

SCERA Actuarial Valuation 101

- Every year after the close of the plan year, which is December 31st, SCERA's Actuary, Segal Consulting, performs an actuarial valuation where they compare the Plan's experience for that year to the assumptions (salary growth, investment earnings, mortality, etc.)
- The valuation is usually received by SCERA in late April and brought to the Retirement Board in early May for discussion and approval.
- The purpose of the valuation is to calculate the liability of the plan as of the date of the valuation in order to set contribution rates to properly fund both the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) cost.
- The normal cost is the cost of another year of service for each active member of the plan. The UAAL cost is the annual amortization payment on the unfunded liability for each layer of amortization.
- Every year, as part of the valuation, the actuary determines whether the plan's experience as compared to the assumptions resulted in a gain or loss. The gain or loss for that year is amortized over a closed 20 year period with a resulting annual amortization payment. The actuary adds up all the amortization layer annual payments to arrive at the UAAL cost for that year.
- The actuarial valuation sets contribution rates for the fiscal year that starts 18 months from the end of the plan year. For example, the 12-31-19 valuation sets contribution rates for FY 2021/22. SCERA does this so that the County, Court and Valley of the Moon have time to budget for upcoming contribution rate changes.
- When contribution rates rise, the 18 month delay will result in increased UAAL, and conversely when rates go down, the UAAL is decreased. It is typically a very small amount.

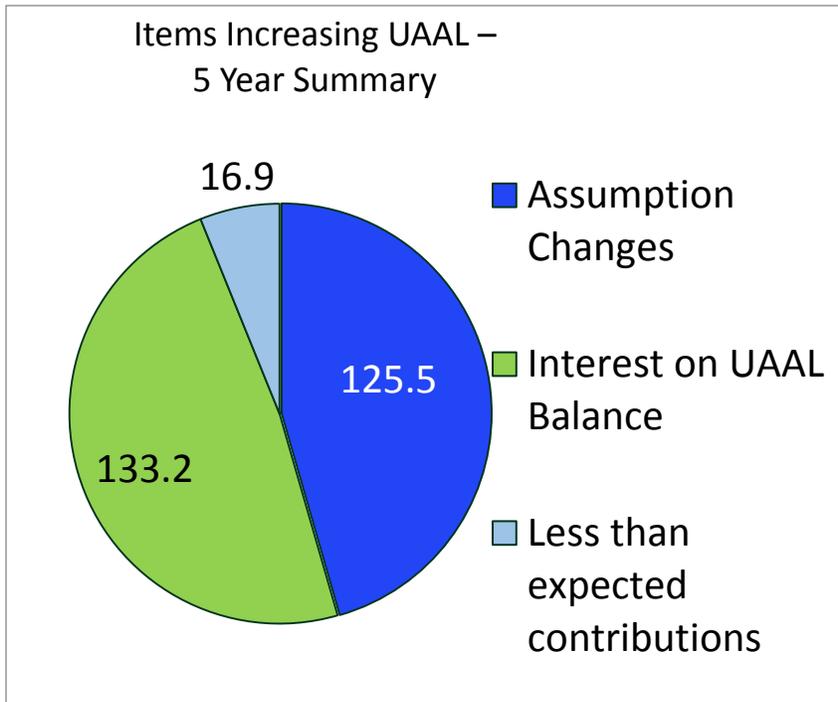
Specific points regarding the 12-31-19 actuarial valuation

- SCERA's valuation value funded ratio (which is the ratio of valuation value assets to liabilities) increased from 86.8% to 89.4%. A valuation value of assets means that the actuary calculates the asset value using smoothed investment returns (market investment returns that are recognized over a five year period in 20% increments).
- SCERA's market value funded ratio increased from 83.9% to 92.8%.
- The major causes of the increase in funded ratio were investment returns greater than the assumed investment return rate and salary increases lower than assumed.
- The UAAL decreased from \$404.7 million to \$332 million.

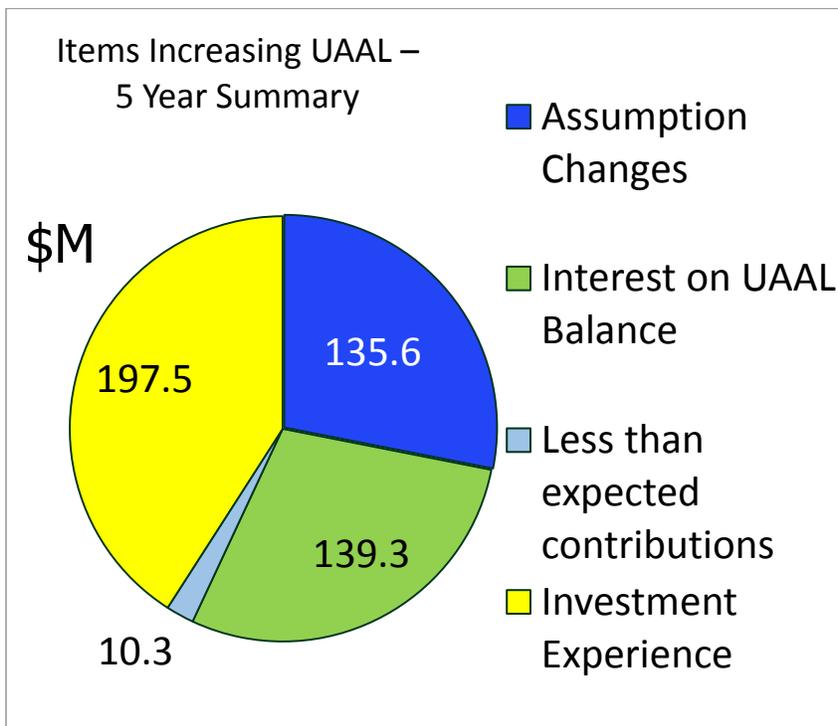
SONOMA COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (SCERA)
KEY FINDINGS - ACTUARIAL VALUATION 12-31-2019

- The impact on the average employer contribution rate was a decrease from 20.27% to 19.52% of payroll.
- The impact on the average employee contribution rate was zero.
- Each year the valuation contains a reconciliation starting with the prior year's UAAL and ending with the current year's UAAL. This year, it is found on page 28 and it shows that we received all of the normal cost contribution and UAAL cost contribution for the year, as well as an annual interest payment on the UAAL. It then shows the result of our experience as compared to our assumptions. It is an informative page.
- Over the past five years, the largest items increasing the UAAL have been the changes to actuarial assumptions and interest on the UAAL balance. Investments over this five year period resulted in a gain of \$65.7M. See the following slides from the summary report provided to the Board.
- The actuarial valuation can be found at <http://scetire.org/Financial/Actuarial-Reports/>.

SCERA Actuarial Analysis of Financial Experience						
(K\$)	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	5 Year Total
Beginning of the Year UAAL Liability (Surplus)	404732	359557	408227	405922	343043	
Source of Actuarial (Gain) Loss:						
Compensation Increase Greater/(Less) than Expected	(34651)	11293	4586	5983	(12829)	(25618)
Investment Experience recognized	(32718)	13629	(44256)	891	(3307)	(65761)
Other Experience	(2786)	661	(3890)	(859)	(2546)	(9420)
(Greater)/Less than Expected Contributions	12332	(493)	4568	4094	(3519)	16982
Composite (Gain) Loss for the Year - Total	(57823)	25090	(38992)	10109	(22201)	(83817)
Other Items Impacting UAAL:						
Assumption Change (Economic and Demographic)		31798			93686	125484
Interest Accrual on UAAL Balance	27009	24876	28358	28249	24727	133219
County's Additional UAAL Payment					(3661)	(3661)
Expected employer/member contributions less Normal Cost	(41887)	(36589)	(38036)	(36053)	(29672)	(182237)
Other Items Impacting UAAL - Total	(14878)	20085	(9678)	(7804)	85080	72805
End of the Year UAAL Liability (Surplus)	332031	404732	359557	408227	405922	



2015 to 2019



2010 to 2014

SCERA Member Information as of December 31, 2019

- Of the 3,334 active General members, 1,795 are in Plan A (Legacy) and 1,539 are in Plan B (PEPRA), which means that 46.2% of SCERA active General members are in the PEPRA Plan.
- Of the 706 Active Safety members, 457 are in Plan A (Legacy) and 249 are in Plan B (PEPRA), which means that 35.3% of the active Safety members are in the PEPRA Plan.
- The average annual retirement benefit for all retired members is \$37,209 with 16.98 average years of service at retirement. The average age at retirement is 56.6 years old.
- The average annual retirement benefit for just those retirees who retired in 2019 is \$45,871 with 16.27 average years of service at retirement. The average age at retirement is 58.5 years old.

Specific Points regarding the 2015 to 2017 Experience Study (Effective for the 12-31-18 plan year forward)

- SCERA is assuming investment earnings of 7.0% which includes a real return expectation of 5.28% minus administrative and investment expenses of .75% and a risk adjustment of .28% plus an inflation expectation of 2.75%.
- The real return expectation is what we expect to get from our target asset allocation (where we invest our money, like fixed income, equities, real estate, etc.) over and above inflation and deducting expenses and a risk adjustment. The risk adjustment is used to reflect the potential risk of shortfalls in achieving the return assumption.
- SCERA is assuming annual salary growth from inflationary increases plus across the board pay increases of 3.25%. SCERA also assumes that individual salaries will increase as employees advance in their career. These are called merit and promotion increases.
- SCERA moved from a static mortality table using the 2014 mortality improvement scale, to a generational mortality table using the 2017 mortality improvement scale. The generational approach provides projections for each cohort of retirees, as opposed to a single static table. As an example, the mortality projection of a member who is 65 years old this year, is different than the mortality projection of a member who is 65 years old next year.
- There are other assumption changes in this report, which can be accessed at <http://scretire.org/Financial/Actuarial-Reports/>.