

Marin County Employees' Retirement Association

Actuarial Review and Analysis as of June 30, 2023

Novato Fire Protection District

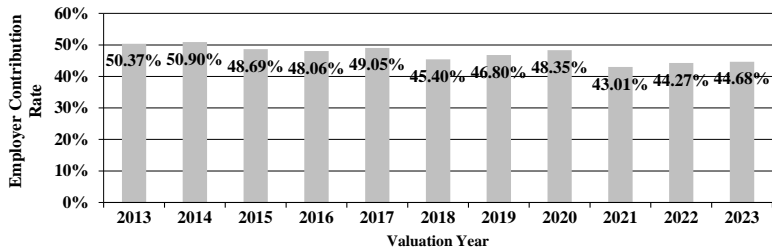
Valuation Date	June 30, 2022		June 30, 2023	
Actuarial Liability	\$232.0 M	<u>Funded Ratio</u>	\$243.2 M	<u>Funded Ratio</u>
Market Value of Valuation Assets	\$209.8 M	90.4%	\$218.0 M	89.6%
Unfunded Actuarial Liability	\$22.2 M		\$25.2 M	
Inactive Actuarial Liability	\$161.2 M		\$176.8 M	
Portion Covered by Market Value of Valuation Assets	100.0%		100.0%	
Employer Normal Cost	22.39%		22.03%	
Amortization of Unfunded Liability	19.78%		20.63%	
Administrative Expense Rate	<u>2.10%</u>		<u>2.02%</u>	
Total Employer Rate	44.27%		44.68%	
Average Employee Rate	<u>15.73%</u>		<u>15.86%</u>	
Final Total Rate	60.00%		60.54%	

Changes from Prior Year:

- Overall, the employer portion of Plan cost increased from 44.27% to 44.68% of active member payroll.
 - Asset experience produced an investment gain, which decreased the contribution rate by 0.05% of pay.
 - Demographic experience for Novato, including higher-than-expected COLAs, resulted in a loss, increasing the contribution rate by 0.81%.
 - PEPPRA new hires make up a growing proportion of the active population and generally contribute a larger share of their cost, decreasing the contribution rate by 0.48%.
 - Salary increases for returning employees were higher than expected, increasing the contribution rate by 0.26% of pay.
 - Overall payroll, which includes the pay for new hires, increased more than expected. This resulted in the UAL being amortized over a larger than expected payroll base, decreasing the contribution rate by 0.94%.
 - The load for terminal service and compensation increases for Novato's Classic members was reduced from 4.00% to 2.00%, and there was a change in the methodology for projecting future compensation. These and other demographic assumption changes increased the contribution rate for Novato by 0.28% of payroll.
 - There was an expected change in the amortization rate due to the phase-in of prior UAL gains, losses, and assumption changes. This increased the contribution rate by 0.53%.

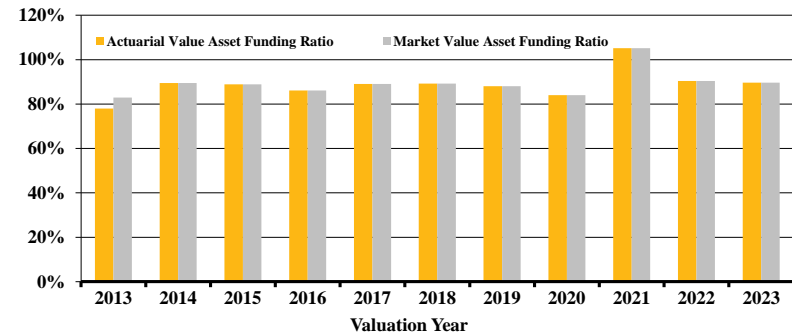
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Employer Contribution Rate as a Percentage of Member Payroll



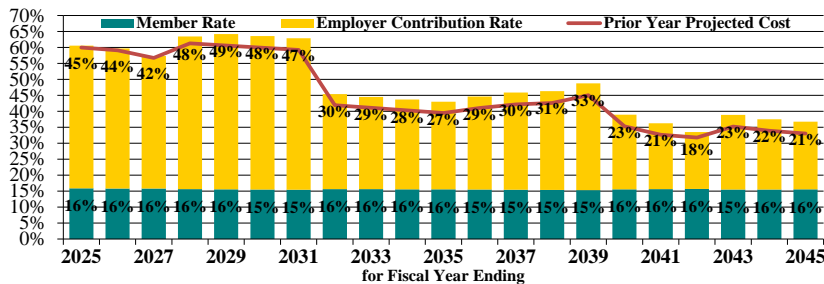
Net investment gains and growth in the PEPRA population over the past few years have decreased the employer rate, offset by changes in the actuarial assumptions.

Plan Funded Ratios



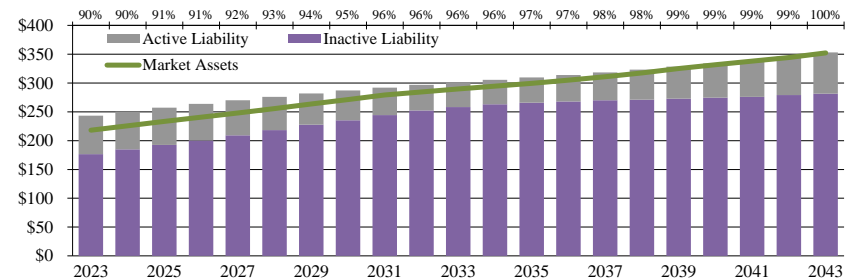
The above graph shows the funded ratio, both at Market and Actuarial Value of Assets. Beginning in 2014, the Actuarial Value of Assets is equal to the market value. The 2023 funded ratio of 89.6% is nearly 12% higher than the 2013 funded ratio of 78.0% despite being calculated under significantly more conservative assumptions.

Projection of Employer Cost as a Percentage of Member Payroll



Provided assumptions are met, contribution rates are expected to fluctuate over the next three years as the significant 2021 investment gain and 2022 investment loss are phased-in. A large reduction in the employer rate is projected in FYE 2032 as the original UAL base is fully amortized. A moderate long-term decline is projected as the PEPRA population continues to grow.

Projection of Funded Ratio Based on Actuarial Liability



Provided assumptions are met, the funded ratio (shown by the numbers along the top of the graph) will improve as the remainder of the initial unfunded liability and extraordinary loss from FYE 2009 are paid off. This graph and the prior graph assume a 7-year amortization period for the bulk of the UAL.



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	2023		
Sensitivity Analysis:	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>+1%</u>	<u>-1%</u>
Expected Long-Term Rate of Return	6.75%	7.75%	5.75%
Employer Cost	44.68%	21.64%	69.59%
Funding Ratio	89.6%	100.4%	79.3%

Investment Earnings:	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
Market Value	(8.6%)	7.0%
Expected	6.75%	6.75%

Projected Payroll:	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>
Total	\$10.8 M	\$10.9 M

Projected Employer Contribution:	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
Total Employer Rate	44.27%	44.68%
Projected Covered Payroll	\$11.1 M	\$11.2 M
Expected Employer Contribution	\$4.9 M	\$5.0 M

Beginning in 2014, the Market and Actuarial Value of Assets are the same.

The employer costs in the sensitivity analysis are calculated assuming that the change in UAL due to the discount rate change is amortized over a 20-year period as a level percent of payroll with no phase-in/out.

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Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal to Final Decrement (GASB 67/68 compliant)
Amortization Method	Level % of pay; closed.
Remaining Amortization Period	Initial (2013) layer: 17 years fixed (7 years remaining as of June 30, 2023). Half of the extraordinary asset loss from FY 2009 is being amortized as a level percentage of payroll over a closed 30-year period, with 15 years remaining as of June 30, 2023. Any subsequent unexpected change in the Unfunded Actuarial Liability after June 30, 2013 is amortized over 24 years (22 years for assumption changes) that includes a 5-year phase-in/out (3 years for assumption changes) of the payments/credits for each annual layer.
Asset Valuation Method	As of the June 30, 2014 valuation, assets are valued using the market value. The assets used to compute the UAL are the Market Value of Assets, minus the value of any non-valuation contingency reserves.
 Actuarial Economic Assumptions:	
Long-Term Inflation Rate	2.50%
Real Rate of Return	4.25%
Nominal Rate of Return	6.75% (net of investment, but not administrative, expenses)
Projected Salary Increases	3.52% – 9.18%
Wage Inflation	3.00%
Payroll Growth	2.75%

Disclaimers: This exhibit is intended to summarize the information presented in the June 30, 2023 Actuarial Valuation Report for MCERA. In preparing our valuation, we relied on information (some oral and some written) supplied by MCERA Staff. This information includes, but is not limited to, the plan provisions, employee data, and financial information. We performed an informal examination of the obvious characteristics of the data for reasonableness and consistency in accordance with Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 23. This exhibit was prepared exclusively for MCERA for the purpose described herein. Other users of this exhibit are not intended users as defined in the Actuarial Standards of Practice, and Cheiron assumes no duty or liability to any other user. This exhibit and its contents have been prepared in accordance with generally recognized and accepted actuarial principles and practices and are consistent with the Code of Professional Conduct and applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice set out by the Actuarial Standards Board as well as applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, as credentialed actuaries, we meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the opinion contained in this exhibit. This exhibit does not address any contractual or legal issues. We are not attorneys and our firm does not provide any legal services or advice. Cheiron utilizes ProVal, an actuarial valuation application leased from Winklevoss Technologies (WinTech), to calculate liabilities and project benefit payments. We have relied on WinTech as the developer of ProVal. We have reviewed ProVal, have a basic understanding of it, and have used it in accordance with its original intended purpose. We have not identified any material inconsistencies in assumptions or output of ProVal that would affect this report. The deterministic projections shown in this report were developed using R-scan, our proprietary stochastic projection tool for assessing probabilities of different outcomes. The projections use standard roll-forward techniques that implicitly assume a stable active population. Changes in the demographic characteristics of the active population will lead to different results. We have relied on Cheiron colleagues who developed the tool, and we have used the tool in accordance with its purpose.