



SBCERS

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2020

130 Robin Hill Rd., Suite 100, Goleta, CA 93117 | 2236 S. Broadway, Suite D, Santa Maria, CA 93454
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OUR MISSION

"The Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System is committed to fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility by providing the highest quality of service to all members and plan sponsors, and protecting promised benefits through prudent investing, while ensuring reasonable expenses of administration."



SBCERS PLAN SPONSORS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

County of Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
Santa Barbara County Superior Court	Goleta Cemetery District
Carpinteria Cemetery District	Santa Maria Cemetery District
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District	Oak Hill Cemetery District*
Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District	Summerland Sanitary District
	Mosquito & Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County*

**These districts do not participate in the Other Post-Employment Benefit Plan.*

Table Of Contents

A Message to Our Members	4
Financial Results	6
Pension Fund Investments	8
Pension Funded Status	10
Membership Facts & Figures	11
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	13
Pension Benefits & Divorce	14
Disability Retirement	16
Register Your MySBCERS Member Portal Account!	17
About the Board of Retirement	18

SBCERS is responsible for the County's defined benefit retirement plan (pension plan), which provides retirement benefits, and the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust Fund (also called 401(h) Retiree Health Medical Trust Fund), which provides healthcare benefits for qualified retirees and their surviving spouses.

This report does not replace the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Detailed information on the subjects included here and other important aspects of SBCERS' administration can be found in the June 30, 2020 CAFR at: www.sbcers.org/financial-reports.

A Message to Our Members

DEAR MEMBERS,

We are pleased to present this annual report for the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2020. The report is designed to provide you more information about Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System and its financial health.

Over the past year, SBCERS has focused on service delivery to our members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Facing this challenge together, your member services team was able to adapt and innovate new ways to support member engagement. These efforts include the implementation of virtual member counseling services, online health care open enrollment events, and leveraging our new, secure online portal, MySBCERS, to interact and exchange data with you safely and quickly. While we miss the face-to-face interaction, we are proud of the fact that we have maintained our connection to our membership and even expanded our reach in certain areas.

During the summer of 2020, we moved both our Santa Maria Member Service Center and our South County headquarters office. Both projects are part of our long-term strategic plan to reduce operating costs and support an improved member experience.

In November, we began construction on the renovation of the South County headquarters building. The work is being performed by the Frank Schipper Construction Company, an employee-owned firm based in Santa Barbara County since 1982. Once complete, SBCERS will be able to host onsite Board of Retirement Meetings and member engagement events. Along with improved member facilities, the renovation project includes a "greening" of the building and ADA improvements. The project is expected to reduce SBCERS operating costs over the life of the facility and is an investment in our local community. We look forward to welcoming visitors when construction is complete and our office is safely open for in-person business.

Over the past year, we have continued to build upon our strong fiduciary commitment to provide stable retirement benefits. Upon review of this report, you will see that the SBCERS portfolio weathered the COVID-19 financial market shock with neutral investment returns. In this regard, our diversification strategies worked as designed and limited volatility. SBCERS continues to be in a strong financial position, using conservative economic assumptions. As a member, you can be confident that SBCERS is well-positioned to provide you with retirement security far into the future.

PENSION INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO GROWTH SINCE INCEPTION



We are proud of our members who are first responders, front-line health care, essential infrastructure, and service workers for our community. The past year demonstrated how you are the backbone of Santa Barbara County. You executed your mission with a quiet, purposeful resolve, and provided us with the stability necessary to persevere through adversity. Your membership in SBCERS is the valuable reward you receive for dedicating your career to public service. At SBCERS, we are your partner during your career and post-career life and we are honored to serve as a fiduciary to you and your loved ones.

We hope you will take some time to review this report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about your retirement benefits, remember to sign up for our monthly newsletter at www.sbcers.org, and create an online account at MySBCERS so that we can stay in touch with you.

Sincerely,



Greg Levin, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

Members of SBCERS have access to a secure and sustainable retirement plan that provides guaranteed monthly income. With proper planning and access to other complementary retirement savings vehicles, members can retire in confidence.



ACHIEVEMENTS FISCAL YEAR



INVESTMENTS & FINANCE

The Fund experienced a market rate of return of -0.10% (net of fees). SBCERS' Net Position Restricted for Benefits was \$3.2 billion. The OPEB Trust Fund experienced a market rate of return of 7.42%.



MEMBER SERVICES

The Member Services Team processed 225 retirements and 28 transitions to benefits for surviving beneficiaries. The Team also held virtual seminars covering Health Insurance Open Enrollment. The Member Services Team was able to transition to 100% virtual operations at the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic.



DISABILITY PROGRAM

During the fiscal year, the Board of Retirement made 18 final determinations on disability retirement applications. The Board completed a review of its panel of hearing referees and renewed contracts with three of the current panel members.

Financial Results

THE STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

This chart is similar to a balance sheet, in that it summarizes Total Fund assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position restricted for benefits. The fiduciary net position lists the funds available for future payments.

Dollars in thousands

For the Fiscal Year Ended:	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	% Change
Assets			
Investments*	\$ 3,219,864	\$ 3,224,900	-0.2%
Treasury Cash	21,015	11,815	77.9%
Prepays & Receivables	24,038	57,962	-58.5%
Total Assets	\$ 3,264,917	\$ 3,294,677	-0.9%
Liabilities			
Securities Lent	\$ 15,387	\$ 16,043	-4.1%
Other Liabilities	22,762	54,647	-58.3%
Total Deductions	\$ 38,149	\$ 70,690	-46.0%
Net Position Restricted for Benefits	\$ 3,226,768	\$ 3,223,987	0.1%

* Includes OPEB Trust

A primary concern of pension plan participants is the amount of money available to pay benefits. All of SBCERS' Net Position is available to meet SBCERS' respective obligations to plan participants and their beneficiaries. The total Net Position Restricted for Benefits is \$3.2 billion, an increase of 0.1% or \$2.7 million from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Increased retirement security benefits our community by encouraging public service and helping our plan sponsors attract and retain high-quality talent.



THE STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

This chart summarizes how SBCERS' Net Position changed during the fiscal year, displaying increases or decreases in contributions, net investment return, benefits paid, and administrative costs — similar to an income statement.

Dollars in thousands

For the Fiscal Year Ended:	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	% Change
Additions			
Contributions	\$ 187,591	\$ 174,344	7.6%
Net Investment Income	26,400	226,209	-88.3%
Net Securities Income	202	358	-43.6%
Other	580	612	-5.2%
Total Additions	\$ 214,773	\$ 401,523	-46.5%
Deductions			
Benefits Paid	\$ 203,060	\$ 189,689	7.0%
Member Withdrawals	1,837	1,728	6.3%
Administrative Expense	7,095	7,193	-1.4%
Total Deductions	\$ 211,992	\$ 198,610	6.7%
Net Increase	\$ 2,781	\$ 202,913	-98.6%

While contributions increased for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, investment income decreased substantially due to the effects of COVID-19 on international (excluding U.S.) financial markets. The overall year over year net additions decreased because the decrease in investment income outweighed the increase in contributions.

Over the past 10 years, contributions made by SBCERS Plan Sponsors and investment gains averaged about 92% of the Fund's income. Nearly all of SBCERS expenses are attributed to benefit payments and withdrawals, with just 3% attributed to administrative expenses (such as legal, actuarial, and operating costs).

ADDITIONS TO THE FUND



- 48% Employer Contributions
- 44% Investments Income
- 8% Employee Contributions

DEDUCTIONS FROM THE FUND



- 97% Benefit Payments & Withdrawals
- 3% Administrative Expenses

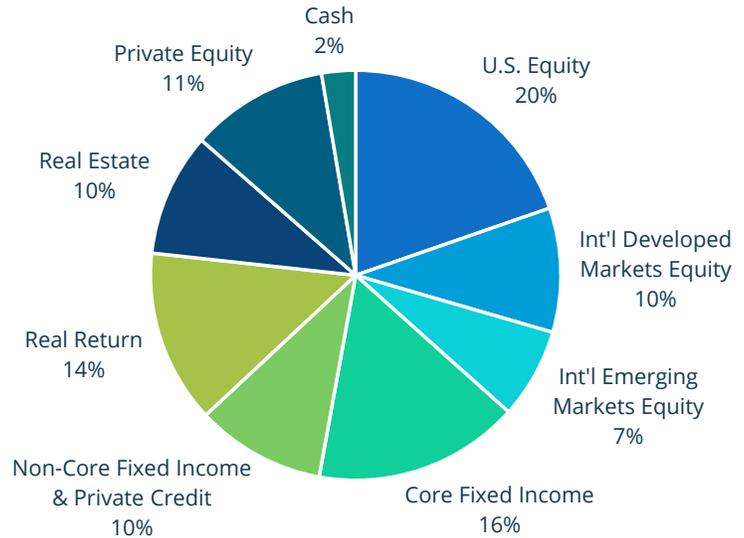
Pension Fund Investments

PENSION FUND ASSET ALLOCATION AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

The Pension Benefit Trust market value was \$3.19 billion as of June 30, 2020, a decrease of about 0.10% from the previous fiscal year.

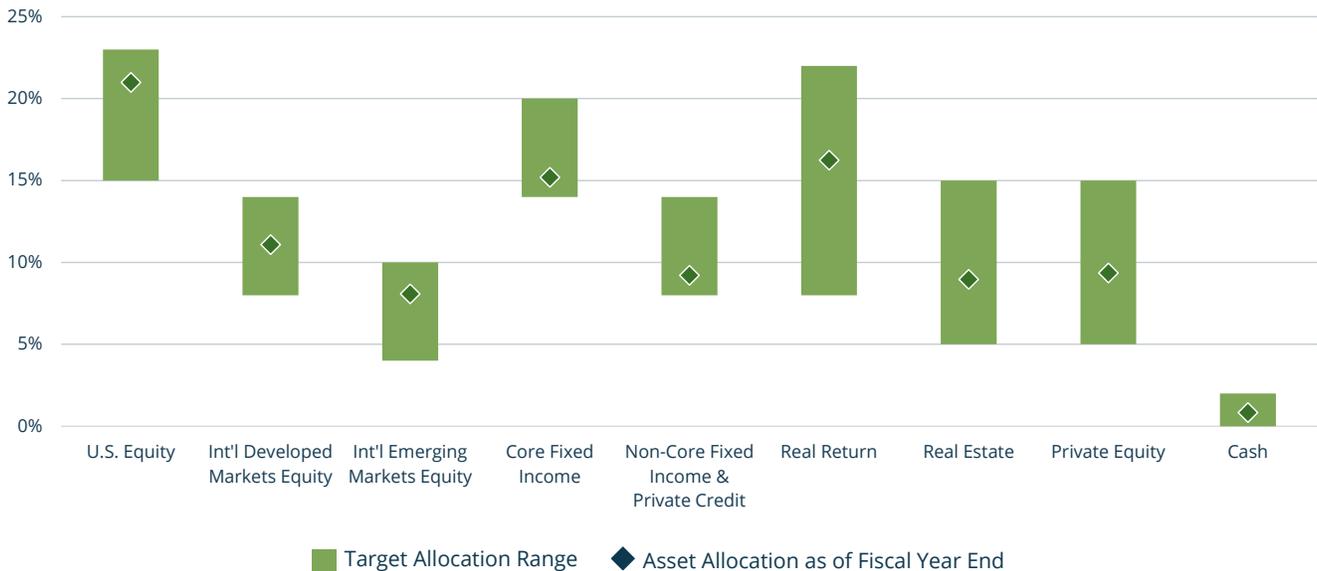
Dollars in thousands

Asset Class	Allocation Amount
U.S. Equity	\$ 628,892
Int'l Developed Markets Equity	312,908
Int'l Emerging Markets Equity	227,499
Core Fixed Income	518,596
Non-Core Fixed Income & Private Credit	325,280
Real Return	436,915
Real Estate	310,592
Private Equity	347,032
Cash	85,737
Total	\$ 3,193,451



TARGET ASSET ALLOCATION AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

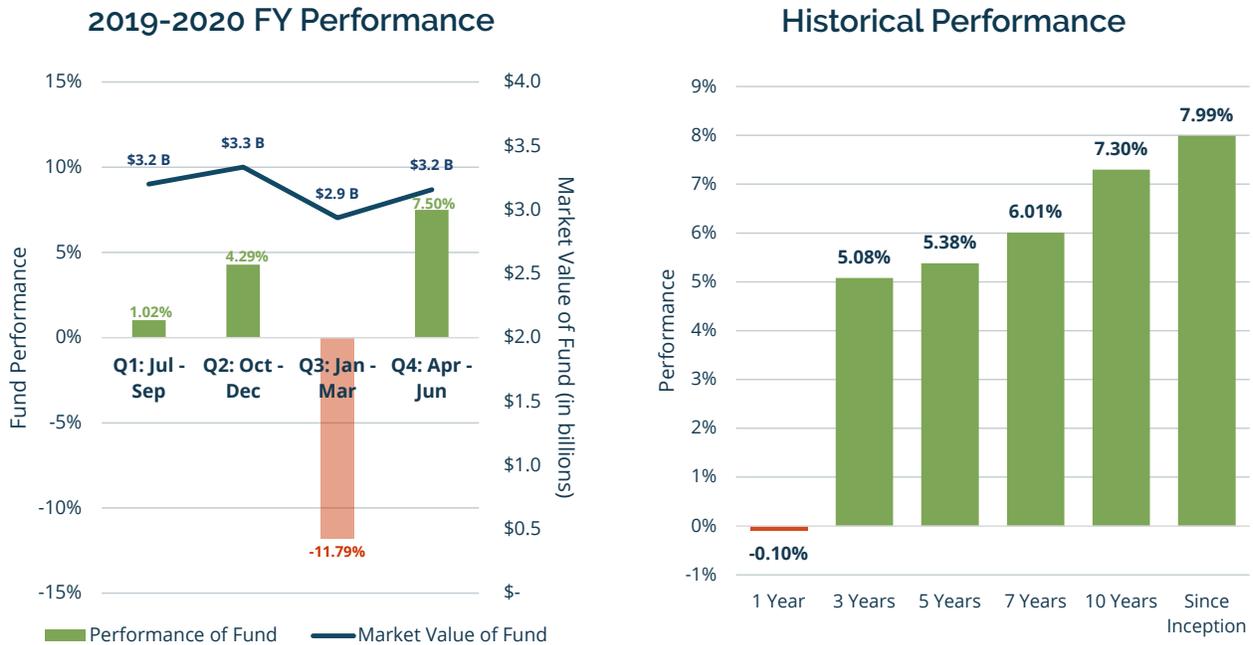
The System's Investment Policy Statement establishes how assets held in the Fund are administered. One of the main goals of the policy is to establish a target asset allocation designed to satisfy SBCERS' long-term objective of funding the benefits promised to members and beneficiaries. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the Fund's asset allocations were within the target range specified by the Investment Policy Statement.



PENSION FUND PERFORMANCE

The Pension Benefit Trust market value was \$3.19 billion as of June 30, 2020, a decrease of about 0.10% from the previous fiscal year. This decrease is attributed to the global economic crisis triggered by COVID-19.

Positive performance during the year was driven by allocations to U.S. Equity, Private Equity, and Core Fixed Income, which returned 6.08%, 6.50%, and 8.63%, respectively. The largest detractors from the Fund's performance were International Emerging Markets Equity and International Developed Markets Equity, which returned -11.30% and -5.62%, respectively.



OVER THE PAST THREE-, FIVE-, AND TEN-YEAR PERIODS, SBCERS HAS GENERATED 5.08%, 5.38%, AND 7.30%, RESPECTIVELY. SBCERS HAS AVERAGED A 7.99% RETURN SINCE JANUARY 1987.

HOW DOES SBCERS PROTECT THE FUND'S ASSETS?

- 
Portfolio diversification is an important element of risk control. Investments are allocated across a broad range of asset classes, as well as across different sectors and many individual holdings within asset classes, in order to reduce volatility.
- 
Inflation protection is a strategy used to protect the portfolio from periods of time with high inflation by investing in assets that perform well in inflationary climates, such as commodities, real estate, and TIPS. Rising inflation can negatively affect the portfolio's buying power, meaning the amount of money invested will be worth less in the future.
- 
Strategic rebalancing occurs when the weight of an asset class in the portfolio is outside of the target allocation. Portfolio rebalancing safeguards the Fund from being overly exposed to undesirable risks.

Pension Funded Status

SBCERS' Pension Plan is 74.3% funded, meaning the Fund's assets cover 74.3% of the Total Pension Liability. The Pension Funded Status indicates the health of a Fund over time. SBCERS' funded status has remained stable over the past 10 years, suggesting the Plan is financially healthy.



Dollars in thousands

As of June 30, 2020

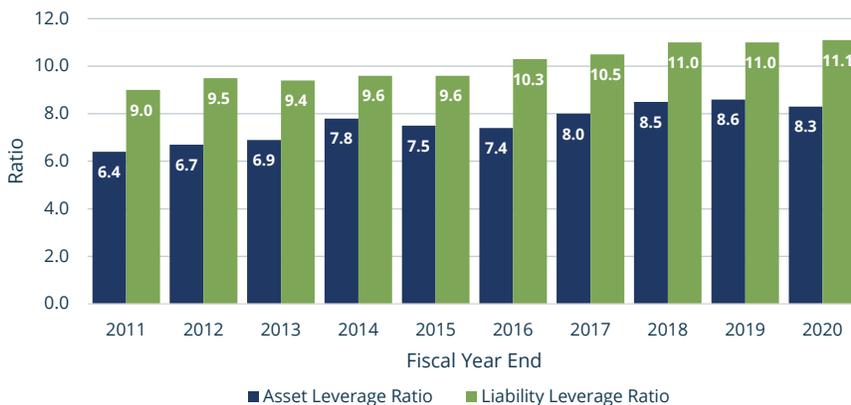
Actuarial Liability	\$	4,297,728
Market Value of Assets	-	3,193,932
Unfunded Liability	\$	1,103,796

OTHER PLAN MATURITY MEASURES

The Support Ratio, a simple measure of plan maturity, is the ratio of inactive members (those receiving benefits or entitled to a deferred benefit) to the number of active members. A higher support ratio indicates a more mature pension system, as there are more inactive members than active members. The chart to the right shows the growth in the Support Ratio over the past 10 years. Active membership has increased by 4% while members in pay status increased by 43%; however, the ratio has remained relatively steady over the last 3 years.



Leverage (or Volatility) Ratios measure the size of the Plan compared to its revenue base more directly. The *asset leverage ratio* is the Market Value of Assets divided by active member payroll and indicates the sensitivity of the Plan to investment returns. The higher the asset leverage ratio is, the more sensitive the Plan is to investment returns, increasing the likelihood that contribution rates change. The *liability leverage ratio* is the ratio of the Plan's Actuarial Liability to active member payroll and indicates the sensitivity of the Plan to assumption changes or demographic experience. Both asset and liability leverage ratios have gradually increased since 2011.



Membership Facts & Figures

Active Members are people who are currently employed by one of SBCERS' Plan Sponsors. An average Active Member is **44.3** years old and has **11.6** years of service. The average annual salary is **\$86,230**.

Deferred Members are people who no longer work for an SBCERS Plan Sponsor but have established reciprocity or vested their benefit. Deferred Members are on average **45.8** years old.

4,322
Active Members



1,611
Deferred Members

4,240
Retired Members

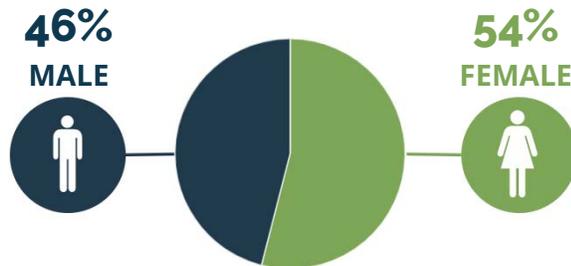


604
Beneficiaries & Surviving Spouses

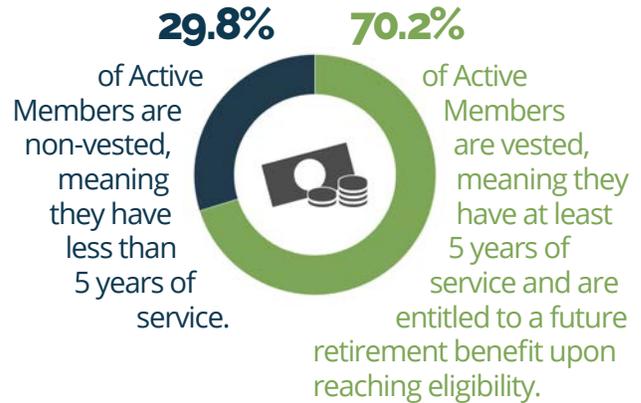
Retired Members are people who retired from an SBCERS Plan Sponsor and are currently receiving benefits. The average age at retirement is **58.7**. The average annual benefit payment is **\$41,592**.

Beneficiaries & Surviving Spouses are people who receive any benefits payable from the retirement plan in the event of a retired member's death. The average annual benefit payment is **\$25,030**.

GENDER COMPOSITION OF ALL MEMBERSHIP



ACTIVE MEMBER VESTING



428

New Active Members

New Active Members are new employees hired by an SBCERS plan sponsor. All permanent employees working at least 50% of a full-time position for an SBCERS plan sponsor participate in an SBCERS Plan.

123

Members Established Reciprocity

A new employee can establish reciprocity if they begin service with Santa Barbara County within 180 days of leaving employment with a California public agency covered by a reciprocal retirement system, or leave County service and within 180 days begin regular employment with a public agency covered by a reciprocal system.

363

Service Credit Purchases

Members may be able to purchase service credit if: (1) they were employed by the County before they became an SBCERS member, such as Extra Help, (2) they were on a leave of absence without pay for medical reasons, or (3) they left employment with the County, withdrew their contributions from the plan, and were later rehired.

225 **Members Retired**

Retirement eligibility depends on the member's plan. Retirement eligibility criteria are listed in SBCERS' Summary Plan Documents, available online at www.sbcers.org.

43 **Reciprocal Members Retired**

A concurrent retirement occurs when a terminated member who established reciprocity with a qualified California public agency retires using service previously acquired from an SBCERS plan sponsor.

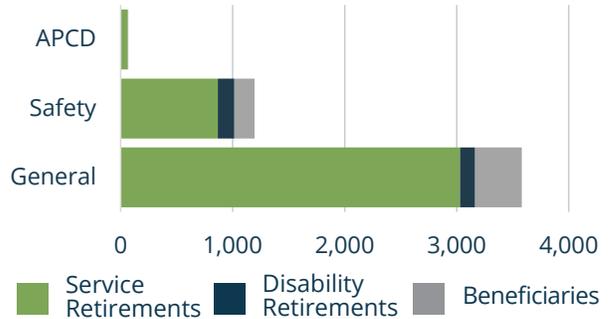
130 **Retiree Open Enrollment Changes**

Open Enrollment occurs every October to process insurance changes for the following calendar year.

ACTIVE & DEFERRED MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 30, 2020



RETIRED & BENEFICIARY MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 30, 2020



General Members	Count	Avg Annual Salary
Active Members	3,327	\$80,581
Deferred Members	1,353	-
Total	4,680	-

General Members	Count	Avg Annual Benefit
Service Retirements	3,030	\$36,036
Disability Retirements	133	\$29,232
Beneficiaries	417	\$19,968
Total	3,580	\$33,912

Safety Members	Count	Avg Annual Salary
Active Members	962	\$105,484
Deferred Members	233	-
Total	1,195	-

Safety Members	Count	Avg Annual Benefit
Service Retirements	866	\$72,192
Disability Retirements	148	\$53,916
Beneficiaries	181	\$36,528
Total	1,195	\$64,524

APCD Members	Count	Avg Annual Salary
Active Members	33	\$94,437
Deferred Members	25	-
Total	58	-

APCD Members	Count	Avg Annual Benefit
Service Retirements	63	\$43,812
Disability Retirements	-	-
Beneficiaries	6	\$30,000
Total	69	\$42,612

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are benefits that a member will receive during retirement, such as healthcare, vision, and dental benefits. These are in addition to pension benefits paid to the retired employee. In plans administered by SBCERS, retirees are offered the same health plans as active employees. There are also specialized plans for retirees on Medicare.

Dollars in thousands

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020	
Assets as of June 30, 2019	\$ 25,853
Additions	
Employer Contributions	\$ 14,388
Interest & Investments Income	2,036
Misc. Income	381
Total Additions	\$ 16,805
Deductions	
Benefits Paid	
\$15/year of service health premium subsidy	\$ 7,412
\$4/year of service HRA subsidy	1,838
Total Benefits Paid	\$ 9,250
Administrative Expense	572
Total Deductions	\$ 9,822
Net Position Restricted for Benefits	\$ 32,836

Health Premium Subsidy:

Retirees who elect to purchase plan sponsor qualified health plans are eligible to receive an explicit subsidy for medical premiums funded by the County and other plan sponsors. The monthly subsidy is \$15 per year of service. If the monthly premium for the health plan selected is less than \$15 times the member's years of service, the subsidy is limited to the entire premium.

Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement:

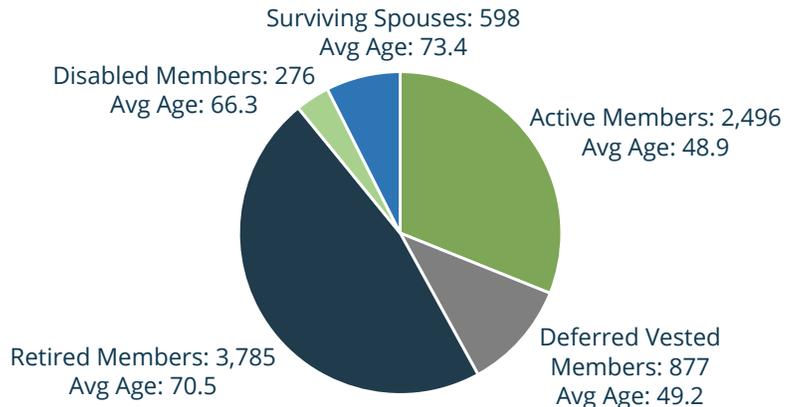
Retirees who choose not to participate in a plan sponsor qualified health plan receive a monthly benefit of \$4 per year of service. This benefit reimburses qualified health care expenses through a health reimbursement account.



OPEB MEMBERSHIP

On June 26, 2012, the County and APCD closed the OPEB plan to new General employees, and on June 20, 2016, the OPEB plan was closed to new County Safety members. The OPEB plan has been closed to all new entrants from other participating Plan Sponsors with membership dates on or after December 31, 2018. On June 30, 2020, 100% of eligible retirees participated in the OPEB program. The pie chart below only includes OPEB-eligible members.

OPEB Membership as of June 30, 2020	
Retired members and survivors receiving benefits	4,659
Vested members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	877
Active employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	2,496
Total	8,032



Pension Benefits & Divorce

Divorce or the dissolution of a registered domestic partnership can have a significant impact on an SBCERS member's pension account, whether that member is looking forward to retirement in the future, or is already retired and receiving a pension benefit. It is our goal at SBCERS to assist our members in addressing the impacts by educating members and providing options to enable a complete resolution of the matter.

Your SBCERS account and pension benefits are considered community property and must be addressed in any settlement approved by the court. A spouse (or ex-spouse) may have a claim to a portion of a member's retirement account or a retired member's pension benefit. Foreign country residency, incarceration, the inability to locate, or the death of the non-member does not resolve the community property interest in the SBCERS asset, so it is important to reach out to SBCERS for assistance as early as possible. SBCERS has an obligation to all people with a community property interest and is unable to finalize a retirement benefit onboarding if there is an unresolved dissolution matter.

Dissolutions may result in court orders referred to as a domestic relations order (DRO). Dissolutions processed by SBCERS prior to retirement are commonly referred to as Model A DROs, while dissolutions processed after retirement are commonly referred to as Model B DROs. The Retirement System has developed guidelines to assist members undergoing dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership, and we stand ready to assist you with a copy of the guidelines and steps forward so that you can resolve any dissolution matters and be confident in your ability to retire.

Divorce Before Retirement: Model A DRO

If a member divorces or dissolves a registered domestic partnership before they retire, the retirement service credit that was accrued during the marriage is considered community property and must be addressed in any settlement approved by the court. Any service credit accrued prior to a marriage or after a separation, however, is not subject to division. For example, if a member joins SBCERS in 2000, then marries in 2005, and separates in 2010, the portion of their service credit that is considered community property and subject to division is the 5 years between 2005 and 2010.

If the SBCERS account is to be divided, a court order will allocate and award to the non-member a percentage of the member's accumulated contributions and service credit. The non-member is then eligible for either a refund of the contributions or a future pension benefit of their own, completely separate from the member, based on the service credit they are awarded. In some instances, if the non-member receives a refund, the member can then purchase back that service credit for their own account.

This process begins with joining SBCERS in the proceeding, which enables us to respond to the domestic relations order (DRO) that will address the division of the asset. If you are in the process of a divorce or face one in the future, please let SBCERS know, so we can discuss the process with you.

If the non-member waives the community property interest in the SBCERS asset, then no court action is required. In cases where a non-member elects to waive 100% of his or her interest in this community property asset, a formal waiver must be contained in a marital settlement agreement or other court order. The document should specifically reference the SBCERS retirement account or pension as the asset being waived. Language that generically states that a party waives all retirement benefits earned during the marriage may not be acceptable, because this could be construed to mean a Deferred Compensation account or another benefit. SBCERS will provide you with the guidelines, sample documents, and next steps forward. Please reach out to our Member Services team for assistance. All of these conversations are confidential.

Divorce After Retirement: Model B DRO

If a member divorces or dissolves a registered domestic partnership after retirement, the pension benefit itself is considered community property and must be addressed in any settlement approved by the court. A court order will allocate and award the non-member a percentage of the retiree's monthly benefit. If it is decided that no portion of the pension benefit is to be awarded to the non-member, the waiver language must be contained in a marital settlement agreement or other court order. SBCERS can provide you with the guidelines for processing a Model B DRO, please reach out to our Member Services team for assistance and guidance for the next steps.

What happens if a member has already divorced?

If a marital settlement agreement has occurred in the past and the SBCERS pension benefit was not specifically addressed at that time, there is a remedy that will not require a lengthy legal process, but will involve both parties' participation and agreement: a Waiver of Omitted Asset. This waiver must be signed by both parties and certified by the court. It will need to list the SBCERS pension benefit, note that it was excluded from the Final Judgment, and that both parties agree to the division or waiver of asset as detailed in the Waiver. Often times, this waiver is used to just clarify ambiguous language from a previous order, or to state that the pension benefit is undisputed and is the sole custody of the member. SBCERS can provide you with a sample Waiver of Omitted Asset.

We're here to help!

We understand that divorce can be a complicated process that is difficult to talk about. It is our goal to assist you with the information, forms, and guidelines you'll need as you address the disposition of your pension benefit. We have found that addressing the disposition or waiver of this community property asset is more easily done earlier in a dissolution process rather than later. We are here to help you move through this process and on to the future.

DRO Checklist:

- ✓ Notify SBCERS of any change in marital status during your career or retirement.
- ✓ Submit a complete certified copy of your Final Judgment, including any Marital Settlement Agreement.
- ✓ Update your beneficiary once your documents are deemed acceptable.

A Note About Confidentiality

Please know that we value the security and confidentiality of your account information. After a pension account is split, each party gains sole control over their separate accounts and is not entitled to information about the other party's account. The exception to this is that the Retirement System is authorized to advise (1) the member, if the non-member withdraws or dies; and (2) the non-member, if the member retires or dies before the non-member. Unless specified in the domestic relations order, neither party will be given any other information regarding the other party's actions relative to their separate account, and such actions are confidential.

Disability Retirement

Disability retirement benefits may be available to members who become permanently incapacitated and are unable to perform the usual duties of their job. There are two types of disability retirement:

SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Permanent incapacity for the performance of duty resulting from an injury or disease arising out of and in the course of employment, where such employment contributes substantially to the incapacity. A member may apply for this benefit after completing any length of service, if other eligibility criteria is met.

NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Permanent incapacity resulting from an injury or illness not related to your employment. To apply for this benefit, the member must have 5 or more years of service credit (including reciprocal service).



Learn about Disability Retirement Benefits in relation to COVID-19 or other medical conditions.

If you become permanently unable to perform the usual duties of your position, you may be eligible for disability retirement benefits. SBCERS Disability benefits are available for both service and non-service (if vested) related illnesses. Your surviving spouse and minor children may also be eligible for disability continuance benefits in the event that you pass away as an active employee. The following resources are available online at www.sbcers.org/disability-retirement to help you understand the disability retirement benefits available:

- Disability Retirement Brochure
- Disability Retirement Process Video

If you have a disabling medical condition that is potentially life threatening, it is important that you contact us as soon as possible to ensure your opportunity to select the retirement and continuance benefit options that best fit your family circumstances.

Register Your MySBCERS Member Portal Account!



How to Sign Up

1. Go to <https://mysbcers.org> and click "Enroll Now!"
2. Click "Request an Enrollment PIN". The PIN will then be sent via US Postal Mail to the address on file. An Enrollment PIN can also be generated by an SBCERS Member Services Representative and distributed to the member after verification of identity.
3. Once you have received your Enrollment PIN, complete the identifying information and account setup sections on the Enrollment page.

Enrolling in MySBCERS is optional. Whether or not you enroll, you will still receive your monthly Advice of Deposit by mail, but we do encourage that you move to electronic only distribution.

If you are an active or deferred member you will be able to use MySBCERS to:

- ✓ Create online estimates using your SBCERS data.
- ✓ Create a Benefit Statement.
- ✓ View and update your personal contact information.
- ✓ View designated beneficiaries.
- ✓ View and print SBCERS forms.

If you are a payee you will be able to use MySBCERS to:

- ✓ View your Benefit Payment History.
- ✓ View and print your 2020 1099-R form.
- ✓ View your Withholding Elections.
- ✓ View your Direct Deposit Elections.
- ✓ View your Withholding Elections, Personal Information and Beneficiaries.
- ✓ RSVP for Seminars.
- ✓ View and print SBCERS forms.

If you have problems setting up or accessing your online account, please do not hesitate to contact a Member Services Representative by calling 1-877-568-2940 or emailing benefits@sbcers.org.

About the Board of Retirement

SBCERS is administered by the Board of Retirement, a group of 11 trustees bound by the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937.

Responsibilities & Duties

The overall responsibility of the SBCERS Board of Retirement is to administer the System and ensure benefits are paid in accordance with the law. The key areas listed below are just some of the duties of the Board.

Governance — Adopts regulations, bylaws, and policies to ensure appropriate governance consistent with the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 and other applicable laws, considers legislative proposals, and authorizes actions concerning claims, disputes, demands, or legal proceedings that may affect SBCERS.

Investments & Funding — Diversifies the investments of SBCERS to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the rate of return, authorizes the asset allocation of the investment portfolio, approves investment strategies, and reviews the performance of investment managers.

Benefits Administration — Adopts policies to promote the effective administration of member benefits, approves service retirements, determines disability retirement eligibility, and approves cost-of-living adjustments.

Operations — Approves SBCERS Annual Budget, ensures that employer and employee contributions are collected and that all required distributions from the Fund are made, and approves leases or purchase agreements in connection with SBCERS' business offices.

Financial, Actuarial, & Accounting — Receives annual financial statements, reviews financial and actuarial audits, approves the System's actuarial valuation, assumptions and methodologies, and recommends any necessary changes in the contribution rates of the employers and members to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Human Resources — Reviews the CEO's job performance and the staffing needs of SBCERS.

Communications — Ensures effective communications with members, plan sponsors, and other significant interest groups.

Key Appointments — Appoints the CEO, actuary, auditors, outside legal counsel, investment consultants, and managers.

Monitoring & Reporting — Ensures that appropriate monitoring and reporting practices are established within the SBCERS and reviews the performance of its advisors including the actuary, the financial auditor, the investment consultant, counsel and the custodian on a regular basis.



Pictured above: Rendering for the future location of Board of Retirement meetings in the SBCERS office located at 130 Robin Hill Road, Goleta.

All Board and Operations Committee meetings are open to the public! Regularly scheduled Board meetings are at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month, with limited exceptions. Board agendas are available to view online at www.sbcers.org.

WHO CAN BE ON THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT?

Active and Retired SBCERS Members, as well as County of Santa Barbara taxpayers, have an opportunity to serve on the SBCERS Board of Retirement.

General Members of the System (i.e., non-safety employees of an SBCERS Plan Sponsor) can be elected as General Member of the Board of Retirement, Safety employees can run for an Elected Safety Member (or alternate) seat, and Retired Members can run for the Elected Retired and Alternate Retired Member seats. There are no restrictions or requirements to run in a Board of Retirement election, other than membership and gathering a required amount of signatures from your same membership base.

The Board of Retirement also includes non-SBCERS members, who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to represent the County's taxpayers.

Two seats on the Board of Retirement are held for the Treasurer-Tax Collector and a member of the Board of Supervisors. All members of the Board serve 3-year terms, except for the Treasurer-Tax Collector who serves as the Ex-Officio member as long as they hold the elected office of Treasurer.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ON THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT?

While there are no education requirements to be elected or appointed to the Board, all Members on the Board of Retirement are required to complete 24 hours of education in any 2-year period. SBCERS staff provide educational opportunities at some Board of Retirement meetings and extensive offsite training is also provided.

HOW CAN MEMBERS BE INVOLVED WITH THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT?

You can stay up-to-date with the Board of Retirement by signing up for the SBCERS Monthly Newsletter. Each newsletter includes a summary of the previous meeting, the draft minutes, and the agenda for the next Board of Retirement meeting. Members of the public may attend any Board of Retirement meeting (virtual or in-person) and can make a public comment if there is a topic they are concerned about.



WANT TO SIGN UP FOR THE SBCERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

Use your smartphone's camera to scan the QR code to the left and submit your contact information.

Members of the Board of Retirement



FREDERICK TAN
Chair, Elected Safety Member



HARRY E. HAGEN
Vice Chair, Ex-Officio Member



MICHAEL VIDAL
Secretary, Appointed Member



TRENT BENEDETTI
Appointed Member



ZANDRA CHOLMONDELEY
Elected Retired Member



STEVE LAVAGNINO
5th District Supervisor, Appointed Member



ROB ADAM PERRY
Elected General Member



TED STEN
Appointed Member



XIAOLI ZHANG-KING
Elected General Member



GARY BLAIR
Elected Alternate Retired Member



RYAN SULLIVAN
Elected Alternate Safety Member

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

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