

**SAN MATEO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
MARCH 25, 2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

2503.1.0 Call to Order, Roll Call and Miscellaneous Business

Call to Order: Alma Salas, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Retirement to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Sandie Arnott, Laurel Finnegan, Kurt Hoefer, Kimathi Marangu, Katherine O'Malley, Elaine, Orr, Rachel Perkel, Robert Raw, and Alma Salas.

Absent: None.

Alternates: April DeCarsky and Nicole McKay.

Staff: Michael Coultrip, Lili Dames, Scott Hood, Jenny Lukan, Elizabeth LeNguyen, JulieAnne Nagal, Paul Okada, Gladys Smith, Diane Webster.

Consultants and speakers: Joe Abdou, Jeff MacLean, John Nicolini, Faraz Shooshani and Ian Toner (Verus); and Tim Murray, Glenn Purves, and Omar Turk (BlackRock).

2503.2.1 Oral Communications from the Board: None.

2503.2.2 Oral Communications from the Public: None.

2503.2.3 Board Staff Retreat Agenda: Retreat presentations were heard after agenda item 9.0.

2503.3.1 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2025: Ms. Salas asked if there were any changes or corrections, or objections, to the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 25, 2025. There were no changes, corrections, or objections presented.

Action: Ms. Finnegan moved to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2025, regular Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raw and carried with a vote of 9-0-0, with trustees Arnott, Finnegan, Hoefer, Marangu, O'Malley, Orr, Perkel, Raw, and Salas all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

2503.4.0 Approval of the Consent Agenda: Ms. Salas asked if there were any items to be removed for discussion from the Consent Agenda. No items were removed.

Action: Mr. Hoefer moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Raw and carried with a vote of 9-0-0, with trustees Arnott, Finnegan, Hoefer, Marangu, O'Malley, Orr, Perkel, Raw, and Salas all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

2503.4.1 Disability Retirements:

- a) The Board found that **Maria Charito Gonzales** (1) is permanently incapacitated from the performance of her usual and customary duties as a Psychiatric Nurse, (2) found that her disability was the result of an injury arising out of and in the course of her employment and (3) granted her application for a service-connected disability retirement.

2503.4.2 Survivor Death Benefits: None.

2503.4.3 Service Retirements:

Name	Effective Retirement Date	Department
Barberini, Jacqueline	December 14, 2024	Def'd - Public Safety Communications
Bassey, Edem	December 30, 2024	Deferred - Probation
Belous, Sheila	January 28, 2025	Deferred - Human Services
Beretta, Marc	January 31, 2025	Deferred - Sheriff's Office
Bernson, John	January 23, 2025	Sheriff's Office
Casaccia, Michael	January 3, 2025	Tax Collector's
Davies, Van	December 6, 2024	Deferred -Human Services Agency
Hagerman, Randon	January 19, 2025	Deferred - Environmental Health
Jones, Ricky	January 13, 2025	Deferred - Probation
Kuballa, Werner	February 1, 2025	Information Services
Lanser, Susan	January 21, 2025	Deferred - San Mateo County Health
Lee, Gail	January 9, 2025	Deferred - Environmental Health
Mackeprang, Kathleen	January 21, 2025	Deferred - San Mateo County Health
Noto, Adam	December 28, 2024	Deferred - Probation
Pine, David	January 7, 2025	Board of Supervisors
Ramirez, Laura	February 1, 2025	Probation
Shepherd, Cecilia	January 24, 2025	Deferred - Information Services
Shufton, Joann	January 25, 2025	San Mateo Superior Court
Suarez, Matthew	February 1, 2025	Assessor's
Taniguchi, Neal	January 4, 2025	San Mateo Superior Court
Trewin, John	January 10, 2025	Deferred - Parks and Recreation
Warren, Mary Ann	January 25, 2025	Deferred - Aging & Adult Services
Wentworth, Kathleen	January 18, 2025	Planning and Building

2503.4.4 Continuances:

Survivor's Name

Evans, William
Navas, Patricia
Sainsbury, Deanna
Suwabe, Akira

Beneficiary of:

Wertz, Merrilee
Navas, Carlos
Hildebrand, Ralph
Suwabe, Kaoru

2503.4.5 Deferred Retirements:

Name

Abdelwahhab, Taha
Carta, Adan
Chaghouri, Hayat
Foiles, Kevin
Horsley, Adriana
Lescano, Carmen
Klingel, Matthew
Mishra, Sandeep
Pyles, Karen
Quintanilla Jr., Oscar
Rodriguez Resendiz, Pilar
Vuong, Que Phan

Retirement Plan Type

G3, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested
S7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested
S7, Vested – Reciprocity
G7, Vested - Reciprocity
G7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700
G7, Vested Auto Defer – Code 31700

2503.4.6 **Member Account Refunds:**

Name	Retirement Plan Type
Chin, Weiwen	G7, Non-vested
Del Rio, Camerina	G7, Non-vested
Gardner, Robert (FBO: Gardner, Deborah)	G7, Vested
Jackson, Katina	G7, Non-vested
Keeney, Patricia	G4, Non-vested
Sanvictores, Andrea Brenda	G4, Non-vested
Sysum, Stephen	S7, Vested

2503.4.7 **Member Account Rollovers:**

Name	Retirement Plan Type
Chin, Weiwen	G7, Non-vested
Lew, Winson	G7, Non-vested
Manalang, Vianca	G7, Non-vested
Monge, Margaret	G7, Vested
Pollet, Sarah	G7, Non-vested
Soldano, Donna	G4, Non-vested
Sysum, Stephen	S7, Vested
Yznaga, Elizabeth	G4, Non-vested

2503.4.8 **Member Account Redeposits:** None.

2503.4.9 **Acceptance of Trustees' Reports of Education Activities:** The Board accepted the submitted report for educational activities attended by Ms. Orr, Ms. Finnegan, and Mr. Raw.

2503.4.10 **Report on Prepayment of County Contributions:** The Board accepted the report on the prepayment of County contributions totaling \$215 million for fiscal year 2025-26.

2503.5.1 **Consideration of Agenda Items, if any, Removed from the Consent Agenda:** None.

2503.6.1 **Report on Preliminary Monthly Portfolio Performance for the Period Ended February 28, 2025:** Mr. Coultrip reported that SamCERA's preliminary return for February was 0.4%, bringing the preliminary trailing twelve-month net return ending February to 9.8%. SamCERA's estimated market value as of February was \$6.91 billion, while the actuarial funded ratio as of June 30, 2024 was 87.6%. This item was informational and for discussion only, no action was taken.

2503.6.2 **Approval of Proposed Alternative Investments (to be heard in Closed Session, Confidential Under Gov. Code §54956.81 and §7928.710, see item C2):** This item was heard in Closed Session at 8:52 a.m. and Open Session was reconvened at 9:20 a.m. See Closed Session report under C2.

This item was heard after Item 8.4.

2503.7.1 **Review and Approval of Trustee Special Request to Attend an Educational Event:** Mr. Hood reviewed Ms. Orr's special request to attend the Milken Institute Global Conference from May 4-7, 2025, at The Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, CA. Mr. Marangu suggested that, in the future, the Milken Institute be added to the education policy as a pre-approved educational conference. Ms. Salas called for a motion to approve Ms. Orr's request to attend the Milken Institute Global Conference.

Action: Ms. O'Malley moved to approve Ms. Orr's request to attend the Milken Institute Global Conference. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marangu and carried with a vote of 9-0-0, with trustees Arnott, Finnegan, Hoefer, Marangu, O'Malley, Orr, Perkel, Raw, and Salas all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

2503.8.1 **Chief Executive Officer's Report:** Mr. Hood announced to the Board that Tat-Ling Chow is celebrating her 30-year anniversary with the County. Mr. Hood reported to the Board that SamCERA is planning their staff retreat for May 28th. Mr. Hood also reported that at next month's regular meeting agenda items for the Board's approval will include updates to the Education and Portable Electronic Devices policies, an update to the American Express credit card usage resolution, approval of a new agreement with Financial Knowledge, and amendments to the Board's Regulations as previously discussed by the Audit Committee. Additionally, Mr. Hood noted that staff is currently working on an RFP for IT Consultants in preparation for issuing an RFP for a new pension administration system. Milliman will also give a presentation on the proposed actuarial assumptions for the 2025 annual valuation. Lastly, Mr. Hood reported to the Board that staff received an email from a member expressing concern over investing in Tesla stock which Mr. Okada read during the Chief Legal Counsel's report.

2503.8.2 **Assistant Executive Officer's Report:** Ms. Smith reported to the Board that the necessary administrative work for SamCERA's upcoming election was completed and that the deadline to file for candidacy for both the Retiree and Retiree Alternate positions is April 14th through the 28th. Ms. Smith reported to the Board that the next Board packet email that Ms. Lukan will send to the Board will include a reminder and the amount due for their non-recourse payment in connection with SamCERA's fiduciary insurance. Ms. Lukan reported on upcoming education opportunities including SACRS Spring in Rancho Mirage in May, IFEBP Washington Legislative Update in Washington, DC in May, NCPERS Annual Conference with NAF and TEDS preconferences in Denver in May, and CALAPRS Trustees Round Table, which is virtual in May, IFEBP Institutes in Nashville in June, and SACRS/UC Berkeley in July and she will send an email with all the information mentioned. Ms. Lukan also requested the Board forward to her their IFEBP Annual Conference hotel confirmations if they have received them.

2503.8.3 **Chief Investment Officer's Report:** Mr. Coultrip reported to the Board the next set of annual reviews will be Tuesday, April 8th with Harrison Street at 8 am, PGIM US Real Estate Debt at 9:30 am, and Beach Point Capital Real Estate Debt Fund at 11 am. If Trustees are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Ng. Mr. Coultrip also reported to the Board that staff will be adding \$30 million to the Invesco Core Real Estate Fund to rebalance.

2503.8.4 **Chief Legal Counsel's Report:** Mr. Okada read the email that was received through the member portal by an active employee regarding concern over investment in Tesla stock and request for SamCERA to divest from Musk related companies (see attached).

Mr. Okada also reminded the Board that Form 700 filings are due April 1st.

C1 **Consideration of Disability Items, if any, removed from the Consent Agenda:** None.

C2 **Approval of Proposed Alternative Investments (to be heard in Closed Session, Confidential Under Gov. Code §54956.81 and §7928.710, see item C2):**

The Board entered Closed Session at 8:52 a.m.

The Board met in Closed Session for the approval of proposed alternative investments:

Regarding a \$35 million commitment to Public Pension Capital LLC, as part of SamCERA's buyout portfolio within Private Equity under the Growth category, there was a motion by Salas and a second by Perkel to approve such commitment:

Ayes: Arnott (Secretary), Finnegan, Hoefer, Marangu (Vice Chair), O'Malley, Orr, Perkel, Raw, and Salas (Chair)
Nos: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Motion carried 9-0-0

Regarding a \$15 commitment to DCVC VII, L.P., as part of SamCERA's Venture Capital portfolio within Private Equity under the Growth category, there was a motion by Marangu, seconded by Raw to approve such commitment.

Ayes: Arnott (Secretary), Finnegan, Hoefer, Marangu (Vice Chair), O'Malley, Orr, Perkel, Raw, and Salas (Chair)
Nos: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Motion carried 9-0-0

No other matters were heard in Closed Session and the Board exited Closed Session at 9:20 a.m.

2503.9.0 **Reports on Actions Taken in Closed Session:** Mr. Okada reported on Item C2 above. There were no additional closed session items.

2503.2.3 **Retreat Presentations and Discussions:**

The Board took a break at 9:22 a.m. and reconvened at 9:33 a.m.

Economic Macro Outlook:

Mr. Toner, Chief Investment Officer of Verus, discussed with the Board his thoughts on inflation, global opportunities, and market outlook for 2025.

The Board took a break at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

Enterprise Risk Tolerance: Finding Balance Between Return and Risk Levers:

Mr. MacLean, Chief Executive Officer of Verus, provided to the Board a presentation on enterprise risk, willingness to take risk, SamCERA's ability to take risk, and what's to come.

Mr. Marangu left the meeting at 11:20 a.m. and did not return. The Board took a break at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

Working Lunch and Ethics Instruction:

Mr. Okada provided one hour of AB1234 Ethics Training focusing primarily on the subject areas of personal financial gain/conflicts of interest and gifts/perquisites of office. Mr. Okada further noted that another hour of ethics training will be provided at the 2026 Board Retreat focusing on the subject areas of government transparency laws and fair process laws.

The Board took a break at 1:03 p.m. and reconvened at 1:12 p.m.

AI's Big Questions:

Glenn Purves, Managing Director, Omar Turk, Principal, and Tim Murray, Director, of BlackRock discussed with the Board thoughts on AI.

The Board took a break at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2:22 p.m.

SamCERA's Information Technology Topography Update:

Diane Webster, SamCERA Retirement Technology Officer, provided to the Board a presentation on SamCERA's current technology landscape.

- 2503.10 **Adjournment:** Ms. Salas adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m. in memory of the deceased members listed below.

Robinson, Peggy	January 17, 2025	Courts
Silva, Charles	February 10, 2025	Controller's
Bowen, Pauline	February 20, 2025	Mental Health
Sutter, Henry	February 27, 2025	Sheriff's
Kelleher, Carolyn	February 28, 2025	Real Property Services
Reubens, Jennifer	March 2, 2025	Correctional Health
Fretty, Roberta	March 5, 2025	Sheriff's
Bruggemann, Joanne	March 12, 2025	Human Services
Vargas, Thomas	March 14, 2025	Public Works



Alma R. Salas
Board Chair