2023 Annual Review of Funding Levels and Risks Report

Finance and Administration Committee

November 14, 2023

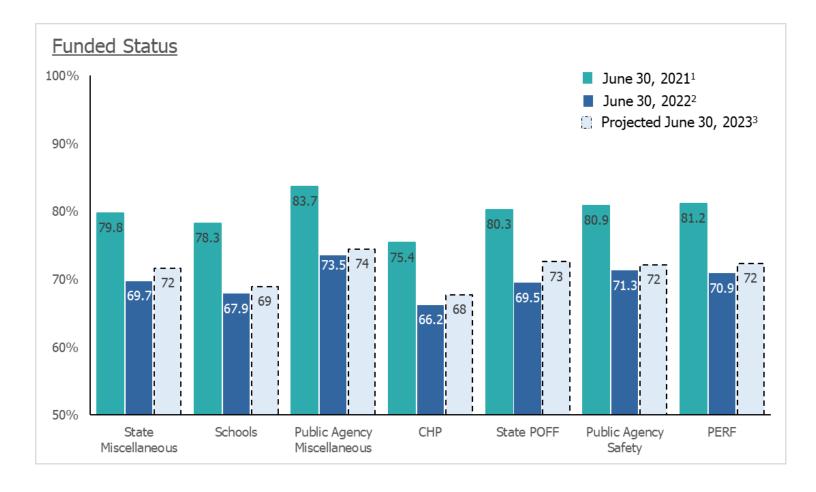


Key Items

- Current Funded Status of Retirement System
- Employer Contribution Requirements
- Operation of the Funding Policies Past and Future
- Current and Projected Contribution Requirements
- Identification of Key Risks and Potential Impacts
- Opportunities for Risk Mitigation and Improved System Sustainability – Past and Future



Current Funding Levels

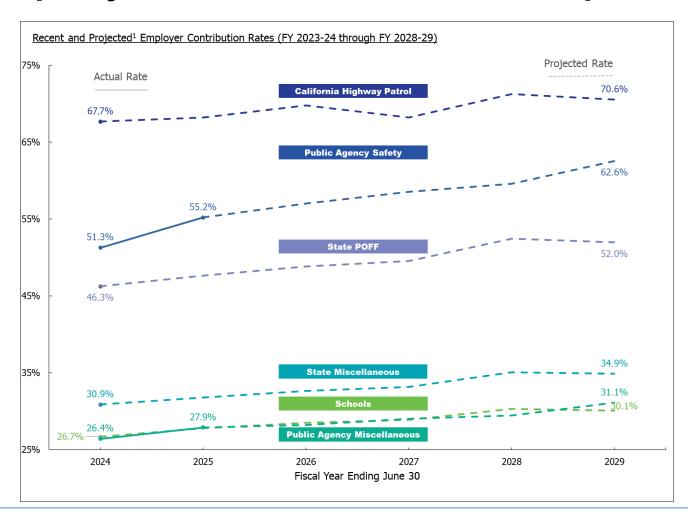


Significant decrease from 6/30/21 to 6/30/22 due to -7.5% investment return.

Small improvement from 6/30/22 to since 6/30/2023 even though return was slightly lower than 6.8% assumed return.



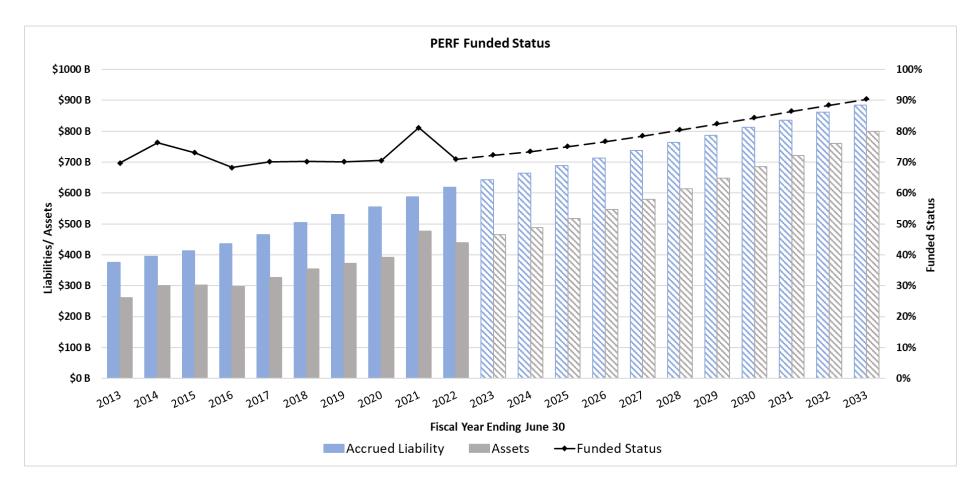
Employer Contribution Requirements



Projected contribution increases are primarily due to investment losses during Fiscal Year 2021-22.



Operation of Funding Policies



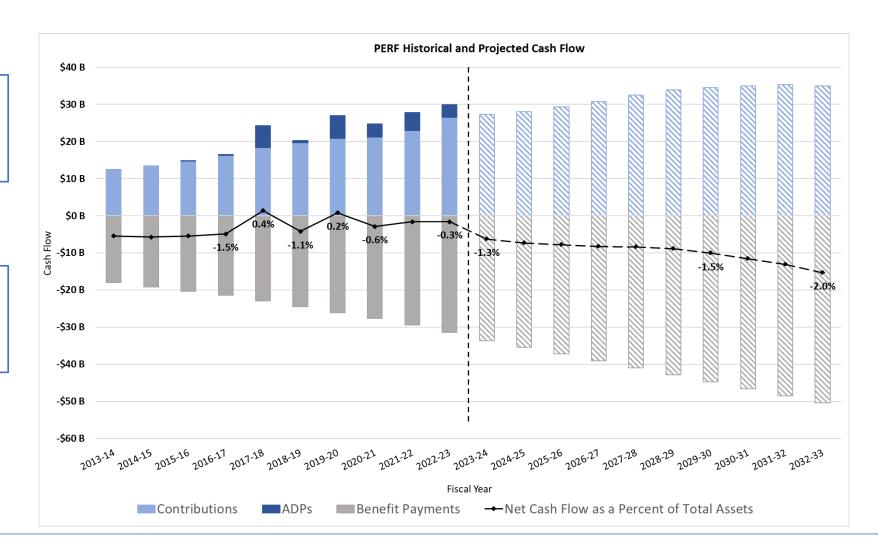
Volatile Funded Status due to uneven investment performance and assumption changes.

Projected improvement in funded status much better than improvement over last 10 years.



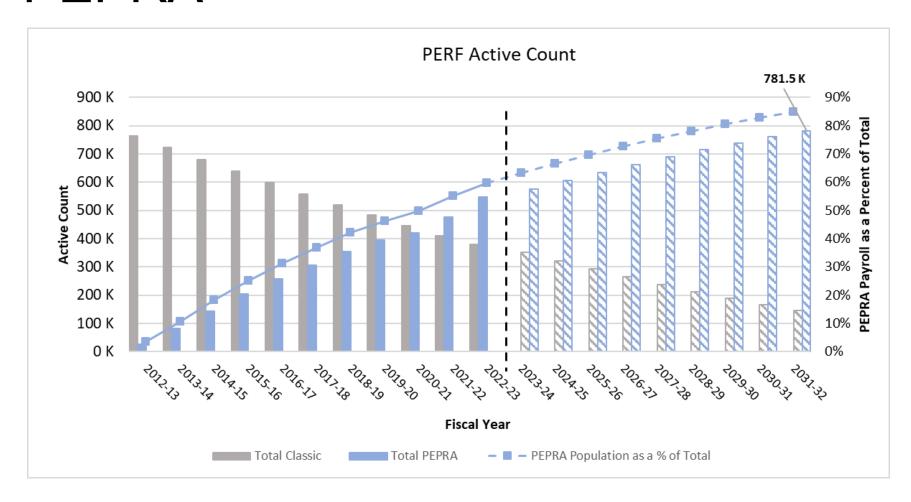
Benefit payments are expected to continue increasing while contributions are expected to level off and then decrease over the next 10 years.

Negative cash flow is expected to grow over the next 10 years. However, this is neither unexpected nor a serious concern with regard to liquidity needs.





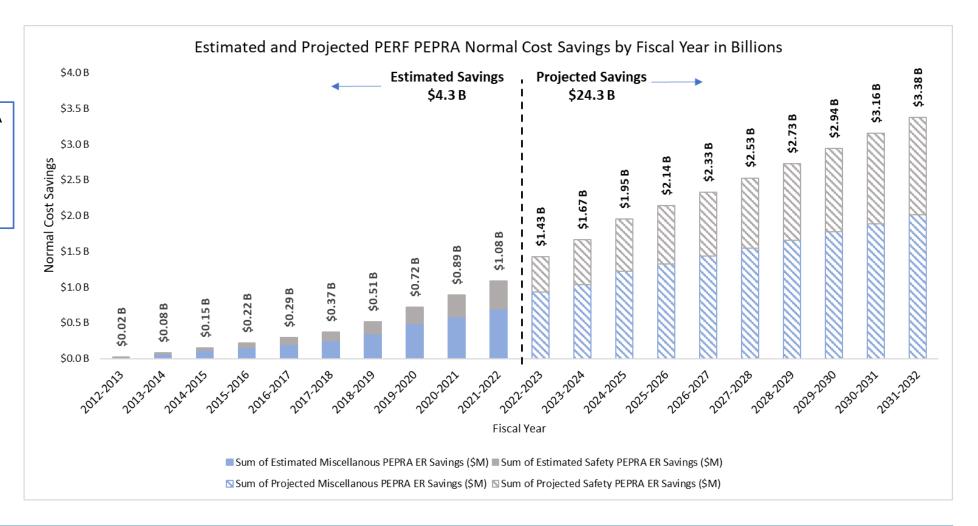
PEPRA



Assuming a level active population, PEPRA membership is expected to increase from about 60% today to 85% over the next 10 years.



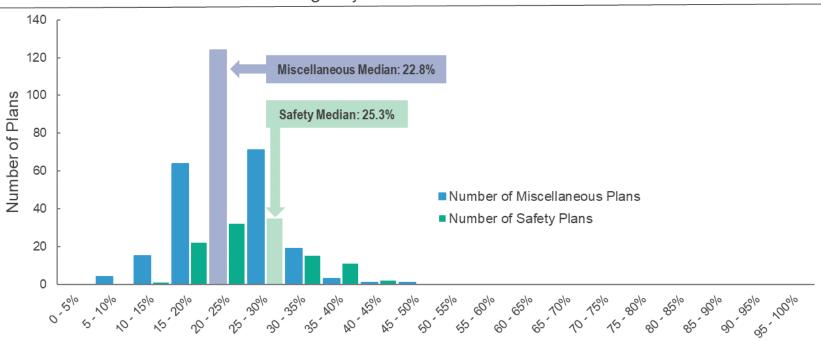
While cost savings due to PEPRA began slowly, employers have saved an estimated \$4.4 billion over the last 10 years and are expected to save around \$24 billion over the next 10 years.





Investment Risks – Low Funding Level

Distribution of Non-Pooled Public Agency Plans



Probability of Falling Below 50% Funded Over Next 30 Years

While there is no specific level to protect against, low funded status results in high employer contributions that may be hard for employers to sustain.

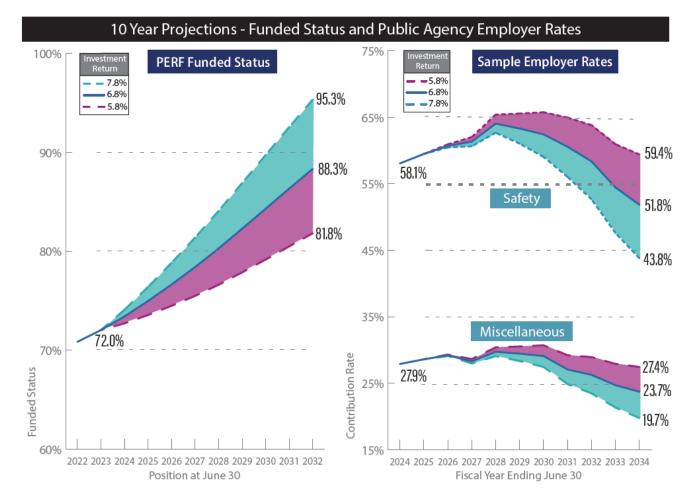
An asset portfolio with relatively high investment volatility can increase the likelihood of funding level decreases in the future.



Investment Risks – Achieving 6.8% Long-Term Return

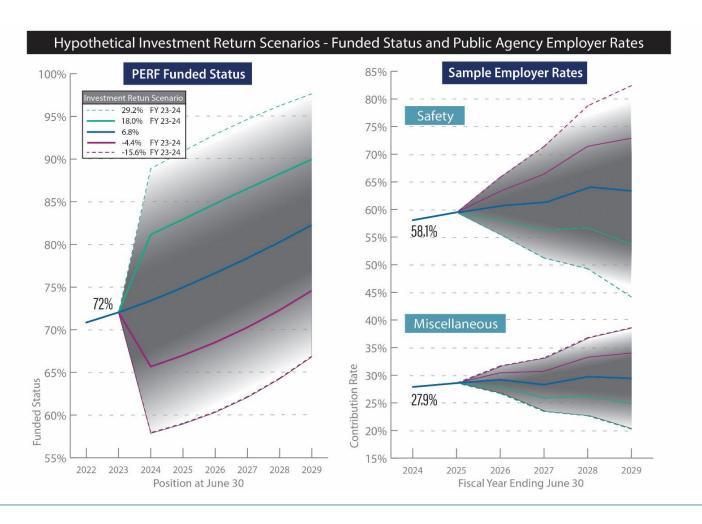
Failing to achieve an average return of 6.8% may lead to slower improvement in funded status and higher employer contributions.

While higher or lower annual investment returns immediately impact the system's funded status, impacts on employer contributions are phased-in over 5 years.





Investment Risks – High Employer Contributions

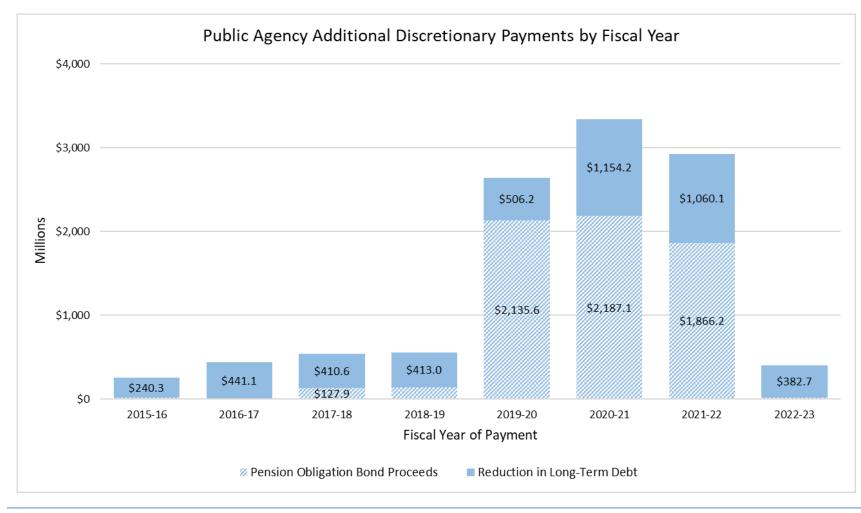


Large "shock" returns can occur in any year. Such returns can have an immediate impact on funded status.

While impacts on employer contributions can also be significant, such impacts are phased-in over 5 years.



Mitigating Risk – Additional Discretionary Payments



Employers have been increasing ADPs over the last several years. During 2019-2022 much of the ADPs resulted from Pension Obligation bonds.

While CalPERS ADPs from Pension Obligation bonds has the same impact on funded status and employer contribution rates, such bonds are additional debt for the employers that issue them.



Mitigating Risk – Summary

- PEPRA changes
- Recent Improvements to Amortization Policy
- Additional Discretionary Payments
- Additional funding through IRC section 115 trusts including the California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust
- Employer Education
 - ➤ Employer Leadership Dialogues
 - ➤ Pension Outlook / Managing Employer Contributions (MEC) tools
 - > Educational Forum / CSMFO Presentations
 - ➤ Summary of Valuation Results Tool



Areas for Future Focus

- Risk / Return Balance of Investment Policy
- Possible Near-Term Economic Turmoil
- Climate Change

