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Circular Letter

June 10, 2015

TO: ALL PUBLIC AGENCY EMPLOYERS

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AGENCY 1959 SURVIVOR MONTHLY PREMIUMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to inform you that the CalPERS Board of Administration approved required premiums for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and Indexed Level pools of the 1959 Survivor Benefit Program on April 15, 2015. The 1959 Survivor Benefit Program is an employer contract provision that provides monthly benefits for eligible survivors of participating members who die while actively employed. If your contract does not provide for these benefits, the Circular Letter does not apply to your agency.

The required monthly member premiums for Fiscal Year 2015-16 are detailed in the chart below, by the various benefit levels:

Level/Pool	Employee Premiums	Employer Premiums
1 st	\$2.00	None
2 nd	\$2.00	None
3 rd	\$2.00	None
4 th	\$2.00	\$3.50
Indexed	\$2.40	\$2.40

Payroll Reporting for Employee Premiums

Beginning with the payroll period that includes July 1, 2015 the required employee premium for the Indexed Level of Benefits is \$2.40 monthly per member (or \$1.11 per bi-weekly pay period). The required employee premium for all other benefit levels continues to be \$2.00 monthly per member (or \$0.93 per bi-weekly pay period).

Please be sure to share this Circular Letter with those responsible for payroll reporting.

Employer Premiums

Invoices are posted on my|CalPERS in January to employers who contracted for the 4th or Indexed Level of 1959 Survivor Benefits effective prior to May 15, 2010. The invoices are for the lump sum amount of the required employer premiums due for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

The required premiums vary annually due to investment returns and mortality gains and losses experienced by the pools. A good indicator of the potential for changes in the required premiums is the funding status of the pools. As the funded ratio declines, approaching 100 percent, it is more likely that the pool will require employer premiums.

Funded Ratio of the Pools Based on Market Value of Assets			
Level/Pool	2014	2013	2012
1 st	1,736.4%	1,495.8%	1,348.7%
2 nd	449.7%	377.1%	368.0%
3 rd	389.1%	338.4%	319.3%
4 th	119.4%	108.6%	104.2%
Indexed	129.9%	113.6%	114.5%

The monthly benefit payable to survivors in the Indexed Level increases by 2 percent each calendar year. Benefit amounts are \$673, \$1,346, and \$2,019 for 1, 2 or 3 eligible survivors respectively for the 2015 calendar year. Benefit amounts will increase to \$686, \$1,373, and \$2,059 for 1, 2, or 3 eligible survivors respectively for the 2016 calendar year. For information about benefit payments for other benefit levels visit the CalPERS website at www.CalPERS.ca.gov, select "Employers" from the tool bar, select "Retirement Benefit Programs & Contracting Services", and under shortcuts select "Optional Benefits."

To view the full valuation report visit:

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/eip-docs/about/pubs/employer/2014-59survivor.pdf>

If you have any questions, please call our CalPERS Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or **888-225-7377**).

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Chief Actuary