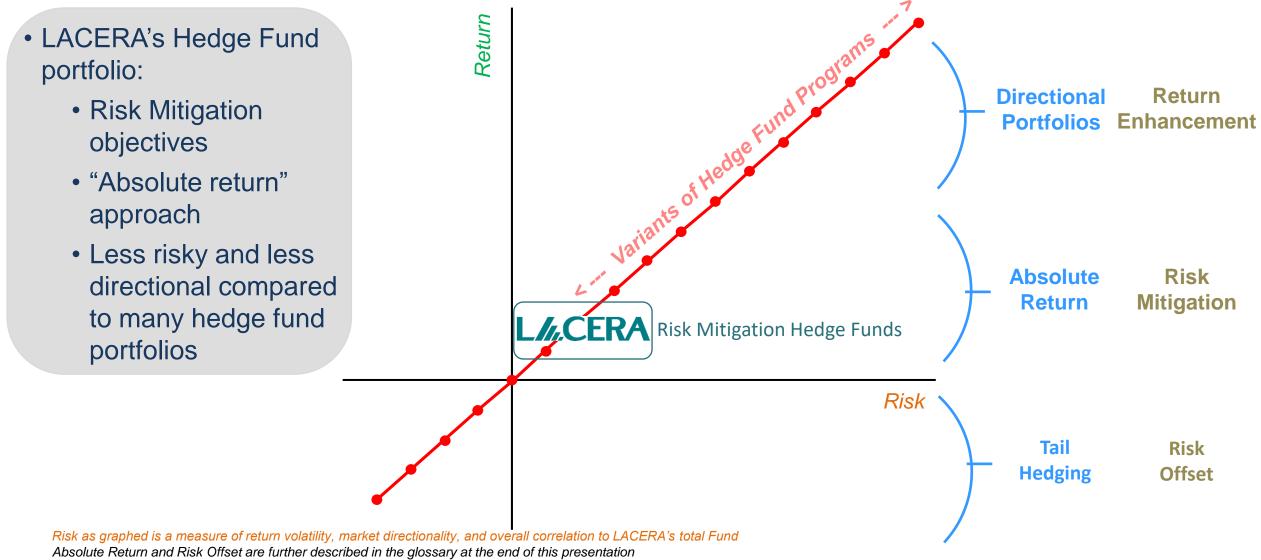
- Downside protection
- · Low sensitivity to major markets
- Frequently positive
- Moderate returns
- Cash + 2.5% per year benchmark



Approved by the BOI in the 2023 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review

# Hedge Funds: Portfolio Structure



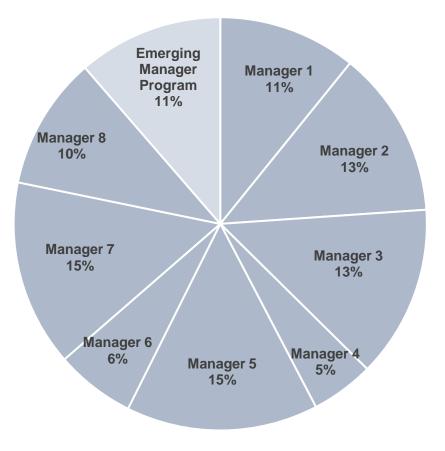


Approved by the BOI in the 2023 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review

# Hedge Funds: Portfolio Structure



# Portfolio as of 12/31/23



### Initiatives Underway:

- Continue to ramp the size of the emerging manager program towards the board approved target of ~15% of hedge fund portfolio
- Continue to build a pipeline of potential hedge fund managers to the extent portfolio adjustments are necessary
- Continue to monitor the portfolio, managers, and underlying exposures

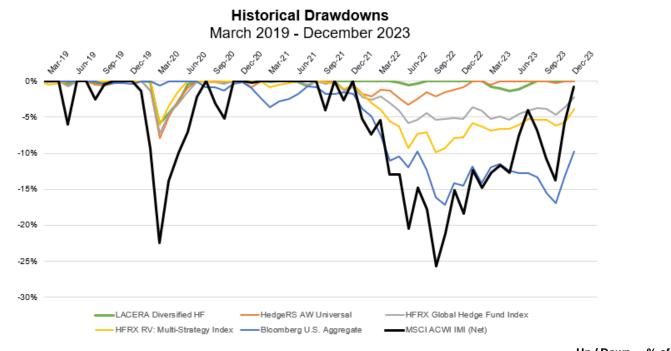
### **Expected Future Initiatives**

• Consider the merit of graduations from the emerging manager program to the main portfolio

Hedge Funds data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023 reported on a 1-month lag

# Hedge Funds: Risk Composition



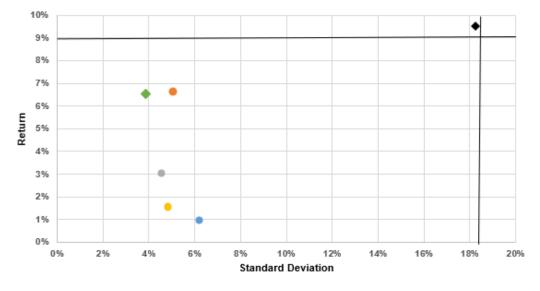


| Diversified Hedge Funds | Jensen's | _    | Standard  | Sharpe | Sortino | Up      | Down    | Up / Down<br>Capture | Positive |
|-------------------------|----------|------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------|
| vs MSCI ACWI (Net)      | Alpha    | Beta | Deviation | Ratio  | Ratio   | Capture | Capture | Spread               | Months   |
| 12-Month                | -0.9%    | 0.03 | 2.1%      | -0.2   | -0.3    | 6.0%    | -16.7%  | 22.7%                | 75%      |
| 24-Month                | 2.5%     | 0.00 | 2.0%      | 1.1    | 1.8     | 6.0%    | -16.6%  | 22.6%                | 79%      |
| 36-Month                | 3.8%     | 0.00 | 2.3%      | 1.6    | 3.4     | 7.6%    | -21.0%  | 28.6%                | 75%      |

Data as of December 31, 2023

Source of returns for LACERA Diversified Hedge Funds is State Street (unlagged by 1-month) Source of returns for the remaining line items and risk statistics are from Zephyr Select terms are further described in the Glossarv

- The Diversified Hedge Funds portfolio has experienced low downside volatility as shown in the "Historical Drawdowns" graphic
- On a three-year trailing basis, the portfolio has little-to-no • sensitivity to the equity markets with a beta of 0.00
- On a risk adjusted basis, the portfolio is performing more efficiently . relative to comparable indices



#### Risk / Return March 2019 - December 2023

 LACERA Diversified HF HFRX RV: Multi-Strategy Index Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate

HedgeRS AW Universal

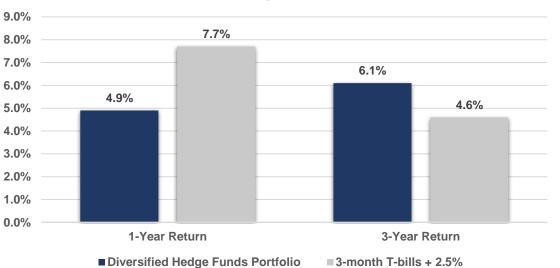
HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index

MSCI ACWI IMI (Net)

# **Hedge Funds: Performance**

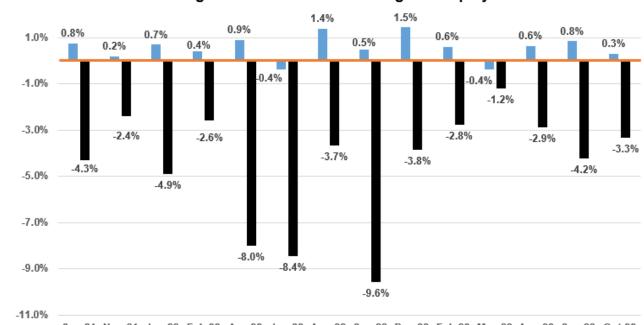


# Trailing 1-year and 3-year returns as of 12/31/2023



### **Diversified Hedge Funds Portfolio**

- The benchmark of 3-month T-bills (cash) + 2.5% is not directly investable and may be a challenging or less instructive criterion during:
  - a) any short time period such as one quarter or one yearb) any period of elevated interest (cash) rates



LACERA Hedge Fund Performance in Negative Equity Months

Sep-21 Nov-21 Jan-22 Feb-22 Apr-22 Jun-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 Dec-22 Feb-23 May-23 Aug-23 Sep-23 Oct-23

LACERA Diversified HF Portfolio
MSCI ACWI IMI (Net)

- The Hedge Fund portfolio underperformed its benchmark over a 1-year period but has outperformed by 2.5% annualized over a 3-year period
- The portfolio delivered a 7.3% return in 2022, when global equity markets (MSCI ACWI IMI) and the U.S. bond market (Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate) fell 18% and 14%, respectively
- The portfolio has performed positively during negative equity months, with few exceptions

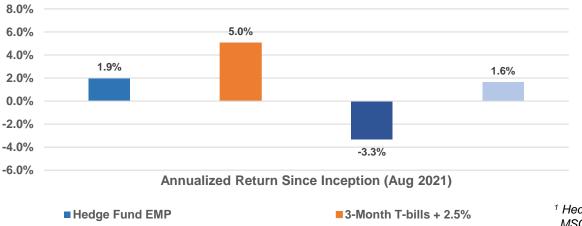
Trailing 1-year and 3-year returns data as of December 31, 2023 are from State Street lagged by 1-month Source of returns for LACERA Diversified Hedge Funds is State Street (unlagged by 1-month) Source of returns for MSCI ACWI is Zephyr

# Hedge Funds: Emerging Manager Program Update



| Snapshot of Program as of December 31, 2023 |                         |  |  |  |  |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Separate Account Manager                    | Stable Asset Management |  |  |  |  |
| Portfolio Net Asset Value <sup>1</sup>      | \$539 million           |  |  |  |  |
| Portfolio Inception                         | 2021                    |  |  |  |  |
| Emerging Managers                           | 8                       |  |  |  |  |
| Revenue Sharing Accounts                    | 6                       |  |  |  |  |
| Beta to Global Equities <sup>2</sup>        | -0.03                   |  |  |  |  |

### Hedge Funds Emerging Manager Program<sup>1</sup>



Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index

MSCI ACWI IMI Index

### Key Takeaways

- The Program is approximately 74% invested relative to its target allocation (15% of hedge funds) and in line with program guidelines
- Since inception, the Program has preserved capital while outperforming investment grade bonds and global equities
- LACERA shares in the success of the emerging manager firms as revenue sharing is structured into most mandates
- Several managers stand out as potential future graduation prospects based on early positive performance metrics and firm development

<sup>2</sup> The portfolio beta is measured since Program inception and to the MSCI ACWI IMI global equity index and is calculated by Zephyr

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hedge Fund EMP data and benchmark data from State Street and reported on a 1-month lag. Bloomberg Aggregate Bond and MSCI ACWI IMI Index data is from Zephvr



# Cash

# **Cash: Role and Objectives**

Role

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liquidity

**Objectives** 

Liquidity



#### Portfolio Characteristics as of **Risk Mitigation:** Long-term **December 31, 2023** Primary source of total Fund **Government Bonds** 5% **Risk Mitigation: Risk Mitigation:** Cash Hedge Funds Facilitate funding of Separate Account State Street 1% 6% Active Manager **Global Advisors** retirement benefits payments, new investments, **Risk Mitigation:** and expenses as well as Portfolio Net Asset Investment Grade \$792 million Value settle redemptions Bonds 7% 1-Day Yield % 5.4 **Cash Balance** Growth (in \$ millions) **Real Assets** 53% 1.500 17% 1,327 Paramount to LACERA's 1,250 mission of providing the 1,083 1,010 1,022 960 939 938 916 1,000 857 promised benefits Credit 750 Nexus for all rebalancing 11% 500 Capital preservation 250 Ω JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Approved by the BOI in the 2023 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Structure Review

Ending Market Value Trailing 1-Year Average

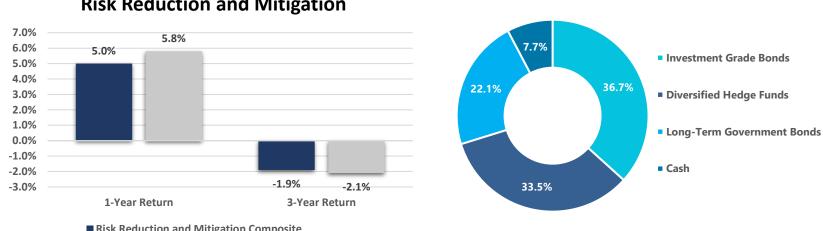




# **Performance Summary**

# **Risk Mitigation: Performance**



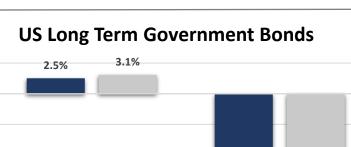


**Risk Reduction and Mitigation** 

#### Risk Reduction and Mitigation Composite

Risk Reduction and Mitigation Custom Benchmark

**Investment Grade Bonds** 



-14.7%

-14.8%

Since Inception (Nov 2021)

Bloomberg US Treasury: Long

### **Diversified Hedge Funds Portfolio**

The composite underperformed the benchmark by 80 bps over the 1-year

period and outperformed by 20 bps

The composite's 3-year returns were

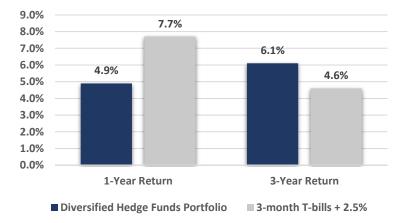
and Long-Term Government Bonds

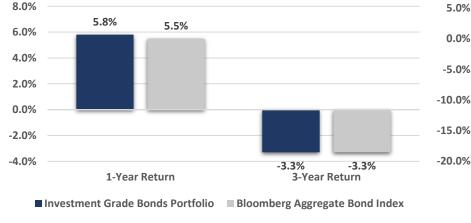
the 3-year period

negatively impacted by Investment Grade

Diversified Hedge Funds have delivered positive relative and absolute returns over

annualized over the 3-year period





Data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023. Diversified Hedge Funds Returns are reported on a 1-month lag

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

1-Year Return

■ Long Treasury Bonds Portfolio

# **Risk Mitigation: Risk vs. Return**





Data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023

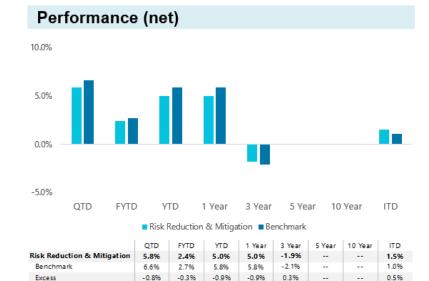
Graphic provided is from the Total Fund 4Q23 Performance Report presented to the BOI in March 2024



# Appendix

# **Risk Mitigation: Performance Detail**





#### **Functional Category**

|  | QTD   | FYTD  | YTD   | 1 Year | 3 Year |
|--|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Investment Grade Bonds                   | 6.8%  | 3.4%  | 5.8%  | 5.8%   | -3.3%  |
| BBG BC Aggregate Bond Index              | 6.8%  | 3.4%  | 5.5%  | 5.5%   | -3.3%  |
| Excess                                   | 0.0%  | 0.0%  | 0.3%  | 0.3%   | 0.0%   |
| Diversified Hedge Funds                  | 1.8%  | 3.4%  | 5.3%  | 5.3%   | 6.5%   |
| Diversified Hedge Funds Policy Benchmark | 2.0%  | 4.0%  | 7.7%  | 7.7%   | 4.6%   |
| Excess                                   | -0.2% | -0.6% | -2.4% | -2.4%  | 1.9%   |
| Long-Term Government Bonds               | 12.3% | -1.1% | 2.5%  | 2.5%   |        |
| Bloomberg U.S. Treasury: Long            | 12.7% | -0.6% | 3.1%  | 3.1%   |        |
| Excess                                   | -0.4% | -0.5% | -0.5% | -0.5%  |        |
| Cash                                     | 1.8%  | 2.4%  | 5.6%  | 5.6%   | 3.2%   |
| Cash Policy Benchmark                    | 1.4%  | 2.8%  | 5.3%  | 5.3%   | 2.2%   |
| Excess                                   | 0.4%  | -0.4% | 0.4%  | 0.4%   | 1.0%   |

**Cumulative Return** Exposure 5.0% 0.0% -5.4% 6.2% -5.0% Return 22.1% -10.0% -15.0% -20.0% Mar Jun Sep Dec Mar Jun Sep Dec Mar Dec Sep 21 21 21 21 22 22 22 22 23 23 23 23 Trailing 3 Years



Data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023

Graphic provided is from the Total Fund 4Q23 Performance Report presented at the BOI in March 2024

Returns shown for hedge funds in this appendix represent performance lagged by one month, as is standard practice for LACERA's quarterly performance book, and may not match returns shown previously in this presentation where performance is unlagged to conduct analytics across same time periods

—— Risk Reduction & Mitigation —— Benchmark

# **Risk Mitigation: Performance Detail**



|  |           | Ending       | Prior Quarter |       |       |       |        |        |        |         |        |           |
|--|-----------|--------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|
|  | % of      | Market Value | Ending MV     |       |       |       |        |        |        |         |        | Inception |
|  | Composite | (mm)         | (mm)          | QTD   | FYTD  | YTD   | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year | ITD    | Date      |
| Risk Reduction & Mitigation              | 100.0%    | 14,202       | 13,267        | 5.8%  | 2.4%  | 5.0%  | 5.0%   | -1.9%  |        |         | 1.5%   | Apr-2019  |
| RR & M Policy Benchmark                  |           |              |               | 6.6%  | 2.7%  | 5.8%  | 5.8%   | -2.1%  |        |         | 1.0%   |           |
| Investment Grade Bonds                   | 36.7%     | 5,213        | 4,883         | 6.8%  | 3.4%  | 5.8%  | 5.8%   | -3.3%  | 1.3%   | 2.1%    | 5.2%   | Nov-1994  |
| BBG BC Aggregate Bond Index              |           |              |               | 6.8%  | 3.4%  | 5.5%  | 5.5%   | -3.3%  | 1.1%   | 1.8%    | 4.7%   |           |
| Allspring/Wells                          | 9.4%      | 1,329        | 1,243         | 6.9%  | 3.6%  | 6.2%  | 6.2%   | -3.1%  | 1.6%   | 2.2%    | 3.9%   | Mar-2004  |
| BTC US Debt Index Fund                   | 21.1%     | 2,993        | 2,804         | 6.7%  | 3.3%  | 5.7%  | 5.7%   | -3.3%  | 1.1%   | 1.9%    | 3.9%   | Nov-1999  |
| MHLP                                     | 0.1%      | 9            | 9             | -0.6% | 0.6%  | 3.2%  | 3.2%   | 4.5%   | 4.8%   | 5.5%    | 5.3%   | Apr-2005  |
| Pugh Capital Mgmt                        | 6.2%      | 883          | 827           | 6.8%  | 3.3%  | 5.7%  | 5.7%   | -3.4%  | 1.3%   | 1.9%    | 3.3%   | Jul-2005  |
| Diversified Hedge Funds                  | 33.5%     | 4,759        | 4,676         | 1.8%  | 3.4%  | 5.3%  | 5.3%   | 6.5%   |        |         | 6.4%   | Apr-2019  |
| Diversified Hedge Funds Policy Benchmark |           |              |               | 2.0%  | 4.0%  | 7.7%  | 7.7%   | 4.6%   |        |         | 4.4%   |           |
| AM Asia Strategies                       | 1.7%      | 234          | 230           | 1.9%  | -4.5% | 8.0%  | 8.0%   |        |        |         | 1.5%   | Jun-2021  |
| Brevan Howard Master Fund                | 4.5%      | 640          | 631           | 1.5%  | 2.5%  | -1.5% | -1.5%  |        |        |         | 5.3%   | Apr-2021  |
| Capula GRV                               | 5.0%      | 713          | 694           | 2.7%  | 5.6%  | 11.1% | 11.1%  | 8.1%   | 7.6%   |         | 7.4%   | Dec-2018  |
| Caxton Global Investments                | 2.1%      | 296          | 283           | 4.3%  | 4.9%  | -0.4% | -0.4%  |        |        |         | 6.3%   | Feb-2021  |
| DK Institutional Partners                | 3.6%      | 513          | 506           | 1.4%  | 3.3%  | 5.6%  | 5.6%   | 4.3%   | 5.2%   |         | 4.8%   | May-2018  |
| Grosvenor HFOF                           | 0.1%      | 16           | 20            |       |       |       |        |        |        |         |        | Nov-2011  |
| HBK Multi-strategy                       | 4.4%      | 621          | 604           | 2.8%  | 6.0%  | 7.4%  | 7.4%   | 7.0%   | 6.2%   |         | 5.8%   | Jun-2018  |
| Hudson Bay                               | 4.9%      | 693          | 684           | 1.2%  | 3.2%  | 6.6%  | 6.6%   | 8.9%   |        |         | 9.5%   | Jul-2020  |
| Polar                                    | 3.5%      | 494          | 491           | 0.6%  | 2.1%  | 5.8%  | 5.8%   | 5.1%   |        |         | 9.1%   | May-2020  |
| Stable Asset Management                  | 3.8%      | 539          | 532           | 1.3%  | 3.7%  | 4.4%  | 4.4%   |        |        |         | 1.7%   | Aug-2021  |
| Long-Term Government Bonds               | 22.1%     | 3,135        | 2,792         | 12.3% | -1.1% | 2.5%  | 2.5%   |        |        |         | -13.6% | Nov-2021  |
| Bloomberg U.S. Treasury: Long            |           |              |               | 12.7% | -0.6% | 3.1%  | 3.1%   |        |        |         | -14.1% | Nov-2021  |
| BlackRock Long Treasury Bonds            | 22.1%     | 3,135        | 2,792         | 12.3% | -1.1% | 2.5%  | 2.5%   |        |        |         | -13.6% | Nov-2021  |
| Cash                                     | 7.7%      | 1,095        | 916           | 1.8%  | 2.4%  | 5.6%  | 5.6%   | 3.2%   | 2.6%   | 1.8%    | 2.0%   | Jun-2001  |
| Cash Policy Benchmark                    |           |              |               | 1.4%  | 2.8%  | 5.3%  | 5.3%   | 2.2%   | 1.9%   | 1.3%    | 1.6%   |           |

### **Annualized Net Returns**

Data is from State Street as of December 31, 2023

Table provided is from the Total Fund 4Q23 Performance Report presented at the BOI in March 2024

Returns shown for hedge funds in this appendix represent performance lagged by one month, as is standard practice for LACERA's quarterly performance

book, and may not match returns shown previously in this presentation where performance is unlagged to conduct analytics across same time periods

# **Risk Mitigation: Manager Scorecards**



| L///CERA  |                                  |      | Per       | formance                 |   | nization &<br>erations      |      | ESG                      | Pa | rtnership                     | Fees &<br>Terms             |
|---|----------------------------------|------|-----------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Los Angeles County Employees Retirement<br>PUBLIC MARKETS MANAG |                                  | ARD  | (wi       | 1 to 5<br>th 5 the best) |   | +, S, or S-<br>S+ the best) | (wit | 1 to 5<br>th 5 the best) | (w | A, B, or C<br>ith A the best) | 1 to 5<br>(with 5 the best) |
| 4th Quarter 2023  |                                  |      | $\square$ | SCORE                    |   | <br>SCORE                   |      | SCORE                    |    | SCORE                         | SCORE                       |
| Manager   | Market Value<br>(in \$ millions) |      |           |                          |   |                             |      |                          |    |                               |                             |
| INVESTMENT GRADE BONDS  |                                  |      |           |                          |   |                             |      |                          |    |                               |                             |
| Allspring/Wells   | 1,328.7                          | 1.8% |           | 5                        |   | s                           |      | 3                        |    | в                             | 5                           |
| BTC US Debt Index Fund  | 2,992.7                          | 3.9% |           | 4                        |   | S                           |      | _                        |    | в                             | 5                           |
| Pugh Capital Mgmt   | 882.8                            | 1.2% |           | 3                        | 0 | S                           |      | 2                        |    | Α                             | 3                           |
| LONG-TERM GOVERNMENT BONDS                                      |                                  |      |           |                          |   |                             |      |                          |    |                               |                             |
| BlackRock   | 3,134.7                          | 4.1% | *         | 3                        | 0 | S                           |      | -                        |    | В                             | 5                           |
| CASH  |                                  |      |           |                          |   |                             |      |                          |    |                               |                             |
| SSGA Cash   | 792.1                            | 1.0% |           | 3                        |   | S                           |      | -                        |    | Α                             | 5                           |

| L <i>II</i> ,CERA   | ment Association                 |      | Pe                          | rformance |                                    | anization &<br>perations |                             | ESG   | Pa                              | artnership |                             | Fees &<br>Terms |
|---|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association PRIVATE MARKETS MANAGER SCORECARD |                                  |      | 1 to 5<br>(with 5 the best) |           | S+, S, or S-<br>(with S+ the best) |                          | 1 to 5<br>(with 5 the best) |       | A, B, or C<br>(with A the best) |            | 1 to 5<br>(with 5 the best) |                 |
| 4th Quarter 2023  |                                  |      |                             | SCORE     |                                    | SCORE                    |                             | SCORE |                                 | SCORE      | /                           | SCORE           |
| Manager   | Market Value<br>(in \$ millions) |      |                             |           | (                                  |                          |                             |       | Í                               |            | 1                           |                 |
| DIVERSIFIED HEDGE FUNDS   |                                  |      |                             |           |                                    |                          |                             |       |                                 |            |                             |                 |
| AM Asia   | 234.4                            | 0.3% |                             | 3         |                                    | S                        |                             | 2     |                                 | А          |                             | 5               |
| Brevan Howard   | 640.4                            | 0.8% |                             | 5         |                                    | s                        |                             | 2     |                                 | Α          |                             | 2               |
| Capula GRV  | 713.3                            | 0.9% |                             | 5         |                                    | s                        |                             | 2     |                                 | в          |                             | 3               |
| Caxton  | 295.5                            | 0.4% |                             | 4         |                                    | S                        |                             | 3     |                                 | в          |                             | 3               |
| DK Institutional Partners   | 513.4                            | 0.7% |                             | 4         |                                    | S-                       |                             | 2     |                                 | с          |                             | 3               |
| HBK Multistrategy   | 620.9                            | 0.8% |                             | 4         |                                    | s                        |                             | 2     |                                 | в          |                             | 3               |
| Hudson Bay  | 693.0                            | 0.9% |                             | 5         |                                    | S                        |                             | 2     |                                 | в          |                             | 3               |
| Polar   | 494.2                            | 0.7% |                             | 4         |                                    | S                        |                             | 2     |                                 | в          |                             | 4               |
| Stable  | 538.6                            | 0.7% |                             | *         |                                    | S+                       |                             | 2     |                                 | Α          |                             | 5               |

Graphic provided is from the Total Fund 4Q23 Performance Report presented at the BOI in March 2024



### **Bloomberg Bond Index Characteristics (as of 12/31/23)**

|                                      | Number Issues<br>(Statistics) | Duration<br>(Mod. Adj.) | Coupon | Maturity | Price | Spread | Yield to Worst | Amt<br>Outstanding<br>(MM) | Market Value<br>(MM) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|----------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| U.S. Aggregate                       | 13,334                        | 6.24                    | 3.09   | 8.46     | 91.70 | 51.02  | 4.53           | 28,889,184                 | 26,665,228           |
| U.S. Treasury                        | 285                           | 6.18                    | 2.54   | 7.92     | 91.41 | -0.85  | 4.08           | 12,069,198                 | 11,102,814           |
| US Aggregate: Government-<br>Related | 1,230                         | 5.28                    | 3.20   | 8.26     | 94.96 | 48.21  | 4.59           | 1,329,358                  | 1,273,468            |
| U.S. Corporate Investment Grade      | 7,756                         | 7.09                    | 4.04   | 10.82    | 93.57 | 100.61 | 5.06           | 7,007,437                  | 6,628,376            |
| U.S. Mortgage Backed Securities      | 938                           | 5.89                    | 3.06   | 7.45     | 89.85 | 81.32  | 4.68           | 7,878,232                  | 7,098,486            |
| CMBS: Erisa Eligible                 | 2,644                         | 4.42                    | 3.14   | 4.98     | 91.29 | 128.28 | 5.27           | 476,259                    | 434,787              |
| Asset-Backed Securities              | 481                           | 2.70                    | 4.25   | 3.66     | 98.68 | 66.90  | 4.96           | 128,700                    | 127,298              |
| Long Treasury                        | 80                            | 15.69                   | 2.79   | 22.74    | 80.33 | 2.80   | 4.14           | 2,811,764                  | 2,278,494            |

Data sourced from Bloomberg as of 12/31/2023

# **Glossary of Terms**



| Term  | Definition   |
|---|--|
| Absolute Return                                 | A strategy that is independent of traditional benchmarks such as the S&P 500 Index or the Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. These strategies tend to operate independently of market direction.  |
| Active Risk                                     | A measure of the difference relative to a benchmark. For example, if a portfolio's return is 5%, and the benchmark's return is 3%, then the portfolio's active return is 2%. A portfolio's active risk is the risk associated with the volatility of active returns. Active weight is the portfolio's weight in an asset minus the benchmark's weight in the same asset. Active exposure is the portfolio's exposure to a factor minus the benchmark's weight in the same asset. Active exposure is the portfolio's exposure to a factor minus the benchmark's weight in the same asset. |
| Asset Backed Securities (ABS)                   | Financial instruments that derive their value from an underlying pool of assets. These assets typically generate cash flow from debt, such as loans, leases, credit card balances, or receivables.   |
| Beta  | A measure of the sensitivity of an asset to movements in the market or other benchmark; thus, a measure of its non-diversifiable or systematic risk. A beta of one 1.0 indicates that, on average, the asset is expected to move in tandem with the market or benchmark.   |
| Bps or bps                                      | An acronym for basis points where one bps equals one hundredth of one percent or 0.01%.  |
| Commercial Mortgage<br>Backed Securities (CMBS) | Investment products, similar to bonds, backed by mortgages on commercial properties, such as office buildings, hotels, malls, and apartment complexes.   |
| Correlation                                     | A statistical measure of how closely related two variables are.  |
| Down Capture                                    | Measure of an investment's performance during down markets, calculated as the strategy's returns divided by the returns of the benchmark<br>index during the down market. A lower down market capture ratio means an investment was less negatively impacted during market<br>downturns.   |
| <b>Duration (or Effective</b>                   | A measure of the price sensitivity of bonds with respect to a parallel shift of the discount curve that is particularly useful for bonds with  |
| Duration)                                       | embedded options (e.g., callable bonds, putable bonds, and mortgage-backed securities).  |
| Fed Funds Rate                                  | The Federal Funds Target Rate is a crucial interest rate set by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) that influences other interest rates in the economy.  |
| Jensen's Alpha                                  | Jensen's alpha measures the risk-adjusted return a portfolio adds above and beyond a referenced benchmark after adjusting for the risk-free rate and beta of the portfolio.  |

# **Glossary of Terms (continued)**



| Term                             | Definition   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Maximum Drawdown                 | The compounded but not annualized maximum loss over a time period.   |
| Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) | Investment product, similar to bonds, backed by a bundle of home loans and other real estate debt.   |
| Risk Offset                      | Strategies designed to perform well during a significant market downturn. These strategies are similar to buying insurance where there is a cost of premium associated with receiving a payoff when an adverse market event occurs.  |
| Selection Risk                   | Risk that is specific to an asset and is uncorrelated (or negligibly correlated) with the risks of other assets. Asset selection risk is the portion of an asset's risk that is unexplained by the risk model. Also called specific, unique, idiosyncratic, or independent risk.                                 |
| Sharpe Ratio                     | Measures risk-adjusted performance of an investment compared to a risk-free asset.   |
| Sortino Ratio                    | Measures risk-adjusted performance by calculating returns per unit of downside risk (standard deviation negative returns).   |
| Standard Deviation               | Volatility of monthly returns that measures the average deviation from the mean.   |
| Total Risk                       | The total (gross) risk to an asset, which is the standard deviation of the asset's total return distribution, expressed in percent. The total risk for<br>an asset depends on the asset's exposures to the risk factors, the factor variance/covariance matrix, and the forecast selection risk of the<br>asset. |
| Up Capture                       | Measure of an investment's performance during up markets, calculated as returns divided by the returns of the benchmark index during the up market. A high up capture ratio means an investment outperformed the index during up markets.  |
| Up / Down Capture Spread         | A measurement of the difference between up capture and down capture.   |
| Yield to Worst (YTW)             | Yield of a bond adjusted for any embedded options. Equals the lowest yield, among all possible redemption dates, for a given bond.   |
| Yield Curve                      | A graph that plots the interest rates of bonds with equal credit quality but differing maturities.   |