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*County of Lassen*  
**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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**CHRIS GALLAGHER**

*District 1*

**DAVID TEETER**

*District 2*

**JEFF HEMPHILL**

*District 3*

**AARON ALBAUGH**

*District 4*

**TOM HAMMOND**

*District 5*

**Richard Egan**  
County Administrative Officer  
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County Administration Office  
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone: 530-251-8333  
Fax: 530-251-2663

## MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors  
Agenda Date: May 1, 2018  
*T.B. FOR:*

FROM: Richard Egan, County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS)

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**RECOMMENDATION: That the Board: Adopt Resolution**

**PRIOR BOARD ACTIONS:** On February 13, 2018, Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) made a presentation to the Board. The Board gave direction to staff to schedule an agenda item for the Board to consider adopting the PARS Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust (Program) for the purpose of pre-funding pension obligations and/or other post-employment benefits (OPEB) obligations.

**SUMMARY:** PARS Public Agency Post-Employment Benefits Trust (the Program) is an opportunity for the County to help offset pension rate increases and underperformance by CalPERS.

The County's adoption and operation of the PARS Program has no effect on any current or former county employee's retirement (post-employment) benefit. There is no start-up cost to the County to set up the Program and no fees are charged until assets are deposited. There are no termination fees or restrictions if the County should ultimately decide to withdraw from the Program.

The Program provides a greater range on investment strategies, diversified investing, and may have potential for greater rate of return than other investment options for the general fund or available from CalPERS. The County will have complete control over making contributions. For example, some jurisdiction have made contributions when one time funding had become available (i.e. sale of surplus property or reimbursement from another agency).

Adoption of the program does not obligate the County in any way except to have the opportunity to pre-fund pension or OPEB obligations if an opportunity should be available. Investments made by

the County can be accessed by the County at any time to reimburse the County for pension related expenses.

By resolution, I am recommending that the County Auditor and County Treasurer/Tax Collector be designated jointly as the plan administrator.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no impact to the General Fund. There are no start-up costs to adopt and set up the Program.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None

RE/ts

|||||||

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF LASSEN  
APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE  
PUBLIC AGENCIES POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TRUST  
ADMINISTERED BY PUBLIC AGENCY RETIREMENT SERVICES (PARS)

WHEREAS PARS has made available the PARS Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust (the "Program") for the purpose of pre-funding pension obligations and/or OPEB obligations; and

WHEREAS the County of Lassen ("County") is eligible to participate in the Program, a tax-exempt trust performing an essential governmental function within the meaning of Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the Regulations issued there under, and is a tax-exempt trust under the relevant statutory provisions of the State of California; and

WHEREAS the County's adoption and operation of the Program has no effect on any current or former employee's entitlement to post-employment benefits; and

WHEREAS the terms and conditions of post-employment benefit entitlement, if any, are governed by contracts separate from and independent of the Program; and

WHEREAS the County's funding of the Program does not, and is not intended to, create any new vested right to any benefit nor strengthen any existing vested right; and

WHEREAS the County reserves the right to make contributions, if any, to the Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the PARS Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust, effective May 1, 2018; and
2. The Board of Supervisors authorizes the County Administrative Officer or his/her designee to sign the Administrative Services Agreement; and
3. The Board of Supervisors hereby appoints the Lassen County Auditor and Lassen County Treasurer-Tax Collector, or their successor(s) or their designee(s) to jointly act as the County's Plan Administrator for the Program; and
4. The County's Plan Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the PARS legal and administrative documents on behalf of the County and to take whatever additional actions are necessary to maintain the County's participation in the Program and to maintain compliance of any relevant regulation issued or as may be issued; therefore, authorizing him/her to take whatever additional actions are required to administer the County's Program.

The foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen, State of California, held the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chairman  
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

JULIE BUSTAMANTE, Clerk of the Board

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

MICHELE J. YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board

I, MICHELE J. YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the said Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2018.

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Deputy Clerk of the County of Lassen  
Board of Supervisors

## AGREEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

This agreement (“Agreement”) is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, between Phase II Systems, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, doing business as Public Agency Retirement Services and PARS (hereinafter “PARS”) and the County of Lassen (“Agency”).

WHEREAS, the Agency has adopted the PARS Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust for the purpose of pre-funding pension obligations and/or OPEB obligations (“Plan”), and is desirous of retaining PARS as Trust Administrator to the Trust, to provide administrative services.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree:

1. **Services.** PARS will provide the services pertaining to the Plan as described in the exhibit attached hereto as “Exhibit 1A” (“Services”) in a timely manner, subject to the further provisions of this Agreement.
2. **Fees for Services.** PARS will be compensated for performance of the Services as described in the exhibit attached hereto as “Exhibit 1B”.
3. **Payment Terms.** Payment for the Services will be remitted directly from Plan assets unless the Agency chooses to make payment directly to PARS. In the event that the Agency chooses to make payment directly to PARS, it shall be the responsibility of the Agency to remit payment directly to PARS based upon an invoice prepared by PARS and delivered to the Agency. If payment is not received by PARS within thirty (30) days of the invoice delivery date, the balance due shall bear interest at the rate of 1.5% per month. If payment is not received from the Agency within sixty (60) days of the invoice delivery date, payment plus accrued interest will be remitted directly from Plan assets, unless PARS has previously received written communication disputing the subject invoice that is signed by a duly authorized representative of the Agency.
4. **Fees for Services Beyond Scope.** Fees for services beyond those specified in this Agreement will be billed to the Agency at the rates indicated in the PARS’ standard fee schedule in effect at the time the services are provided and shall be payable as described in Section 3 of this Agreement. Before any such services are performed, PARS will provide the Agency with a detailed description of the services, terms, and applicable rates for such services. Such services, terms, and applicable rates shall be agreed upon in writing and executed by both parties.
5. **Information Furnished to PARS.** PARS will provide the Services contingent upon the Agency’s providing PARS the information specified in the exhibit attached hereto as “Exhibit 1C” (“Data”). It shall be the responsibility of the Agency to certify the accuracy, content and completeness of the Data so that PARS may rely on such information without further audit. It shall further be the responsibility of the Agency to deliver the Data to PARS in such a manner that allows for a reasonable amount of time for the Services to be performed. Unless specified in Exhibit 1A, PARS shall be under no duty to question Data received from the Agency, to compute contributions made to the

Plan, to determine or inquire whether contributions are adequate to meet and discharge liabilities under the Plan, or to determine or inquire whether contributions made to the Plan are in compliance with the Plan or applicable law. In addition, PARS shall not be liable for non performance of Services to the extent such non performance is caused by or results from erroneous and/or late delivery of Data from the Agency. In the event that the Agency fails to provide Data in a complete, accurate and timely manner and pursuant to the specifications in Exhibit 1C, PARS reserves the right, notwithstanding the further provisions of this Agreement, to terminate this Agreement upon no less than ninety (90) days written notice to the Agency.

6. **Records.** Throughout the duration of this Agreement, and for a period of five (5) years after termination of this Agreement, PARS shall provide duly authorized representatives of Agency access to all records and material relating to calculation of PARS' fees under this Agreement. Such access shall include the right to inspect, audit and reproduce such records and material and to verify reports furnished in compliance with the provisions of this Agreement. All information so obtained shall be accorded confidential treatment as provided under applicable law.
7. **Confidentiality.** Without the Agency's consent, PARS shall not disclose any information relating to the Plan except to duly authorized officials of the Agency, subject to applicable law, and to parties retained by PARS to perform specific services within this Agreement. The Agency shall not disclose any information relating to the Plan to individuals not employed by the Agency without the prior written consent of PARS, except as such disclosures may be required by applicable law.
8. **Independent Contractor.** PARS is and at all times hereunder shall be an independent contractor. As such, neither the Agency nor any of its officers, employees or agents shall have the power to control the conduct of PARS, its officers, employees or agents, except as specifically set forth and provided for herein. PARS shall pay all wages, salaries and other amounts due its employees in connection with this Agreement and shall be responsible for all reports and obligations respecting them, such as social security, income tax withholding, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation and similar matters.
9. **Indemnification.** PARS and Agency hereby indemnify each other and hold the other harmless, including their respective officers, directors, employees, agents and attorneys, from any claim, loss, demand, liability, or expense, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, incurred by the other as a consequence of, to the extent, PARS' or Agency's, as the case may be, negligent acts, errors or omissions with respect to the performance of their respective duties hereunder.
10. **Compliance with Applicable Law.** The Agency shall observe and comply with federal, state and local laws in effect when this Agreement is executed, or which may come into effect during the term of this Agreement, regarding the administration of the Plan. PARS shall observe and comply with federal, state and local laws in effect when this Agreement is executed, or which may come into effect during the term of this Agreement, regarding Plan administrative services provided under this Agreement.

11. **Applicable Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. In the event any party institutes legal proceedings to enforce or interpret this Agreement, venue and jurisdiction shall be in any state court of competent jurisdiction.
12. **Force Majeure.** When a party's nonperformance hereunder was beyond the control and not due to the fault of the party not performing, a party shall be excused from performing its obligations under this Agreement during the time and to the extent that it is prevented from performing by such cause, including but not limited to: any incidence of fire, flood, acts of God, acts of terrorism or war, commandeering of material, products, plants or facilities by the federal, state or local government, or a material act or omission by the other party.
13. **Ownership of Reports and Documents.** The originals of all letters, documents, reports, and data produced for the purposes of this Agreement shall be delivered to, and become the property of the Agency. Copies may be made for PARS but shall not be furnished to others without written authorization from Agency.
14. **Designees.** The Plan Administrator of the Agency, or their designee, shall have the authority to act for and exercise any of the rights of the Agency as set forth in this Agreement, subsequent to and in accordance with the written authority granted by the Governing Body of the Agency, a copy of which writing shall be delivered to PARS. Any officer of PARS, or his or her designees, shall have the authority to act for and exercise any of the rights of PARS as set forth in this Agreement.
15. **Notices.** All notices hereunder and communications regarding the interpretation of the terms of this Agreement, or changes thereto, shall be effected by delivery of the notices in person or by depositing the notices in the U.S. mail, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed as follows:
  - (A) To PARS: PARS; 4350 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100, Newport Beach, CA 92660; Attention: President
  - (B) To Agency: County of Lassen; 221 South Roop Street, Suite 4, Susanville, CA 96130; Attention: County Administrative OfficerNotices shall be deemed given on the date received by the addressee.
16. **Term of Agreement.** This Agreement shall remain in effect for the period beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2021 ("Term"). This Agreement may be terminated at any time by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the other party of the intent to terminate. Absent a thirty (30) day written notice to the other party of the intent to terminate, this Agreement will continue unchanged for successive twelve month periods following the Term.
17. **Amendment.** This Agreement may not be amended orally, but only by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.
18. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, including exhibits, contains the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter set forth in this Agreement.

In the event a conflict arises between the parties with respect to any term, condition or provision of this Agreement, the remaining terms, conditions and provisions shall remain in full force and legal effect. No waiver of any term or condition of this Agreement by any party shall be construed by the other as a continuing waiver of such term or condition.

19. **Attorneys Fees.** In the event any action is taken by a party hereto to enforce the terms of this Agreement the prevailing party herein shall be entitled to receive its reasonable attorney's fees.
20. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, and in that event, each counterpart shall be deemed a complete original and be enforceable without reference to any other counterpart.
21. **Headings.** Headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be used to interpret or construe its provisions.
22. **Effective Date.** This Agreement shall be effective on the date first above written, and also shall be the date the Agreement is executed.

**AGENCY:**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Egan

TITLE: County Administrative Officer

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARS:**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tod Hammeras

TITLE: Chief Financial Officer

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Approved as to Form*

APR 26 2018

LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

EXHIBIT 1A  
SERVICES

PARS will provide the following services for the County of Lassen Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust:

1. Plan Installation Services:

- (A) Meeting with appropriate Agency personnel to discuss plan provisions, implementation timelines, actuarial valuation process, funding strategies, benefit communication strategies, data reporting, and submission requirements for contributions/reimbursements/distributions;
- (B) Providing the necessary analysis and advisory services to finalize these elements of the Plan;
- (C) Providing the documentation needed to establish the Plan to be reviewed and approved by Agency legal counsel. Resulting final Plan documentation must be approved by the Agency prior to the commencement of PARS Plan Administration Services outlined in Exhibit 1A, paragraph 2 below.

2. Plan Administration Services:

- (A) Monitoring the receipt of Plan contributions made by the Agency to the trustee of the PARS Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust (“Trustee”), based upon information received from the Agency and the Trustee;
- (B) Performing periodic accounting of Plan assets, reimbursements/distributions, and investment activity, based upon information received from the Agency and/or Trustee;
- (C) Coordinating the processing of distribution payments pursuant to authorized direction by the Agency, and the provisions of the Plan, and, to the extent possible, based upon Agency-provided Data;
- (D) Coordinating actions with the Trustee as directed by the Plan Administrator within the scope this Agreement;
- (E) Preparing and submitting a monthly report of Plan activity to the Agency, unless directed by the Agency otherwise;
- (F) Preparing and submitting an annual report of Plan activity to the Agency;
- (G) Facilitating actuarial valuation updates and funding modifications for compliance with GASB 45/75, if prefunding OPEB obligations;
- (H) Coordinating periodic audits of the Trust;
- (I) Monitoring Plan and Trust compliance with federal and state laws.

3. PARS is not licensed to provide and does not offer tax, accounting, legal, investment or actuarial advice.

EXHIBIT 1B  
FEES FOR SERVICES

PARS will be compensated for performance of Services, as described in Exhibit 1A based upon the following schedule:

An annual asset fee shall be paid from Plan assets based on the following schedule:

<u>For Plan Assets from:</u>		<u>Annual Rate:</u>
\$0	to	\$10,000,000
\$10,000,001	to	\$15,000,000
\$15,000,001	to	\$50,000,000
\$50,000,001	and	above
		0.25%
		0.20%
		0.15%
		0.10%

Annual rates are prorated and paid monthly. The annual asset fee shall be calculated by the following formula [Annual rate divided by 12 (months of the year) multiplied by the Plan asset balance at the end of the month]. Trustee and Investment Management Fees are not included.

EXHIBIT 1C  
DATA REQUIREMENTS

PARS will provide the Services under this Agreement contingent upon receiving the following information:

1. Executed Legal Documents:
  - (A) Certified Resolution
  - (B) Adoption Agreement to the Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust
  - (C) Trustee Investment Forms
2. Contribution – completed Contribution Transmittal Form signed by the Plan Administrator (or authorized Designee) which contains the following information:
  - (A) Agency name
  - (B) Contribution amount
  - (C) Contribution date
  - (D) Contribution method (Check, ACH, Wire)
3. Distribution – completed Payment Reimbursement/Distribution Form signed by the Plan Administrator (or authorized Designee) which contains the following information:
  - (A) Agency name
  - (B) Payment reimbursement/distribution amount
  - (C) Applicable statement date
  - (D) Copy of applicable premium, claim, statement, warrant, and/or administrative expense evidencing payment
  - (E) Signed certification of reimbursement/distribution from the Plan Administrator (or authorized Designee)
4. Other information pertinent to the Services as reasonably requested by PARS and Actuarial Provider.



# COUNTY OF LASSEN

OPEB Prefunding and Pension Rate Stabilization Program (PRSP)

February 13, 2018

**PARS**

PUBLIC  
AGENCY  
RETIREMENT  
SERVICES

TRUSTED SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.



# OPEB/PENSION CLIENT LIST – 250+

UPDATED: FEBRUARY 2018

## COUNTIES ONLY

Amador **Plumas** (adopting PRSP 2/13/18)  
Contra Costa  
**Riverside**  
**San Benito**  
Imperial  
Inyo  
Kern  
**Kings**  
Merced  
Mono  
**Nevada**  
**Placer**  
Shasta  
**Siskiyou**  
**Solano**  
Sonoma  
**Sutter**  
Trinity  
Yolo

Bolded agencies have adopted PRSP

## PENSION FUNDING STATUS

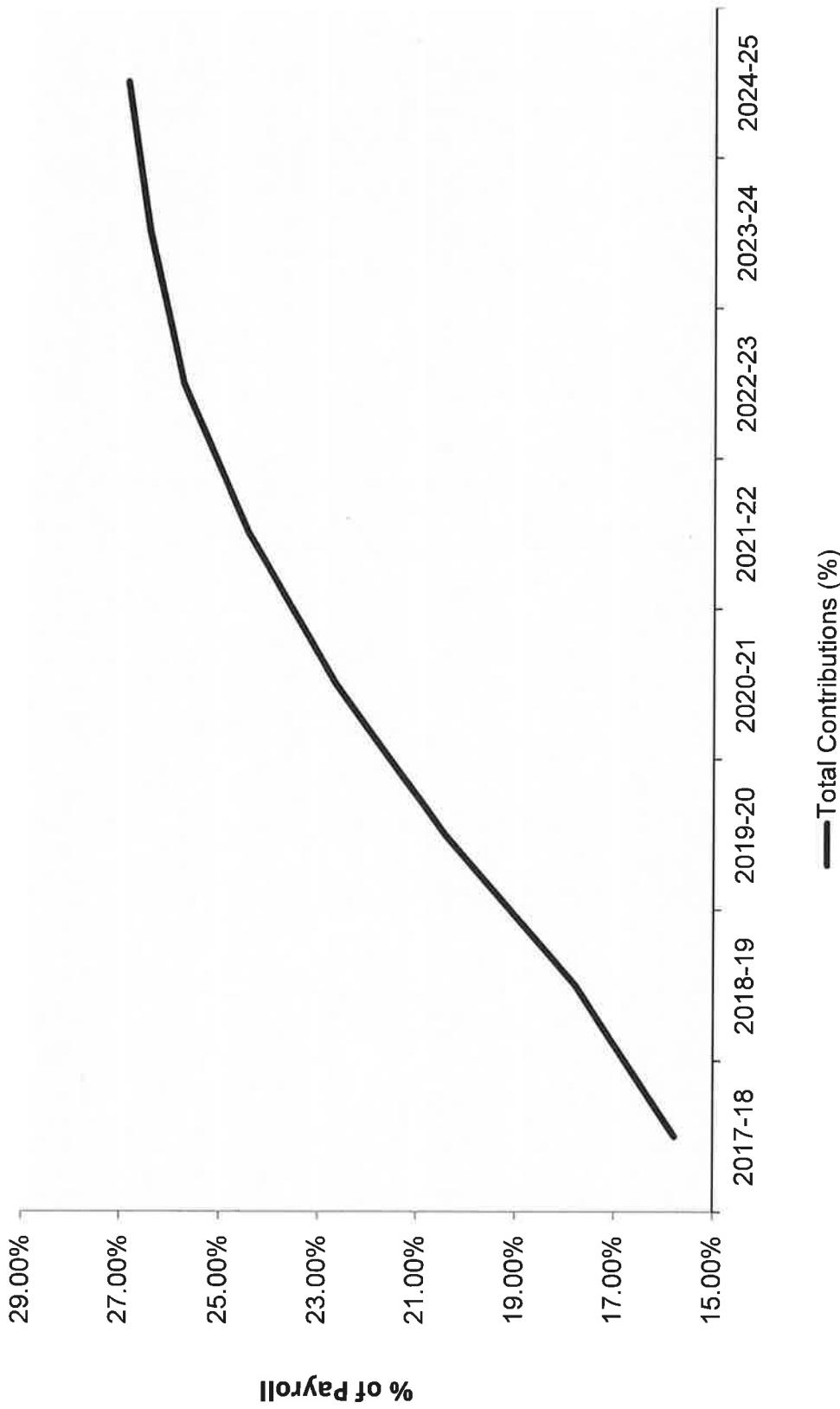
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As of June 30, 2016, County of Lassen's CalPERS pension plan is funded as follows\*:

Actuarial Liability	\$160.6 M
Assets	\$117.0 M
Unfunded Liability	\$43.6 M
Funded Ratio	72.9%
Employer Contribution Amount (FY 17-18)	\$4.2 M
Projected Employer Contribution Amount (FY 24-25)	\$7.8 M (84.6% ↑)

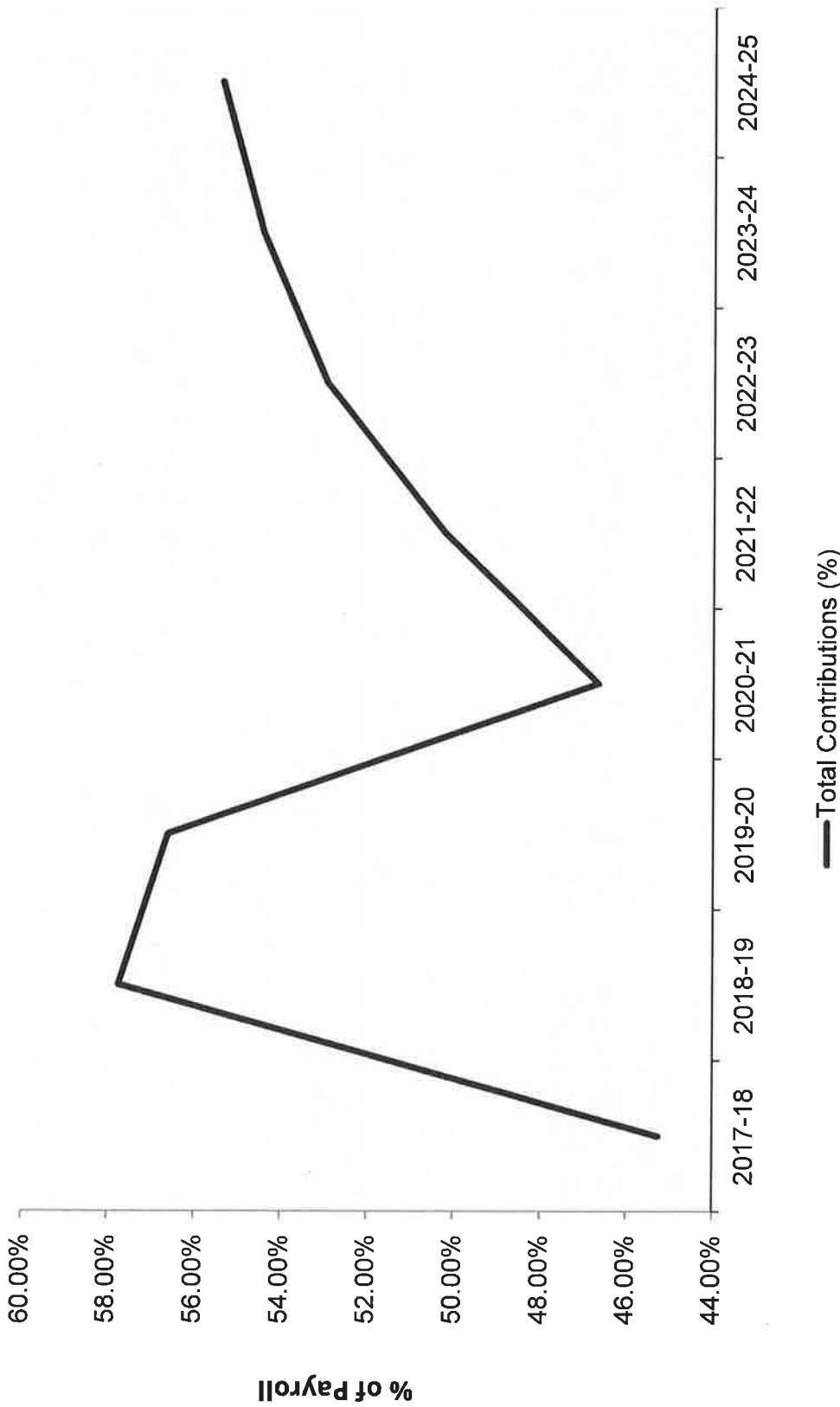
# PROJECTED EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS (MISC.)

Projected misc. contributions increase from \$2.7M to \$5.7M\* (10.2% ↑)

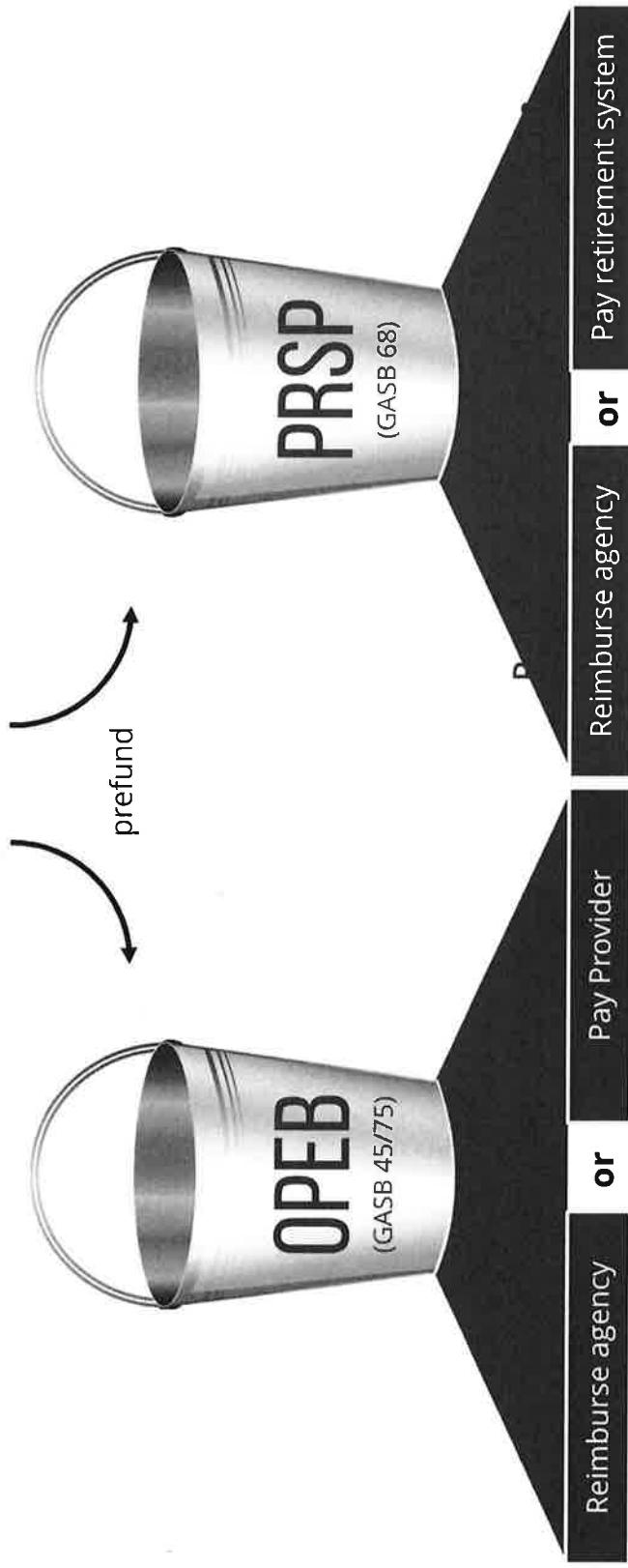


# PROJECTED EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS (SAFETY)

Projected safety contributions increase from \$1.5M to \$2.1M\* (38.8% ↑)



# THE PARS IRS-APPROVED COMBINATION 115 TRUST



- Assets are sub-accounted for separately
- Prefund one now and the other later
- Addresses unfunded liabilities
- Can choose different investment risk tolerance levels for each
- Can access funds at anytime; OPEB for OPEB and pension for pension
- Assets (OPEB and Pension) aggregate and reach lower fees on tiered schedule sooner – saving money!
- No cost to set up; no fees until assets are added

# WHY PREFUND PENSION IN A SEPARATE TRUST?

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- 1 County has complete control over contributions and disbursements; timing, amount, and risk tolerance level
- 2 Helps offset pension rate increases or underperformance by retirement system
- 3 Rainy Day Fund: Emergency source of funds when Employer revenues are impaired based on when conditions dictate
- 4 Assets (OPEB and Pension) will aggregate and reach lower fees on tiered schedule sooner – saving money!
- 5 Can use these funds for pension obligations at anytime
- 6 Addresses future pension liabilities
- 7 Can choose less aggressive investment strategy than retirement system
- 8 Diversified Investing/Potential for Greater Return than General Fund

# HIGHMARK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT RETURNS

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RETURNS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Equity (%)	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
<b>Capital Appreciation</b>	65-85%	16.72%	8.20%	10.08%
<b>Balanced</b>	50-70%	15.46%	7.25%	8.54%
<b>Moderate</b>	40-60%	13.19%	6.46%	7.42%
<b>Moderately Conservative</b>	20-40%	9.56%	4.87%	5.26%
<b>Conservative</b>	5-20%	6.73%	3.70%	3.73%

# PROGRAM FEES

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## Trust Administration/Consulting Fees\*

### Plan Set-Up Fee:



None

### Ongoing Fees:

0.25%	for assets \$0-10 million
0.20%	for assets \$10-15 million
0.15%	for assets \$15-50 million
0.10%	for assets over \$50 million

## Discretionary Trustee/Investment Management Fees\*

### Plan Set-Up Fee:



None

### Ongoing Fees:

0.35%*	for assets under \$5 million
0.25%	for assets \$5-10 million
0.20%	for assets \$10-15 million
0.15%	for assets \$15-50 million
0.10%	for assets over \$50 million



\* PARS does not receive any compensation from the investments or any commissions, back-end loads, or any other forms of compensation.  
\*\* Fees as of December 31, 2017. Subject to change due to rebalancing.



# KEY PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

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- 1 IRS-approved trust structure which protects the County from Day 1 of prefunding
- 2 Market pioneer and leader with over 100 PRSP client agencies in California
- 3 Low cost prefunding solution with economies of scale and low investment fees
- 4 No start-up costs
- 5 No minimum annual fees
- 6 No fees charged until assets are in trust
- 7 No trading fees
- 8 No termination fees or restrictions
- 9 True, historical return information over 1, 3, 5 and 10 year periods – not composites
- 10 Five (5) risk tolerance portfolios that can be either actively or passively managed in addition to a customized portfolio option

# Discretionary Trustee Fee Schedule

## PARS Pension / OPEB Trust Program

This document is entered into by client and U.S. Bank National Association ("U.S. Bank"), as trustee.

### Discretionary Trustee Fees

Discretionary Trustee Fees are based on the Investment Strategy you select. Following is a list of the Discretionary Trustee Fees applicable to each Investment Strategy:

- **Liquidity – First American U.S. Treasury Money Market** – Fund level fees only (see prospectus)
- **Liquidity – First American Prime Obligation Fund Class Z** – Fund level fees only (see prospectus)
- **Diversified Portfolios (Conservative, Moderately Conservative, Moderate, Balanced, Capital Appreciation, Custom)**

#### Per Annum Charges\*

.35% on the first	\$5,000,000
.25% on the next	\$5,000,000
.20% on the next	\$5,000,000
.15% on the next	\$35,000,000
.10% on all over	\$50,000,000

\*Waived for plan assets invested in First American Funds.

### Other Fees

First American Funds (see prospectus)

### Payment of Fees

- Market values used for fee calculations on fee invoices may differ slightly from market values on client statements due to posting of accruals, late pricing of securities and/or other timing issues.
- Fees are calculated and charged to the account monthly. If account cannot be charged after 30 days, fees not paid will be subject to a late charge of 1% per month on the unpaid balance.
- Changes to this Fee Schedule may be made at any time by U.S. Bank upon a sixty (60) days notice.

### Acknowledged and Approved

#### Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust

Name of Plan/Trust

Name of Employer

Print Name of Authorized Signer for Employer

Title of Authorized Signer for Employer

Signature of Authorized Signer for Employer

Date

U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Each client's tax and financial situation is unique. Clients should consult their tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning their particular situation.

**Internal Revenue Service**

Index Number: 115.00-00

U.S. Bank National Association  
c/o Susan Hughes, Vice President  
3121 Michelson Drive (Suite 300)  
Irvine, CA 92612

Department of the Treasury  
Washington, DC 20224

Third Party Communication: None  
Date of Communication: Not Applicable

Person To Contact:  
Robin J. Ehrenberg, ID No. 1000219292  
Telephone Number:  
(202) 317-5800  
Refer Reply To:  
CC:TEGE:EOEG:EO3  
PLR-146796-14  
Date: June 5, 2015

**Legend**

Trust	=	Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust
Trust Agreement	=	Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Trust Agreement
Trustee	=	U.S. Bank National Association

Dear Ms. Hughes:

This letter responds to a letter from your authorized representative dated December 22, 2014, requesting rulings that (1) the Trust's income is excludable from gross income under section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and (2) the Trust is not required to file annual federal income tax returns under IRC section 6012(a)(4). The Trust represents the facts as follows:

**FACTS**

The Trust is a multiple employer trust established to enable public-agency employers to fund post-retirement employee benefits. Each participating employer must be a public agency that is a state, political subdivision of a state, or an entity the income of which is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115. The employer's governing body must authorize in writing the adoption of the Trust and the employer must execute the adoption agreement, which approves the Trust's administrator and provides that the agency adopts and agrees to be bound by the Trust Agreement. In the adoption agreement, the employer elects to fund obligations to provide benefits under a post-employment health care plan and contribute to a defined-benefit pension plan maintained by the employer that is qualified under IRC section 401(a). The employer may elect to fund either or both obligations.

The Trust Agreement provides that assets are held by the Trust for the exclusive purpose of funding participating employers' benefit obligations and defraying the reasonable expenses of the Trust. The Trust's assets may not be used for any other purpose. Each employer's contributions to the Trust, together with any allocable investment earnings and losses, are held in a separate account for that employer. Assets allocated to satisfy an employer's health and welfare benefit obligation or the employer's pension obligation may only be used for purposes of satisfying that particular obligation. The assets held in an employer's account are not available to pay any obligations incurred by any other employer.

The employers appoint the Trustee and the Trust's administrator and may remove the Trustee or the administrator by a two-thirds vote of all employers. The employers may amend the Trust Agreement with the approval of two-thirds of all employers then participating in the Trust. The employers may terminate the Trust by unanimous agreement of all employers.

Upon termination of the Trust, any assets remaining in an employer's account, after satisfaction of benefit and the Trust's obligations are returned to the employer to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the requirements of IRC section 115.

## LAW AND ANALYSIS

### Issue 1 - IRC section 115(1)

IRC section 115(1) provides that gross income does not include income derived from any public utility or the exercise of any essential governmental function and accruing to a state or any political subdivision thereof.

Rev. Rul. 77-261, 1977-2 C.B. 45, holds that income generated by an investment fund that is established by a state to hold revenues in excess of the amounts needed to meet current expenses is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115(1), because such investment constitutes an essential governmental function. The ruling explains that the statutory exclusion is intended to extend not to the income of a state or municipality resulting from its own participation in activities, but rather to the income of an entity engaged in the operation of a public utility or the performance of some governmental function that accrues to either a state or political subdivision of a state. The ruling points out that it may be assumed that Congress did not desire in any way to restrict a state's participation in enterprises that might be useful in carrying out projects that are desirable from the standpoint of a state government and that are within the ambit of a sovereign to conduct.

Rev. Rul. 90-74, 1990-2 C.B. 34, holds that the income of an organization formed, funded, and operated by political subdivisions to pool various risks (e.g., casualty, public liability, workers' compensation, and employees' health) is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115(1), because the organization is performing an essential governmental function. The revenue ruling states that the income of such an organization is excludable from gross income so long as private interests do not participate in the organization or benefit more than incidentally from the organization. The benefit to the employees of the insurance coverage obtained by the member political subdivisions was deemed incidental to the public benefit.

Through the Trust, participating public agency employers fund health and welfare and pension obligations for retired employees. Each of the Trust's participating employers is required to be a state, political subdivision of a state or an entity the income of which is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115. Providing health, welfare and pension benefits to current and former employees constitutes the performance of an essential government function within the meaning of IRC section 115(1). See Rev. Rul. 90-74 and Rev. Rul. 77-261.

The Trust's income accrues to its participating employers, all of which are political subdivisions of a state or entities the income of which is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115. No private interests will participate in, or benefit from, the operation of Trust, other than as providers of goods or services. The benefit to employees is incidental to the public benefit. See Rev. Rul. 90-74.

In no event, including dissolution, will the Trust's assets be distributed or revert to any entity that is not a state, a political subdivision of a state, or entity the income of which is excludable from its gross income by application of IRC section 115(1).

#### Issue 2- IRC section 6012(a)(4)

Section 301.7701-1(b) of the Procedure and Administration Regulations (Regulations) provides that the classification of organizations that are recognized as separate entities is determined under sections 301.7701-2, 301.7701-3, and 301.7701-4, unless a provision of the IRC provides for special treatment of that organization.

Section 301.7701-4(a) of the Regulations provides that, in general, an arrangement will be treated as if it can be shown that the purpose of the arrangement is to vest in trustees responsibility for the protection and conservation of property for beneficiaries who cannot share in the discharge of this responsibility and, therefore, are not associates in a joint enterprise for the conduct of business for profit.

The Trust enables public-agency employers to set aside funds to be used to satisfy each employer's separate pension and health and welfare benefit obligations. The

Trustee is charged with the responsibility of the protection and conservation of the Trust property for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the Trust. The beneficiaries of the Trust cannot share in the discharge of the Trustee's responsibility for the protection and conservation of property and, therefore, are not associates in a joint enterprise for the conduct of business for profit. IRC section 6012(a)(4) provides that every trust having for the taxable year any taxable income or having gross income of \$600 or more, regardless of the amount of taxable income, shall make returns with respect to income taxes under Subtitle A.

Based solely on the facts and representations submitted by the Trust, we conclude that:

1. Because the income of the Trust derives from the exercise of an essential governmental function and will accrue to a state or a political subdivision thereof, the Trust's income is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115(1).
2. The Trust is classified as a trust within the meaning of IRC section 7701(a) and section 301.7701-4(a) of the Regulations. Because Trust's income is excludable from gross income under IRC section 115, the Trust is not required by IRC section 6012(a)(4) to file an annual income tax return.

Except as expressly provided herein, no opinion is expressed or implied concerning the tax consequences of any aspect of any transaction or item discussed or referenced in this letter. This ruling concerns only the federal tax treatment of the Trust's income and may not be cited or relied upon by any taxpayer, including the Trust, employers participating in the Trust, and any recipients of benefits paid under the terms of the Trust, as to any matter relating to the taxation of accident or health contributions or benefits.

This ruling is directed only to the taxpayer who requested it. IRC section 6110(k)(3) provides that it may not be used or cited as precedent.

In accordance with the Power of Attorney on file with this office, a copy of this letter is being sent to your authorized representative.

A copy of this letter must be attached to any income tax return to which it is relevant. Alternatively, taxpayers filing their returns electronically may satisfy this requirement by attaching a statement to their return that provides the date and control number of the letter ruling.

The rulings contained in this letter are based upon information and representations submitted by the taxpayer and accompanied by a penalty of perjury statement executed by an appropriate party. While this office has not verified any of the material submitted in support of the request for rulings, it is subject to verification on examination.

Sincerely,



Kenneth M. Griffin  
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