



Merced County Employees' Retirement Association

**MINUTES  
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 8:30 A.M.

Location: Merced County Administration Building  
2222 M Street, Merced, CA  
Los Banos and Livingston Conference Rooms, Basement  
Zoom Conference Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93030195748?pwd=NGhFeGltSVhaSTIsK2JGWE83TVFydz09>

Dial In Number: 669-900-6833, MEETING ID: 930 3019 5748, PASSCODE: 095484

(For use only if Zoom Connection Malfunctions)

Telephone Number: 1-310-372-7549, Conference Code: 975839

**1. Call to Order- 8:30 A.M.**

The Retirement Board may discuss and take action on the following:

**2. Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Scott Johnston, Ryan Paskin, Alfonse Peterson, Aaron Rosenberg, Scott Silveira, Karen Adams, and Michael Harris. **Absent:** Bayani Manilay, Moses Nelson, Janey Cabral, Corrina Brown. **Counsel:** Rina Gonzales **Staff:** Kristie Santos, Martha Sanchez Barboa, Pete Madrid, Khue Xiong, Alex Ortega, Patrick Armendarez, Nikki Barraza, Sheri Villagrana.

**3. Teleconference Request**

Trustee Teleconference Request (Govt. Code §54953(f)(2)(A)(i)).

**None**

**4. Approval of Minutes – October 24, 2024.**

**Board voted unanimously to approve the October 24, 2024, meeting minutes.**

**1<sup>st</sup>- Silveira/2<sup>nd</sup>- Peterson, passes 7/0**

**5. Public Comment**

Members of the public may comment on any item under the Board's jurisdiction including items on the Board's agenda. Matters presented under this item will not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. Persons addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes in total. Please state your name for the record.

**None**

**6. Consent Calendar**

Consent matters are expected to be routine and may be acted upon, without discussion, as one unit. If an item is taken off the Consent Calendar for discussion, it will be heard as the last item(s) of the Open Session as appropriate:

a. Retirements: Pursuant to Govt. Code § 31663.25 or § 31672.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Leyva, Cornelia	24 Years	BHRS	10/22/2024
Ly, Yao Kao	20 Years	Sheriff	10/25/2024
Rios (Johnson), Rosalie **SCD**	14 Years	Sheriff	07/26/2024
Kodman, Rod **Change of Retirement Date**	2 Years	Public Defender	10/12/2024



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- b. Monthly Expenditure Reports are unavailable due to year end close.
- c. Q3 quarterly performance by Meketa.

**Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**1<sup>st</sup>- Silveira/2<sup>nd</sup>- Harris, passes 7/0**

**Trustee Silveira questioned the acronym "SCD". Staff clarified "SCD" is Service-Connected Disability.**

#### **7. Closed Session**

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff, county employees and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Board will meet on in closed session are identified below. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1:

- a. Disability Retirement Applications: Personnel exceptions (Govt. Code § 54957, 31532; Cal Const. art I § 1).
  - a. Consideration of Hearing Officer Recommendation - Araceli Castillo.
- b. Public Employee Annual Review (Govt. Code § 54957).  
Title: Assistant Plan Administrator – Benefits and Administration.

#### **8. Report Out of Closed Session**

- a. Disability Retirement Applications: Personnel exceptions (Govt. Code § 54957, 31532; Cal Const. art I § 1).  
**The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Administrative Hearing Officer's recommendation and deny a service-connected disability and a non-service-connected disability to Araceli Castillo.**  
**1<sup>st</sup>- Adams/2<sup>nd</sup>- Peterson, passes 7/0**
- b. Public Employee Annual Review (Govt. Code § 54957).  
Title: Assistant Plan Administrator – Benefits and Administration.  
**Staff given direction.**

#### **9. Open Session**

- a. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2025 MercedCERA Board Meeting dates – Staff.  
**The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2025 MercedCERA Board Meeting dates as presented.**  
**1<sup>st</sup>- Johnston/2<sup>nd</sup>- Peterson, passes 7/0**
- b. Discussion and possible action to approve employment contract amendment for Martha Sanchez Barboa changing salary to \$143,807.04 effective pay period 25, 2024 (first day of pay period is November 18, 2024) – Staff.  
**The Board voted unanimously to approve the employment contract amendment for Martha Sanchez Barboa changing salary to \$143,807.04 effective pay period 25, 2024 (first day of pay period is November 18, 2024).**  
**1<sup>st</sup>- Silveira/2<sup>nd</sup>- Peterson, passes 7/0**
- c. Discussion on possible future strategic goals for MercedCERA – Staff.  
**Kristen Santos, Plan Administrator, presented the recommended future strategic goals for MercedCERA. The Board requested a matrix of recommended actions and ad hoc subcommittee assigned to discuss recommendations.**
- d. Discussion and possible approval of the SACRS Business Meeting packet with approval of legislative proposals as written and delegate Monica Gallegos as the



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delegated voter at the SACRS business meeting and Brenda Mojica as the alternate delegate – Staff

**The Board voted unanimously to approve the SACRS Business Meeting packet with approval of legislative proposals as written and delegate Monica Gallegos as the delegated voter at the SACRS business meeting and Brenda Mojica as the alternate delegate**

**1<sup>st</sup>- Silveira/2<sup>nd</sup>- Harris, passes 7/0**

**10. Information Sharing & Agenda Item Requests**

**-Trustee Rosenberg congratulated Trustee Harris on his run for city councilmember seat. He also wished everyone happy holidays.**

**-Trustee Adams reminded everyone of December 10<sup>th</sup> payment deadline for property taxes.**

**-Kristie Santos provided an update regarding the new building. Furniture will soon be delivered. Current office will not be closed in December, as the move-in date appears to be the week of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**11. Adjournment at 9:36 A.M.**

Trustee Name/Position	Signature	Date
Ryan Paskin/Chair		1/23/25
Al Peterson/Secretary		01/23/25