

**ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT SYSTEM**
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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Report of Independent Auditors

The Board of Retirement
Orange County Employees Retirement System

Report on the Audit of the Schedule

Opinion

We have audited the totals for all employers of the deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, net pension liability (asset), and pension expense (income) excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 in the Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer (specific column totals) of the Orange County Employees Retirement System (the System) and the related notes (the schedule).

In our opinion, the accompanying schedule referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the totals for all the System's employers of the deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, net pension liability (asset), and pension expense (income) excluding that attributable to employer-paid member contributions as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule section of our report. We are required to be independent of the System and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Financial Statements

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the System as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and our report thereon dated June 6, 2024 expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the schedule in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of schedule that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedule as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the schedule.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedule, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the schedule.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the schedule.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Restriction on Use

Our report is intended solely for the information and use of the management, members of the Board of Retirement, and the System's participating employers and their auditors, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Irvine, California
June 6, 2024

**Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Deferred Outflows of Resources	County of Orange	O.C. Cemetery District	O.C. Public Law Library	O.C. Mosquito and Vector Control District	O.C. Employees Retirement System
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 244,533,088	\$ 542,855	\$ 29,992	\$ 1,976,449	\$ 1,727,337
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	300,320,497	310,502	323,613	778,167	2,282,401
Changes of Assumptions	154,874,422	181,187	47,821	192,850	1,802,479
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	10,300,302	-	-	-	4,993,789
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 710,028,309	\$ 1,034,544	\$ 401,426	\$ 2,947,466	\$ 10,806,006
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 29,192,872	\$ 71,657	\$ 421,803	\$ 524,310	\$ 80,095
Changes of Assumptions	38,617,023	-	-	-	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	15,444,066	-	-	-	428,045
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 83,253,961	\$ 71,657	\$ 421,803	\$ 524,310	\$ 508,140
Net Pension Liability/(Asset) as of December 31, 2023	\$ 4,061,810,157	\$ 993,411	\$ (1,034,826)	\$ 752,245	\$ 34,539,527
Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions					
Proportionate Share of Allocable Plan Pension Expense/(Income)	\$ 378,189,134	\$ 349,589	\$ (199,471)	\$ (283,683)	\$ 3,253,506
Net Amortization of Deferred Amounts from Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	1,320,432	-	-	-	1,889,524
Total Employer Pension Expense/(Income) Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions	\$ 379,509,566	\$ 349,589	\$ (199,471)	\$ (283,683)	\$ 5,143,030

(Continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
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As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	O.C. Fire Authority	Cypress Recreation & Parks District	O.C. Department of Education	Transportation Corridor Agencies	City of San Juan Capistrano
Deferred Outflows of Resources					
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 40,056,478	\$ 101,487	\$ 704,856	\$ 1,274,675	\$ 872,350
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	49,581,112	108,620	220,278	1,476,174	1,152,670
Changes of Assumptions	3,185,426	17,230	-	495,686	910,298
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	-	-	-	2,248,881
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 92,823,016	\$ 227,337	\$ 925,134	\$ 3,246,535	\$ 5,184,199
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 13,281,661	\$ 438,432	\$ 75,925	\$ 672,291	\$ 40,450
Changes of Assumptions	19,418,863	4,647	55,533	-	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	-	-	-	3,940,450
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 32,700,524	\$ 443,079	\$ 131,458	\$ 672,291	\$ 3,980,900
Net Pension Liability/(Asset) as of December 31, 2023	\$ 168,457,678	\$ (641,475)	\$ 3,189,922	\$ (1,889,567)	\$ 17,443,348
Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions					
Proportionate Share of Allocable Plan Pension Expense/(Income)	\$ 32,294,538	\$ (91,758)	\$ 292,099	\$ 207,980	\$ 1,643,104
Net Amortization of Deferred Amounts from Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	-	-	-	(776,117)
Total Employer Pension Expense/(Income) Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions	\$ 32,294,538	\$ (91,758)	\$ 292,099	\$ 207,980	\$ 866,987

(Continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer
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	O.C. Sanitation District	O.C. Transportation Authority	U.C.I. Medical Center and Campus	Children and Families Commission of O.C.	O.C. Local Agency Formation Commission
Deferred Outflows of Resources					
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 33,942,756	\$ 32,212,886	\$ 2,326,206	\$ 9,481	\$ 85,267
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	22,365,002	19,060,584	1,820,366	12,528	112,667
Changes of Assumptions	10,975,775	8,058,375	70,139	9,893	88,977
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	-	-	1,267,036	282,490
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 67,283,533	\$ 59,331,845	\$ 4,216,711	\$ 1,298,938	\$ 569,401
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 9,903,026	\$ 23,702,731	\$ -	\$ 440	\$ 3,954
Changes of Assumptions	-	-	343,353	-	-
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	-	-	358,869	161,952
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 9,903,026	\$ 23,702,731	\$ 343,353	\$ 359,309	\$ 165,906
Net Pension Liability/(Asset) as of December 31, 2023	\$ (18,531,537)	\$ 207,825,439	\$ 26,555,318	\$ 189,581	\$ 1,704,989
Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions					
Proportionate Share of Allocable Plan Pension Expense/(Income)	\$ 8,523,254	\$ 16,467,090	\$ 1,566,249	\$ 17,858	\$ 160,604
Net Amortization of Deferred Amounts from Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	-	-	40,358	48,347
Total Employer Pension Expense/(Income) Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions	\$ 8,523,254	\$ 16,467,090	\$ 1,566,249	\$ 58,216	\$ 208,951

(Continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
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As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	City of Rancho Santa Margarita	O.C. Superior Court of California	O.C. IHSS Public Authority	Total for all Employers
Deferred Outflows of Resources				
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 1,779	\$ 17,247,907	\$ 5,220	\$ 377,651,069
Net Difference Between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	1,011	22,790,357	146,212	422,862,761
Changes of Assumptions	-	17,998,217	28,805	198,937,580
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	8,413,239	107,663	27,613,400
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 2,790	\$ 66,449,720	\$ 287,900	\$ 1,027,064,810
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 71	\$ 799,768	\$ 95,666	\$ 79,305,152
Changes of Assumptions	334	-	2,167	58,441,920
Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	7,168,015	112,003	27,613,400
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 405	\$ 7,967,783	\$ 209,836	\$ 165,360,472
Net Pension Liability/(Asset) as of December 31, 2023	\$ 119	\$ 344,886,083	\$ 462,162	\$ 4,846,712,574
Pension Expense Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions				
Proportionate Share of Allocable Plan Pension Expense/(Income)	\$ 45	\$ 32,487,098	\$ 97,266	\$ 474,974,502
Net Amortization of Deferred Amounts from Changes in Proportion and Differences Between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	-	(2,506,377)	(16,167)	-
Total Employer Pension Expense/(Income) Excluding That Attributable to Employer-Paid Member Contributions	\$ 45	\$ 29,980,721	\$ 81,099	\$ 474,974,502

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Notes to the Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE 1 – PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS or System) administers a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) for the County of Orange, Orange County Superior Court of California, City of San Juan Capistrano, and ten special districts: Orange County Cemetery District, Children and Families Commission of Orange County, Orange County Employees Retirement System, Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority, Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission, Orange County Public Law Library, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Transportation Authority and the Transportation Corridor Agencies. The Orange County Department of Education, University of California, Irvine Medical Center and Campus, Capistrano Beach Sanitation District, Cypress Recreation & Parks District, Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District and City of Rancho Santa Margarita are no longer active employers, but retired members and their beneficiaries, as well as deferred members, remain in the System. Capistrano Beach is not presented in the accompanying schedule as this employer is no longer in existence and OCERS does not have the ability to collect any unfunded liabilities from this inactive employer. OCERS is legally and fiscally independent of the County of Orange.

OCERS provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to general and safety members. Safety membership includes those members serving in active law enforcement, fire suppression and as probation officers. General membership applies to all other occupations. Plan retirement benefits are tiered based upon the date of OCERS membership. Additional information regarding the pensions plan's benefit structure is included in the Summary of Plan Description that is available on the web at: <https://www.ocers.org/summary-plan-description>.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting

Employers participating in the Plan are required to report pension information in their financial statements in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*. The Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer (the Schedule) along with OCERS' audited financial statements, the GASB Statement 67 Actuarial Valuation as of December 31, 2023 and the GASB Statement 68 Actuarial Valuation Based on the December 31, 2023 Measurement Date for Employer Reporting as of June 30, 2023, prepared by OCERS' third-party actuary, provide the required information for financial reporting related to the Plan that employers may use in their financial statements.

The accompanying Schedule was prepared by OCERS' third-party actuary and was derived from information provided by OCERS in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governmental organizations.

Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
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NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

Legally or statutorily required employer contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023, less any amounts of those legally or statutorily required contributions that are paid by the employees (referred to as reverse pick-ups), are used as the basis for determining each employer’s proportion of total contributions. For the year ended December 31, 2023, employer paid member contributions of \$42,000 under Government Code Section 31581.1 which OCERS reports as employer contributions as these payments do not become part of the accumulated employee contributions, have been excluded in determining each employer’s proportion of total contributions. Contributions made by the employer on behalf of employees under Government Code Section 31581.2 are classified as employee contributions and are not included in the proportionate share calculation for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Employer contributions have not been reduced for discount due to prepaid contributions. Contributions for each employer are assigned to its respective participating Rate Group. Rate Groups are a collection of members who are or were employed by employers that offer similar pension benefit formula(s). Rate Groups exist for the purpose of risk-pooling and the contribution rates developed by the actuary should, in the long-term, fairly and accurately reflect the benefits offered/promised to members in each group. Rate Groups can contain one or more employers and employers may be included in one or more Rate Groups. If an employer participates in several Rate Groups, the employer’s total proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability (NPL) and related allocated pension amounts is the sum of its NPL and allocated pension amounts from each Rate Group.

The following Rate Groups have only one active employer, so all of the NPL for that Rate Group is allocated to the corresponding employer:

Rate Group	Employer
3	Orange County Sanitation District
4	City of Rancho Santa Margarita
5	Orange County Transportation Authority
6	County of Orange (Probation)
7	County of Orange (Law Enforcement)
8	Orange County Fire Authority (Safety)
9	Transportation Corridor Agencies
10	Orange County Fire Authority (General)
11	Orange County Cemetery District
12	Orange County Public Law Library

Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
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NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

The total Plan contributions are determined through OCERS' annual actuarial valuation process. The actuarially determined rate is the estimated amount necessary to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. California Government Code Title 3, Division 4, Parts 3 and 3.9, Articles 6 and 6.8 define the methodology used to calculate member basic contribution rates for General members and Safety members. The employer is required to contribute the difference between the actuarially determined rate and the contribution rate of employees. Legally or statutorily required employer contributions were determined by multiplying the employers' contribution rate by the employers' payrolls for the fiscal year.

The NPL is the Total Pension Liability (TPL) minus the Plan Fiduciary Net Position (plan assets). The TPL for each Rate Group is obtained from valuation results. The Fiduciary Net Position for each Rate Group is estimated by adjusting the valuation value of assets for each membership class by the ratio of the total Plan Fiduciary Net Position (excluding the balance of the County of Orange (County) Investment Account and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) Deferred Account) to total OCERS' valuation value of assets. The County Investment Account is then allocated among the four County Rate Groups using the proportion of the County's most recent contributions that were derived from the proceeds of the Pension Obligation Bonds for each of the four County Rate Groups. The OCSD UAAL Deferred Account balance of \$16,025,000 was allocated entirely to Rate Group 3 as of December 31, 2023 and was used to reduce the NPL for the OCSD as of the measurement date. The NPL is then allocated to the respective employers based on the legally or statutorily required employer contributions within each Rate Group.

In developing the pension expense amounts, the NPL proportionate share percentage is used to calculate the employer's pension expense components (service cost, interest, change in benefit terms, differences between expected and actual experience, changes in assumptions and benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions), with the exception of the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (Vector Control), Cypress Recreation & Parks District (CRPD), University of California, Irvine Medical Center and Campus (UCI) and the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), which were adjusted to reflect the appropriate amount of service costs based on their current inactive membership.

The employer contributions used to determine the NPL proportionate share percentage excludes UCI and OCDE employer contributions of \$2,980,443 and \$316,960, respectively. These employer contributions were intended to reduce the NPL of the specific employer, not the respective Rate Group as a whole. The percentages of contributions by employer do not equal the percentages used to allocate the NPL by employer because the NPL for the County has been reduced to reflect the portion of the County Investment Account, as described above. The amounts of the County Investment Account that have been allocated to those Rate Groups as of December 31, 2023 are as follows:

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NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

Rate Group	Amount
1	\$ 3,235,878
2	94,652,9614
6	7,074,542
7	41,146,619
Total	<u>\$ 146,110,000</u>

In addition, the NPL for Rate Group 1 was adjusted by the NPL for Vector Control, OCDE, UCI and CRPD prior to allocating the net NPL to the other employers in Rate Group 1. The NPL for these four employers were calculated separately as follows:

The Vector Control is no longer an active employer, but retired members and their beneficiaries, as well as deferred members, remain in the Plan. For this employer, the allocated net pension liability is based on the most recent estimate of the withdrawal liability and adjusted to reflect the Plan Fiduciary Net Position as of December 31, 2023.

The participation in the Plan for the OCDE and UCI is closed to new members. The funding obligation for these employers' UAAL is no longer pro-rata based on its payroll as there are no active members. Instead, the employer's UAAL is determined based on its specific actuarial accrued liability and a share of assets allocated to the employer. The employer's contributions for its UAAL are to be paid at level, fixed-dollar amounts over a period not to exceed twenty years. The employer will also be liable, or receive a credit, for any change in its funding obligation determined annually thereafter as a result of actuarial experience or changes in actuarial assumptions.

On October 19, 2015, the Board of Retirement approved the amortization schedule for payment of the OCDE UAAL and UCI UAAL of \$3,238,000 and \$27,586,000, respectively. These balances were calculated based on the December 31, 2014 actuarial valuation assuming fixed-dollar payments over twenty years beginning on July 1, 2016. As per OCERS' Declining Payroll Policy, the UAAL balances were updated as of the December 31, 2022 actuarial valuation to reflect actuarial gains or losses and other events that will be captured in a new twenty-year closed amortization layer. The amortization schedules for the new UAAL layers for the OCDE and UCI, after being adjusted for interest to December 31, 2023, can be found on OCERS' website as discussed in Note 4 – Additional Financial and Actuarial Information.

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NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation and Basis of Accounting (Continued)

CRPD and Capistrano Beach Sanitary District (CBSD) are no longer active employers. CRPD has twenty-one retired members and beneficiaries, as well as four deferred members, and CBSD has three retired members remaining in the Plan. At the time these employers left the System, OCERS did not have an express policy addressing how the UAAL would be funded for inactive employers. On October 15, 2018, OCERS entered into a withdrawing employer and continuing contribution agreement with the City of Cypress and received payment of the UAAL associated with CRPD members, including interest through October 14, 2018, for a total of \$740,000. As of December 31, 2020, and every three years thereafter, CRPD’s UAAL obligation will be recalculated and in the event there is any new UAAL obligation, CRPD will have three years following the effective date of the recalculation to satisfy the obligation in full, including accrued interest. As of December 31, 2023, the allocated net pension asset is based on the most recent estimate of the withdrawal liability and adjusted to reflect the Plan Fiduciary Net Position as of December 31, 2023. CBSD is no longer in existence and OCERS does not have the ability to collect any UAAL from this inactive employer under OCERS’ Declining Employer Payroll Policy; unpaid liabilities from this employer are deemed immaterial.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Schedules

The preparation of the Schedule in conformity with GAAP requires management to make significant estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The components of the NPL related to OCERS’ plan at December 31, 2023, are as follows (dollars in thousands):

Total pension liability	\$ 26,644,141
Less: Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(21,797,429)</u>
Net pension liability	<u>\$ 4,846,712</u>

For the measurement period ended December 31, 2023 (the measurement date), total pension liability was determined by rolling forward the December 31, 2022 (the valuation date) total pension liability. The actuarial assumptions used were based on the results of an experience study for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

Orange County Employees Retirement System
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NOTE 3 – ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Total Pension Liability

The December 31, 2023 total pension liability was based on the following actuarial methods and assumptions:

Actuarial Experience Study	Three-Year Period Ending December 31, 2022
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 68
Actuarial Assumptions:	
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%. net of pension plan investment expenses, including inflation
Inflation Rate	2.50%
Projected Salary Increases	General: 3.90% to 8.00% and Safety: 4.50% to 15.00%, vary by service, includes inflation and “across-the-board” salary increase of 0.50%
Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)	CPI increases of 2.75% per year Retiree COLA increases of 2.75% per year. For members that have COLA banks, we assume they receive 3.00% COLA increases until their COLA banks are exhausted and 2.75% thereafter

Mortality Assumptions

The mortality assumptions used in the TPL at December 31, 2023, were based on the results of the actuarial experience study for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, using the Public Retirement Plans Mortality tables (Pub-2010) published by the Society of Actuaries. Within the Pub-2010 family of mortality tables, OCERS has adopted both the General and Safety Amount-Weighted Above-Median Mortality Tables (adjusted for OCERS experience), projected generationally using the two-dimensional mortality improvement scale MP-2021, adjusted separately for healthy and disabled for both general and safety members.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the TPL as of December 31, 2023 was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rates. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits for current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs for future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, the Plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of December 31, 2023.

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NOTE 3 – ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Total Pension Liability (Continued)

According to Paragraph 30 of Statement 68, the long-term expected rate of return should be determined net of pension plan investment expense but without reduction for pension plan administrative expense.

The 7.00% investment return assumption used in the actuarial valuation for funding is net of administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are assumed to be 15 basis points. The investment return assumption remained the same for reporting purposes, where it is considered gross of administrative expenses. This results in an increase in the margin for adverse deviation when using the same investment return assumption for financial reporting; however, the impact of including administrative expenses is deemed to have an immaterial impact on the overall assumed rate of return.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These returns are combined to produce the long-term expected arithmetic rate of return by weighting the expected arithmetic real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adding expected inflation and subtracting expected investment expenses (beginning with December 31, 2023, including only investment consulting fees, custodian fees and other miscellaneous investment expenses and fees but excluding investment manager fees) and a risk margin. Additional information on the target allocation and projected arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset class is available in the OCERS' GASB Statement No. 67 Actuarial Valuation as of December 31, 2023.

Amortization of Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources

The net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments in the Schedule represents the unamortized balance relating to the current measurement period and the prior measurement periods on a net basis. The net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments is amortized over a five-year period on a straight-line basis beginning with the year in which they occur. One-fifth was recognized in pension expense during the measurement period, and the remaining net difference between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments at the measurement date is to be amortized over the remaining period.

Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the differences between expected and actual experience, changes of assumptions, and changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions are recognized over the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the Plan determined as of December 31, 2022 (the beginning of the measurement period ending December 31, 2023) which is 5.35 years. Prior measurement period differences between expected and actual experience, changes of assumptions, and changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions continue to be recognized based on the expected remaining service lives of all employees calculated as of the beginning of those measurement periods.

Orange County Employees Retirement System
Cost-Sharing Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plan
Notes to the Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE 3 – ACTUARIAL METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Total Pension Liability (Continued)

The Schedule of Allocated Pension Amounts by Employer does not reflect contributions made to OCERS subsequent to the measurement date as defined in GASB Statement No. 68 paragraph 57. Appropriate treatment of such amounts is the responsibility of the employers.

NOTE 4 – ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AND ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

Additional financial and actuarial information required for GASB Statement No. 68 disclosures is presented in OCERS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, the OCERS' GASB Statement No. 67 Actuarial Valuation as of December 31, 2023, the OCERS' GASB Statement No. 68 Actuarial Valuation Based on the December 31, 2023, Measurement Date for Employer Reporting as of June 30, 2023, and the Unfunded Actuarial Liability and Associated Amortization Schedules as of the December 31, 2022 valuation for the Orange County Department Education and University of California, Irvine Medical Center and Campus, which can be found on OCERS' website at www.ocers.org.