



# Finance and Administration Committee

## Agenda Item 5c

**April 21, 2020**

**Item Name:** Valuation Report for the 1959 Survivor Benefit Program

**Program:** Actuarial Office

**Item Type:** Action Consent

### Recommendation

1. Approve the 1959 Survivor Benefit Program Actuarial Valuation Report as of June 30, 2019 and the corresponding transmittal letter to the Governor and legislature.
2. Adopt the employer and employee monthly premiums for fiscal year 2020-21 as set forth in the table on Page 2 of this agenda item and included in the actuarial report as Attachment 2.

### Executive Summary

The following table summarizes key results of each pool level from the valuation:

Plan	Accrued Liability	Market Value of Assets (MVA)	Funded Ratio
State 5 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	\$ 151,352,423	\$ 112,515,580	74.3%
Schools 5 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	\$ 15,546,665	\$ 86,061,386	553.6%
PA 1 <sup>st</sup> Level Pool	\$ 3,032,539	\$ 55,422,944	1,827.6%
PA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level Pool	\$ 2,560,774	\$ 12,962,320	506.2%
PA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Pool	\$ 31,845,095	\$ 126,394,624	396.9%
PA 4 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	\$ 145,555,960	\$ 153,251,364	105.3%
PA Indexed Level Pool	\$ 19,880,662	\$ 26,787,538	134.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 369,774,119</b>	<b>\$ 573,395,756</b>	<b>155.1%</b>

The investment return for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 was approximately 6.3% which was somewhat lower than the expected return of 7.0%. However, there were also gains as a result of method changes. Together, these factors resulted in some plans having increased funded ratios, and some plans having decreased funded ratios.

The resulting fiscal year 2020-21 employer and employee premiums for each benefit level and a comparison with the premiums for the previous year are as follows:

Plan	2019-20 Premium			2020-21 Premium		
	Employer	Employee	Total	Employer	Employee	Total
<b>State 5<sup>th</sup> Level Pool*</b>	\$5.40	\$5.40	\$10.80	\$5.95	\$5.95	\$11.90
<b>Schools 5<sup>th</sup> Level Pool*</b>	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>PA 1<sup>st</sup> Level Pool</b>	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>PA 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Pool</b>	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>PA 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Pool</b>	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
<b>PA 4<sup>th</sup> Level Pool</b>	\$4.80	\$2.00	\$6.80	\$5.20	\$2.00	\$7.20
<b>PA Indexed Level Pool*</b>	\$2.90	\$2.90	\$5.80	\$2.40	\$2.40	\$4.80

\* Section 21581 of the California Public Employees' Retirement Law requires mandatory cost sharing when the total premium exceeds \$4.00.

A mandatory premium of \$2.00 per member per month is required for each plan.

### Strategic Plan

This action item is being presented as part of the regular and ongoing workload of the Actuarial Office and supports the Strategic Plan Goal of Fund Stability.

### Background

The 1959 Survivor Benefit program provides six different levels of survivor benefits for employees who die while actively employed and without Social Security coverage. The program is intended to serve as a replacement for the survivor benefits that would otherwise be provided by Social Security.

All levels of the 1959 Survivor Program are "pooled" benefits. For all levels other than the Indexed Level, participating employers contribute a monthly amount per member as determined by the Term Insurance Method. The use of this method is specified by State Statute Sections 21574.7(f), 21574(e), 21573(h), 21572(i), and 21571(g).

For the Public Agency Indexed Level of the 1959 Survivor benefit, participating employers contribute a monthly amount per member as determined by the Entry Age Normal Cost Method. The use of this method was determined by the Board as specified by State Statute 21574.5(f). In all cases contributions are billed to employers apart from the employer's contribution rate for retirement and disability benefits. For those employers in each pool as of the valuation date, the employer Normal Cost is adjusted by an amortization of the surplus or unfunded liability.

### Analysis

The CalPERS Actuarial Office recently implemented a new Actuarial Valuation System for all plans including the 1959 Survivor Benefit Program. The new system resulted in some enhancements to the valuation process for this plan. Overall, the impact of these enhancements resulted in a slight decrease in liabilities. A specific enhancement this year is the ability to identify individuals owed a regular warrant but not receiving one. These individuals will be owed the missed payments, so a Reserve for Unclaimed Benefits was added. These amounts can be seen in the table below.

## Additional Liabilities due to changes in Reserve for Unclaimed Benefits

Pool	June 30, 2019
State 5 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	\$ 2,961,000
Schools 5 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	\$ 1,773,000
PA 1 <sup>st</sup> Level Pool	\$ 192,240
PA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level Pool	\$ 137,700
PA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Pool	\$ 1,104,600
PA 4 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	\$ 3,784,800
PA Indexed Level Pool	\$ 133,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,087,080</b>

The next exhibit below shows a 4-year history of the funded status between valuation dates for each pool on a market value basis.

## Market Value Funded Status 2016-2019

Pool	2016	2017	2018	2019
State 5 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	71.3%	72.4%	73.9%	<b>74.3%</b>
Schools 5 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	548.7%	598.3%	588.0%	<b>553.6%</b>
PA 1 <sup>st</sup> Level Pool	1,603.0%	1,711.4%	1,793.8%	<b>1,827.6%</b>
PA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level Pool	421.9%	480.5%	506.7%	<b>506.2%</b>
PA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Pool	366.6%	386.6%	395.7%	<b>396.9%</b>
PA 4 <sup>th</sup> Level Pool	106.6%	108.3%	107.0%	<b>105.3%</b>
PA Indexed Level Pool	117.7%	126.4%	128.0%	<b>134.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>144.7%</b>	<b>151.0%</b>	<b>153.8%</b>	<b>155.1%</b>
<b>Fund Return</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>

All pools in the 1959 Survivor program realized a return of 6.3% plus or minus 0.2% for fiscal year 2018-19, which is below our assumed long-term rate of return on assets of 7%. With the provided funded statuses at June 30, 2019, we would expect the pools other than State to continue to be very adequately funded with the current level of employer and employee premiums, even with the added Reserve for Unclaimed Benefits.

## Budget and Fiscal Impacts

Not Applicable.

## Benefits and Risks

It is essential that all risk transfer/pooling systems, including both pension and insurance, be regularly reviewed and premium levels, contribution requirements and/or reserve levels be adjusted to ensure the ongoing financial soundness of the systems.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Schools 5<sup>th</sup> Level are all extremely well-funded and hence there is a very low risk in those levels. Excess assets are large enough such that it is unlikely they would be needed to pay member benefits for years. This can also be said of future member contributions in these levels as well.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and Indexed Levels have a healthy level of assets but are subject to significant market risk and should continue to be monitored. The State 5<sup>th</sup> Level has an unfunded liability and hence is at greater risk than the other levels. The premiums are set at a level to address the unfunded liability, but further action may be needed, and this level should be closely monitored in the future.

This report is required to be filed with the Governor and the Legislature.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Transmittal Letter to the Governor and Legislature

Attachment 2 – 1959 Survivor Benefit Program Actuarial Valuation as of June 30, 2019

---

Daniel Miller  
Associate Pension Actuary

---

Scott Terando  
Chief Actuary