

# 2021 CalPERS Update



## **Finance Committee**

**November 4, 2021**



# Recent and Current CalPERS News

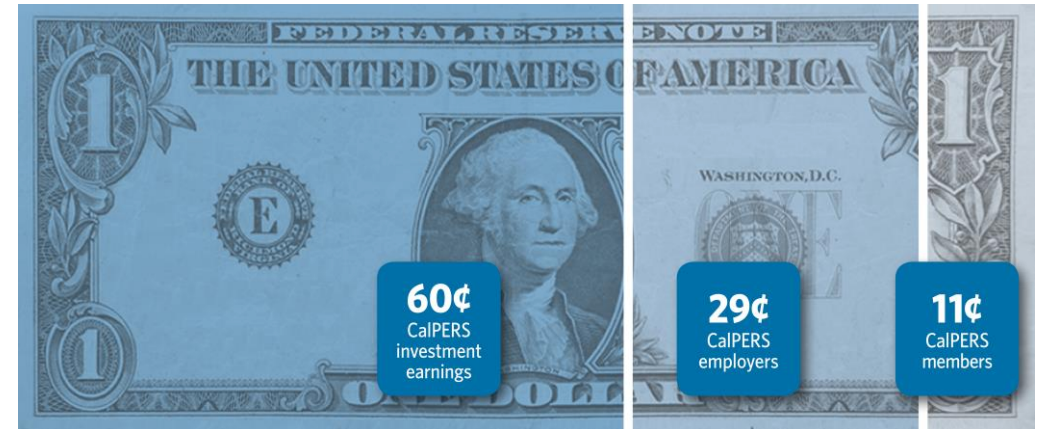
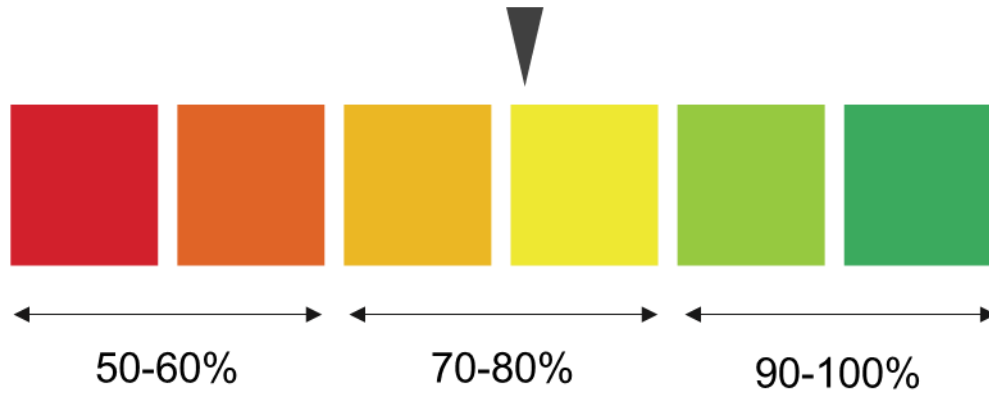


# CalPERS Fiscal Status

**\$469 billion in assets**  
*(up from \$389b in prior year)*

**21.3% net return on investments**  
*(4.7% in prior year)*

**82% funded status** *(from 71%)*



*Preliminary*



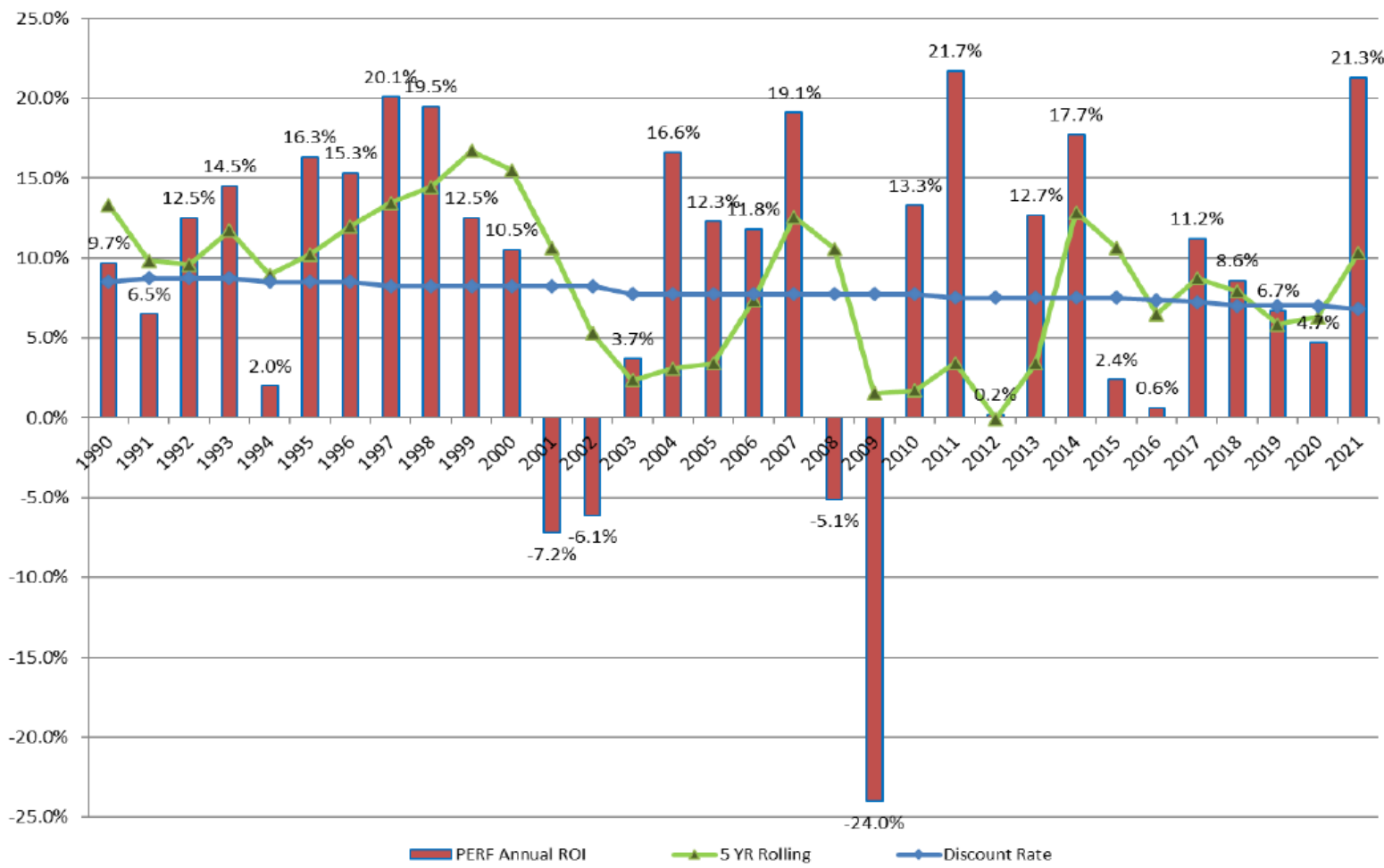
# June 30, 2021, CalPERS Portfolio Composition

	Ending Asset Value (bil) <sup>1</sup>	Current Allocation (%)	Policy Target Weight (%)	Policy Variance (%)	Policy Range
<b>Public Equity</b>	\$ 242.2	51.4%	50.0%	1.4%	± 7%
<b>Private Equity</b>	\$ 38.9	8.3%	8.0%	0.3%	± 4%
<b>Income</b>	\$ 140.4	29.8%	28.0%	1.8%	± 6%
<b>Real Assets</b>	\$ 45.3	9.6%	13.0%	(3.4%)	± 5%
<b>Total Fund</b>	\$ 11.9	2.5%			
Opportunistic	\$ 2.1	0.4%			
LLER	\$ 9.5	2.0%			
Other	\$ 0.2	0.0%			
<b>Financing &amp; Liquidity</b>	\$ (7.8)	(1.6%)			
Trust Level Financing	\$ (12.6)	(2.7%)			
Liquidity	\$ 4.8	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	-6% to +3%
<b>Total PERF</b>	\$ 470.8	100.0%	100.0%		

Performance Summary	Ending Asset Value (bil) <sup>1</sup>	1-Yr		
		Total Return	BM Return	Excess Bps
<b>Public Equity</b>	\$ 242.2	36.3%	36.0%	31
Cap Wtd.	\$ 171.7	42.0%	41.6%	46
Factor Wtd.	\$ 70.5	22.6%	22.6%	(2)
<b>Private Equity</b>	\$ 38.9	43.8%	61.1%	(1,730)
<b>Income</b>	\$ 140.4	(0.1%)	(0.8%)	64
Long Spread	\$ 70.9	3.2%	2.6%	61
Long Treasury	\$ 48.3	(8.5%)	(8.7%)	13
Total Fund Income	\$ 7.1	-	-	-
High Yield	\$ 14.2	13.7%	13.4%	28
<b>Real Assets</b>	\$ 45.3	2.6%	1.3%	128
<b>Total Fund</b>	\$ 11.9			
Opportunistic	\$ 2.1	13.1%	7.0%	609
LLER	\$ 9.5	4.0%	0.1%	395
Other	\$ 0.2	-	-	-
<b>Financing &amp; Liquidity</b>	\$ (7.8)			
Trust Level Financing	\$ (12.6)	-	-	-
Liquidity	\$ 4.8	0.1%	0.1%	6
<b>Total PERF</b>	\$ 470.8	21.3%	21.7%	(42)



# CalPERS Historical Investment Returns





# CalPERS Funding Risk Mitigation Policy

- Uses a portion of unexpected gains to de-risk the portfolio



**If**

investment returns outperform discount rate by:



**then**

resulting discount rate will be:

+2 pp → 9%



6.95%

+7 pp → 14%



6.90%

+10 pp → 17%



6.85%

+13 pp → 20%



6.80%

+17 pp → 24%



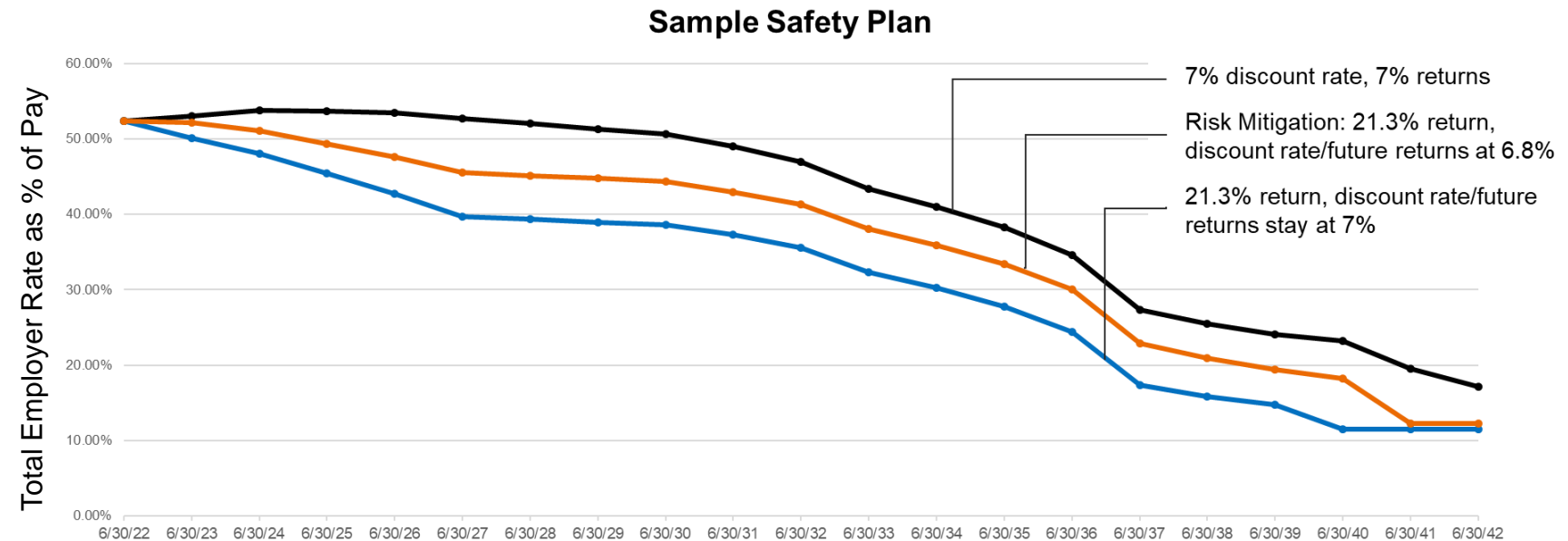
6.75%

**6.8% Discount  
Rate Triggered  
at 6/30/2021**



# CalPERS Funding Risk Mitigation Policy

- Results in higher long-term rates than would otherwise be the case
- Rate increase phased in with five-year ramp
- Theoretically decreases the size of deviations from the expected investment return





# Ongoing Discussion of Discount Rate Change

- Asset Liability Management (ALM) process underway with implementation in July 2022
  - Reviewed every four years by the CalPERS staff and Board
- Current asset mix has a projected return of only 6.2% over the next 20 years
  - Asset mix change required to avoid a discount rate decrease to match expected return
- Candidate portfolios recently reviewed by the CalPERS Board with a narrowed focus now on returns (and discount rates) of 6.5%, 6.8%, and 7.0%
- Additional CalPERS staff recommendations on the table
  - Use of leverage to increase the returns
  - Increased allocation to private equity





# Latest Experience Study

- Updates demographic assumptions used in the actuarial valuations
  - Impact of changes amortized over 20 years
  - Effective in FY 2023-24 rates

Plan Type	Accrued Liability *	Normal Cost *
Miscellaneous	- 0.25%	+ 2.93%
Safety	+ 0.32%	+ 3.86%

\* As a percentage of the total accrued liability or normal cost, not a percentage of payroll.



# Split Fund Employer Option

- Preliminary discussions regarding options to de-risk well-funded pension plans within the larger CalPERS investment portfolio
- CalPERS exploring whether and how to provide options
- Could be similar to (but with less risk than) their current tiered investment options for the CEPPT and CERBT programs

CERBT Investment Options	Strategy 1	Strategy 2	Strategy 3
Expected Return	7.6%	7.0%	6.2%
Standard Deviation of Expected Return	11.8%	9.2%	7.3%

CERBT Asset Classes	Strategy 1	Strategy 2	Strategy 3
Global Equity	59%	40%	22%
Fixed Income	25%	43%	49%
Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities	5%	5%	16%
Real Estate	8%	8%	8%
Commodities	3%	4%	5%



# Normal Cost Update



# Expected Changes to the Normal Cost

- The normal cost is the annual cost of providing the incremental pension benefit earned during that year
- The normal cost will likely increase in the next several years due to:
  - Discount rate reduction
  - Experience study results
- Increases expected to be small and manageable
- PEPPRA employees share equally in any increase that exceeds a 1% of pay threshold versus the baseline year



# Average Normal Cost Trending Down due to PEPRA

- Classic members pay a fixed 8% or 7% of pay for the Miscellaneous Plan and 9% of pay for the Safety Plan toward the normal cost with the City paying the balance
- PEPRA members share equally in the payment of the normal cost at 6.5% for the Miscellaneous Plan and 11.5% for the Safety Plan
- The blended normal cost is trending downward over time as the number of PEPRA employees increases

Miscellaneous

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Total Normal Cost	17.4%	17.1%
Employee Share	7.5%	7.5%
Employer Share	9.8%	9.6%
Tier 1 (2.5% @ 55)	18.6%	<b>18.4%</b>
Tier 2 (2.0% & 60)	18.7%	18.7%
Tier 3 (2.0% & 62)	13.3%	<b>13.7%</b>

↓  
4.7% difference

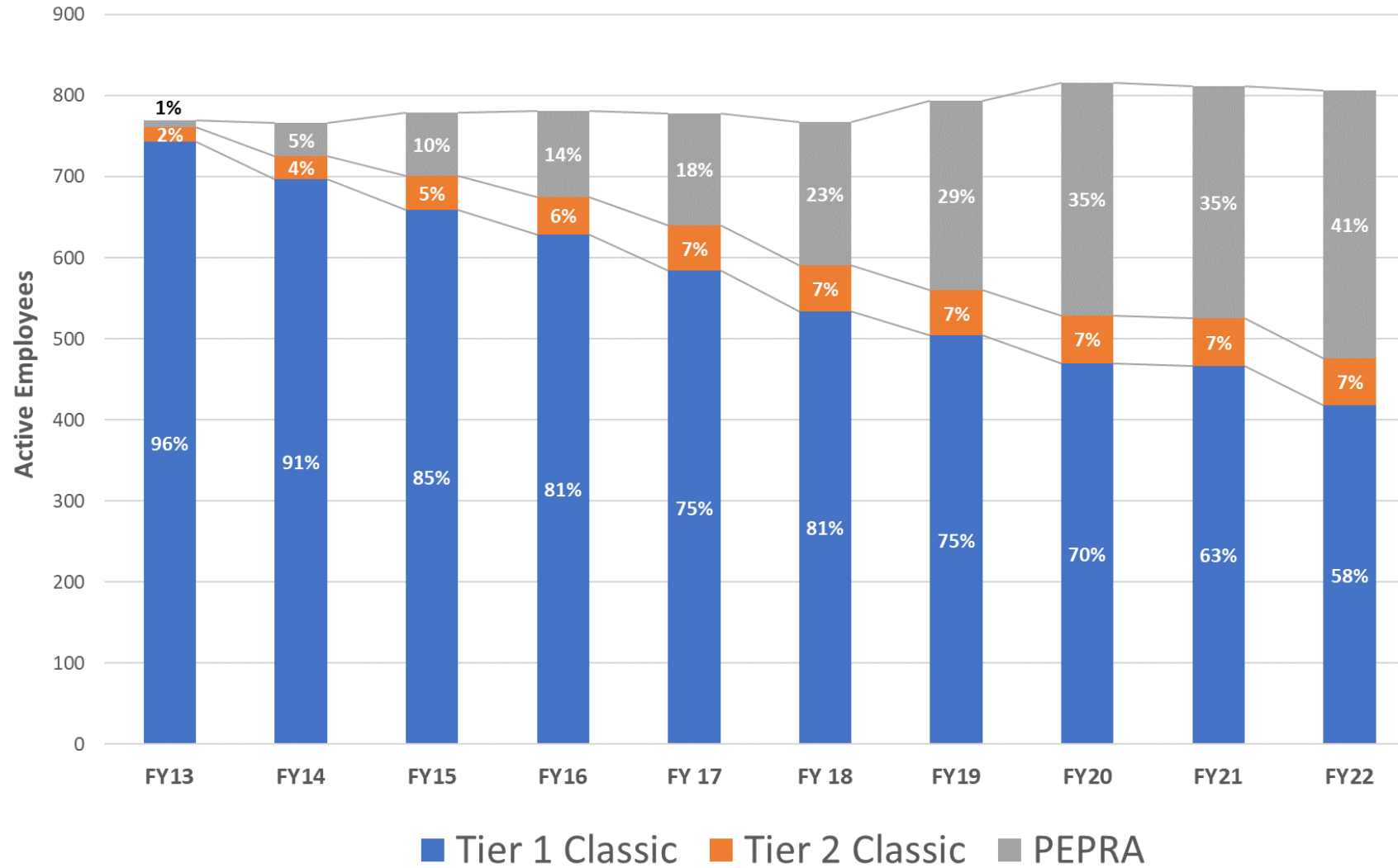
Safety

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Total Normal Cost	29.1%	28.9%
Employee Share	9.3%	9.5%
Employer Share	19.7%	19.4%
Tier 1 (3.0% @ 50)	27.5% - 32.6%	<b>27.5% - 33.6%</b>
Tier 2 (2.0% @ 50)	22.8% - 31.1%	23.1% - 31.2%
Tier 3 (2.7% @ 57)	22.9%	<b>23.1%</b>

↓  
Up to 10.5% difference



# Turnover of Employees into Tiers 2 and 3





# Unfunded Liability Update



# June 30, 2020, Valuation Reports

- The City receives separate valuation reports for the miscellaneous and safety plans
- 2020 valuation reports are dated August 2021 and set the contribution rates for FY 2022-23
  - Good or bad news has a two-year lag before being reflected in contribution rates





# June 30, 2020, Valuation Reports

- FY 2019-20 investment return was 4.7%, underperforming the 7.0% target
- Funded ratios still increased for both plans
- Total unfunded liability increased from \$326.3 million to \$333.0 million, while the total funded percentage increased from 68.7% to 69.2%

Miscellaneous

	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020
Accrued Liability	\$ 442,487,002	\$ 460,751,764
Market Value of Assets	\$ 322,688,377	\$ 336,126,374
Unfunded Liability	\$ 119,798,625	\$ 124,625,390
Funded Ratio	72.9 %	73.0 %

Safety

	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020
Accrued Liability	\$ 601,593,299	\$ 620,832,794
Market Value of Assets	\$ 395,102,063	\$ 412,411,927
Unfunded Liability	\$ 206,491,236	\$ 208,420,867
Funded Ratio	65.7 %	66.4 %



# June 30, 2020, Valuation Reports

- The City implemented fresh starts in 2013 and 2018 with 20-year amortizations
- Recent changes to CalPERS actuarial methods shortened the amortization period for new bases to 20 years and eliminated much of the ramping
- Staff target discretionary payments to the most advantageous amortization base each year

## Miscellaneous

	Date	Amount
Fresh Start	6/30/2013	\$ 111,210,773
Fresh Start	6/30/2018	2,125,310
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2019	62,834
Investment (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2019	1,759,102
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2020	1,505,554
Investment (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2020	7,961,817

## Safety

	Date	Amount
Fresh Start	6/30/2013	\$ 185,660,978
Fresh Start	6/30/2018	10,174,621
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2019	524,536
Investment (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2019	2,254,003
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2020	(1,809)
Investment (Gain) / Loss	6/30/2020	9,808,538



# Comparison to Other Orange County Employers

- The funded percentage for every non-pooled plan in the County other than Newport Beach and Irvine decreased
- Irvine suspended their discretionary payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Agency	June 30, 2019, Valuation		June 30, 2020, Valuation		Change		
	UAL	Funded %	UAL	Funded %	UAL \$	UAL %	Funded %
City of Anaheim	839,881,082	70.2%	884,308,082	69.6%	44,427,000	5.3%	-0.6%
City of Brea *	41,152,907	73.0%	44,240,756	72.0%	3,087,849	7.5%	-1.0%
City of Buena Park *	43,141,214	70.8%	45,947,839	69.8%	2,806,625	6.5%	-1.0%
City of Costa Mesa	233,351,350	62.1%	242,275,493	61.7%	8,924,143	3.8%	-0.3%
City of Cypress *	22,702,629	73.8%	24,660,070	72.3%	1,957,441	8.6%	-1.5%
City of Fullerton	266,580,939	67.8%	282,857,335	66.6%	16,276,396	6.1%	-1.2%
City of Garden Grove	309,333,035	65.8%	329,315,311	64.7%	19,982,276	6.5%	-1.1%
City of Huntington Beach	435,994,236	68.6%	454,929,864	68.2%	18,935,628	4.3%	-0.4%
City of Irvine	158,377,077	79.0%	162,599,460	79.4%	4,222,383	2.7%	0.4%
City of La Habra *	31,582,979	74.7%	33,462,226	74.1%	1,879,247	6.0%	-0.6%
City of Laguna Beach *	30,395,977	75.8%	31,849,617	75.5%	1,453,640	4.8%	-0.3%
City of Mission Viejo *	22,081,104	76.9%	23,921,524	76.3%	1,840,420	8.3%	-0.6%
City of Newport Beach	326,289,861	68.7%	333,046,257	69.2%	6,756,396	2.1%	0.5%
City of Orange	288,404,662	69.3%	311,646,198	68.1%	23,241,536	8.1%	-1.2%
City of Santa Ana	706,905,205	67.0%	764,634,849	65.5%	57,729,644	8.2%	-1.4%
City of Tustin *	29,008,653	77.3%	31,572,384	76.7%	2,563,731	8.8%	-0.6%
City of Westminster *	46,144,970	67.6%	48,114,638	67.1%	1,969,668	4.3%	-0.5%
City of Yorba Linda *	23,179,394	70.5%	24,520,033	70.2%	1,340,639	5.8%	-0.3%
Irvine Ranch Water District *	75,343,820	74.7%	83,052,928	73.6%	7,709,108	10.2%	-1.1%
Santa Margarita Water District *	35,335,129	67.8%	37,650,157	67.3%	2,315,028	6.6%	-0.5%

\* Miscellaneous Only



# Subsequent Events

- 21.3% return and risk mitigation policy discount rate change will be reflected in the June 30, 2021, valuation reports to be received in August 2022
  - But investment earnings can be volatile
  - Employer rates must fill the gap
- ALM process with impact to investment portfolio in FY 2022-23
- Experience Study with impact to FY 2023-24 contribution rates



# Orange County CalPERS Plans Funded Status

	Actual	Projected
	<b>6.30.20</b>	<b>6.30.21</b>
Misc. Pooled	85.2%	96.0%
Safety Pooled	80.3%	91.0%
Misc. Non-Pooled	73.2%	87.1%
Safety Non-Pooled	66.2%	81.9%



# Current Unfunded Liability Paydown Strategy

- In November 2019, the Finance Committee endorsed staff's recommendation to anticipate a future drop in the discount rate
  - \$35 million base contribution to the unfunded liability to remain in place as part of the baseline budget
  - Additional \$5 million per year contribution to be added for five years with a \$2 million per year contribution thereafter
- The Council endorsed this strategy for the FY 2020-21 budget, with a plan to revisit the plan's adequacy and the approach each year



# Roll-Forward of Valuations to June 30, 2021

- The City's unfunded liability has not changed much in the last three years due to the ongoing actuarial changes and investment losses and in spite of the discretionary payments
  - Phased discount rate reduction from 7.5% to 7.0%
  - Two years below the target return
- The 21.3% investment return in FY 2020-21 has significantly reduced the City's liability, even with the discount rate reduction to 6.8%

	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2021 *
Unfunded Liability	\$ 333,135,247	\$ 326,289,861	\$ 333,046,257	\$ 234,909,163
Funded Percentage	66.9 %	68.7 %	69.2 %	79.5 %
Investment Return	8.6 %	6.7 %	4.7 %	21.3 %

\* Projected



# Projections for the Future

- Using CalPERS' Pension Outlook modeling capabilities staff modeled the future impact of continuing the current payment strategy
  - The strong FY 2020-21 investment earnings have given the City a considerable projected head start on paying down the liability
  - Current projection shows the liability eliminated in FY 2029-30

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Planned Payment	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 23,823,175
Beginning Unfunded Liability	\$ 234,909,163	\$ 209,706,310	\$ 188,741,985	\$ 165,406,009	\$ 140,483,189	\$ 113,865,616	\$ 85,438,047	\$ 55,077,405	\$ 22,652,238
Beginning Funded Percentage	79.5 %	82.3 %	84.6 %	86.9 %	89.2 %	91.6 %	93.9 %	96.2 %	98.5 %
Investment Return	7.0 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %





# Projections for the Future

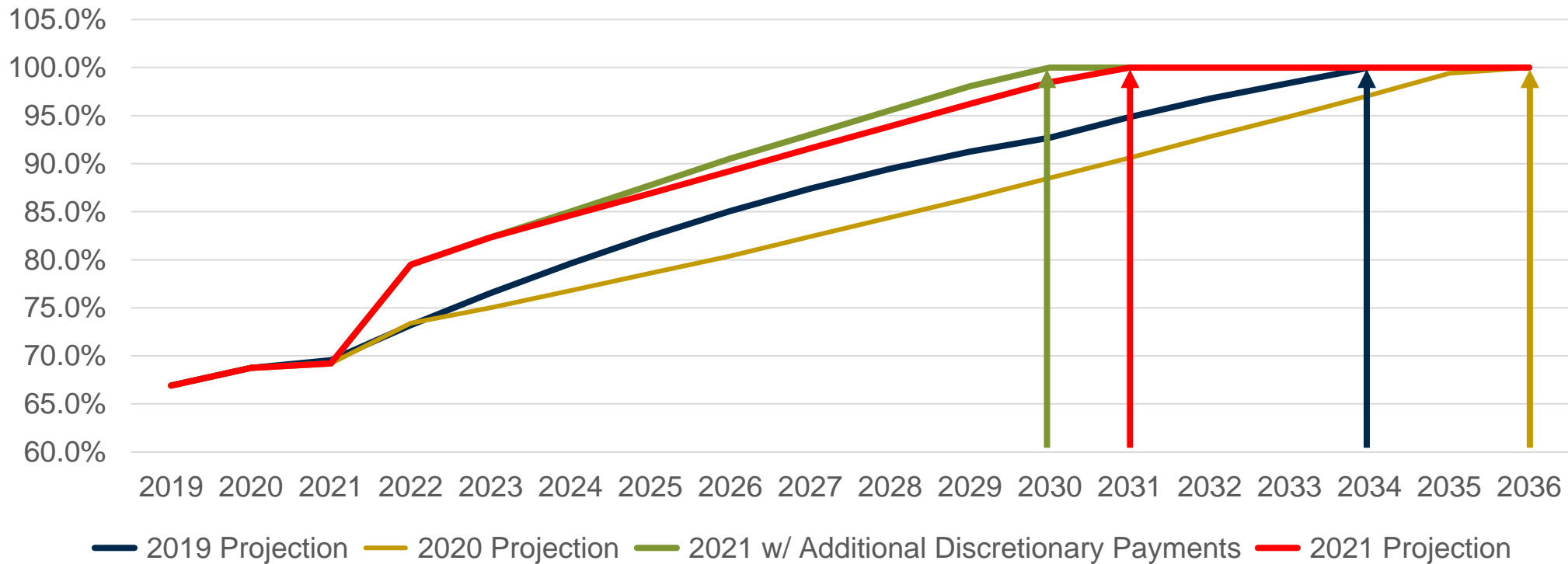
- Continuing with the current plan to pay an additional \$5.0 / \$2.0 million per year, the liability is projected to be eliminated a year sooner in FY 2028-29
  - Total baseline payments of \$268.8 million from FY 2022-23 until paid
  - Additional contributions reduce the total payments to \$260.8 million

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Planned Payment	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 37,000,000	\$ 37,000,000	\$ 37,000,000	\$ 29,823,538	\$ -0-
Beginning Unfunded Liability	\$ 234,909,163	\$ 209,706,310	\$ 183,574,780	\$ 154,720,230	\$ 123,903,572	\$ 94,091,703	\$ 62,252,628	\$ 28,248,495	\$ -0-
Beginning Funded Percentage	79.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	87.8 %	90.5 %	93.0 %	95.5 %	98.1 %	100.0 %
Investment Return	7.0 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %	6.8 %



# Impact of Investment Return and Additional Payments

- As can be seen in the chart, projections change from year to year
- In 2019, staff projected that the liability would be eliminated in 2034, the projected date slipped to 2036 in 2020, and now the date has been reduced to 2030





# Caution for the Future

- While FY 2020-21 was a very good year for CalPERS, we do not know what the future holds
  - Possibility of further discount rate reductions
  - Possibility of another recession or investment earnings shortfall
- Still, the City is in a very good position relative to most peer agencies with flexibility for continuing to address the unfunded liability in the future



# Summary

- Staff recommend continuing with the ADP strategy recommended in 2019
- This disciplined approach to the accelerated paydown of the City's unfunded liability is expected to:
  - Paydown the current liability in FY 2028-29
  - Reduce long-term pension costs
- Consider a new "fresh start" after the ALM process concludes
- Monitor future CalPERS investment returns and respond accordingly



# Questions?