



## Risk & Audit Committee

# Agenda Item 6b

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**November 16, 2021**

**Item Name:** Review of Independent Auditor's Management Letter

**Program:** Audit Services

**Item Type:** Action

### **Recommendation**

Approve the CalPERS Board of Administration's (Board) Independent Financial Statement Auditor's (Independent Auditor) Management Letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

### **Executive Summary**

The draft Management Letter, prepared by the Board's Independent Auditor, BDO USA, LLP (BDO), includes comments and recommendations related to strengthening internal controls over financial reporting based on the audit of the June 30, 2021 financial statements. Management's concurrence, response, and proposed corrective actions to the observations and recommendations are included in the draft Management Letter. In addition, management reported that the prior year's observation was resolved.

### **Strategic Plan**

This item is not a specific product of the Strategic Plan. Government Code section 20228 requires the Board to annually employ a certified public accountant, who is not in public employment, to audit the financial statements.

### **Background**

BDO completed its audit of CalPERS Basic Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 as required by Government Code section 20228. In connection with the audit of the financial statements, BDO prepared a draft Management Letter that includes comments and recommendations to enhance internal controls over financial reporting (Attachment 1).

The Management Letter is considered a draft until it is approved by the Board and subsequently signed by BDO. The signed Management Letter will be distributed to the Board, executive staff and senior management.

## **Analysis**

Consistent with the Office of Audit Services Audit Resolution Policy, the status of the Management Letter observations will be reported to the Risk and Audit Committee until management has resolved each noted observation. The tables below summarize the current and prior year observations.

**Table 1 – Current Year Observations**

<b>Observations</b>	<b>Description</b>
1 (FY 2020-21)	Segregation of Duties Related to Oversight of Dormant Accounts - Payments issued from dormant accounts can be requested and approved by the same individual. The team responsible for processing distribution payments can also update the direct deposit information in retiree accounts.
2 (FY 2020-21)	Death Benefit Overpayment Receivables – Deaths were not consistently identified; receivables were not consistently recorded within 30 days after the identification of death; certain lump sum survivor benefits were issued without first recovering the receivables; adequate attempts were not made to collect receivables; and receivables were not reviewed for timely write-off.
3 (FY 2020-21)	Review of Access Rights to Actuarial Valuation Systems (AVS) – Active AVS users have security administrative access role. User access logs is audited by an individual who has security administrative access rights to AVS.

**Table 2 – Status of Prior Year Observation**

<b>Observation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
1 (FY 2019-20)	Review of Financial Statement Classifications - Review all financial statement categories for proper classification for financial reporting purposes.	Resolved

## **Budget and Fiscal Impacts**

The fee for the basic financial statements audit is anticipated to total \$1,457,382<sup>1</sup>, including \$397,752 for the Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 75 audits. Funding was already identified within budgetary resources as is consistent with the Board approved contract.

## **Benefits and Risks**

The primary benefit of approving the draft Management Letter is to assist CalPERS in meeting its fiduciary responsibilities to plan participants by ensuring the effectiveness of controls over financial reporting designed to prevent or timely detect errors that could result in material misstatements in the financial statements. The risk of not implementing recommendations is

<sup>1</sup> This amount does not include the \$1,192,618 fee for GASB 68 audits.

limiting the timely detection, prevention, or correction of material misstatements in the financial statements.

**Attachment**

Attachment 1 – Management Letter (including CalPERS management's responses),  
prepared by BDO for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021

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Office of Audit Services

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