

**KERN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (KCERA)  
BOARD OF RETIREMENT**

**11125 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield, California**

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Board of Retirement Meeting  
February 12, 2025**

**8:33 a.m.**

Board Members: Vice-Chair Contreras (Alternate), Chair Couch, Duffey, Franey, Gill, Hughes, Kaufman, Kratt, Nunneley (Alternate), Sanders, Seibly (Alternate), Whitezell

**ROLL CALL (IN PERSON)**

Present: Contreras, Couch, Duffey, Franey, Gill, Kaufman, Kratt, Sanders, Seibly

Absent: Hughes, Nunneley, Whitezell

**SALUTE TO FLAG – TRUSTEE SANDERS**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

NOTE: The vote is displayed in bold below each item. For example, Duffey-Kratt denotes Trustee Deon Duffey made the motion and Trustee Rick Kratt seconded the motion.

**AB 2449 REMOTE APPEARANCE(S)**

*Items 1 and 2 withdrawn from agenda. No trustees appeared via teleconference.*

**CONSENT MATTERS**

*All consent matter items listed below with an asterisk (\*) were considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff and approved by one motion, unless otherwise noted.*

- \*3. Application for service-connected disability pension benefits for Aaron Mena, Fire (Safety) – **ADOPTED RECOMMENDATION OF SDAG TO GRANT SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION**

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*4. Application for service-connected disability pension benefits for Manuelita Perez, Probation (Safety) – **ADOPTED RECOMMENDATION OF SDAG TO DENY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION**

**Kratt-Sanders – 6 Ayes; 0 Noes; 1 Abstention (Gill)**

- \*5. Application for service-connected disability pension benefits for Elise Riel, Sheriff (Safety) – ADOPTED RECOMMENDATION OF SDAG TO GRANT NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*6. Proposed Decision and Findings of Fact submitted by Hearing Officer Barbara Kong-Brown for Joshua Bankston, Sheriff (Safety) –

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- \*7. Summary of proceedings of the following meetings:

- November 20, 2024 Finance Committee
- December 2, 2024 Investment Committee
- December 4, 2024 Administrative Committee
- December 4, 2024 Nominating Committee
- December 11, 2024 Board of Retirement
- December 11, 2024 Finance Committee
- January 22, 2025 Special Board of Retirement
- January 22, 2025 Investment Committee

RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*8. Report from the KCERA office on members retired from service for the months of December 2024 and January 2025 – RATIFIED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*9. Report from the KCERA office on deceased retirees for the months of December 2024 and January 2025 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*10. Report of current disability retirement applications and appeals of KCERA Board decisions for the period ending January 31, 2025 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*11. Securities Lending Earnings Summary Report for the periods ending November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024 from Deutsche Bank – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*12. KCERA asset allocation, cash flow position, investment fees cash flow, and operating expense budget status reports for the months of November 2024 and December 2024 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*13. KCERA Class Action Proceeds Report from October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 from the Northern Trust Company – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*14. Corrections in Benefit Payments Report for the period July through December 2024 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*15. Corrections in Benefit Contributions Report for the period July through December 2024 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*16. Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Management Report for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*17. Kern County Employees’ Retirement Association Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*18. Auditor’s final reports to management for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 – APPROVED AUDITOR’S REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*19. Letter from Segal Consulting, dated January 22, 2025, on annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) rates for 2025 – ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING:

RETIREMENT DATE	COLA
ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2025	2.5%

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*20. 2025 Board of Retirement Committee Assignments – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*21. Board of Retirement Semi-annual Trustee Education Report – RECEIVED AND FILED; DIRECTED STAFF TO POST TO KCERA WEBSITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 31522.8(d)

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*22. Extension of Agreement for Actuarial Consultant Services with Segal for an additional three-year term (through April 1, 2028) – RECEIVED AND FILED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN, SUBJECT TO LEGAL ADVICE AND REVIEW

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*23. Service provider evaluation period initiated pursuant to Evaluation Period Policy – RATIFIED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*24. Memorandum from Chief Legal Officer Jennifer Esquivel Zahry, dated February 12, 2025, regarding gift restrictions – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*25. Memorandum from Chief Legal Officer Jennifer Esquivel Zahry, dated February 12, 2025, regarding gifts of travel – RECEIVED AND FILED

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

- \*26. Invitation for trustees to attend the 2025 California Association of Public Retirement Systems (CALAPRS) General Assembly, March 2-5, 2025 in Napa, California – APPROVED THE ATTENDANCE OF TRUSTEES DAVID COUCH, DEON DUFFEY, PHIL FRANEY, JOSEPH D. HUGHES, AND JOHN SANDERS

**Kratt-Sanders – 7 Ayes**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

27. The public is provided the opportunity to comment on agenda items at the time those agenda items are discussed by the Board. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification and, through the Chair, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a later meeting. Speakers are limited to two minutes. Please state your name for the record prior to making a presentation – NONE

TRUSTEE JOSEPH D. HUGHES ARRIVED AT 8:36 AM

## **INVESTMENT MATTERS**

28. Presentation on Annual Private Markets Plan by Chief Investment Officer Daryn Miller, CFA, Senior Retirement Investment Officer Geoffrey Nolan, and Andrea Auerbach, Partner, Keirsten Lawton, Partner, Kelly Jensen, Investment Managing Director, Maria Surina, Investment Managing Director, Cambridge Associates – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DOMINIC BROWN HEARD; CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER DARYN MILLER, CFA, HEARD; CHAIR DAVID COUCH HEARD; KELLY JENSEN, ANDREA AUERBACH, KEIRSTEN LAWTON, AND MARIA SURINA, CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATES, HEARD

RECEIVED AND FILED

**Franey-Kaufman – 8 Ayes**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

29. Report from Chief Executive Officer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DOMINIC BROWN REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

- STAFFING UPDATE
- KERN360 PLANNING MEETINGS CONTINUE
- CHATBOT (ASKJAN) MONITORING
- POSTAGE MACHINE INSTALLATION
- BOARDROOM AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT UPDATE
- ANNUAL COLA
- OPERATIONS ACTIVITY
- MEMBER OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
- UPCOMING EVENTS

VICE-CHAIR DUSTIN CONTRERAS HEARD; TRUSTEE RICK KRATT HEARD

30. Report from Chief Investment Officer

CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER DARYN MILLER, CFA, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

- REBALANCING – DECEMBER AND JANUARY ACTIVITY
- POSITIONING – ACTUAL VS POLICY TARGET
- KEY INITIATIVES
- UPCOMING INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- DELEGATION

CHAIR DAVID COUCH HEARD; TRUSTEE RICK KRATT HEARD



36. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (pursuant to Government Code §54957) – Title: Chief Executive Officer

### **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

BOARD OF RETIREMENT RECONVENED IN PUBLIC SESSION AT 11:51 A.M.

### **ROLL CALL**

*To establish quorum present upon resuming public session*

Present: Contreras, Couch, Duffey, Gill, Hughes, Kaufman, Kratt, Sanders, Seibly

Absent: Franey, Nunneley, Whitezell

### **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTIONS, IF APPLICABLE**

ITEM 6 – ADOPTED PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION OF HEARING OFFICER TO DENY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY PENSION

#### **Contreras-Gill – 8 Ayes**

(Couch, Duffey, Gill, Hughes, Kaufman, Kratt, Sanders, Seibly)

*Trustee Robb Seibly voted in place of Trustee Phil Franey*

ITEM 33 – AUTHORIZED STAFF TO TAKE STEPS TO COLLECT CONTRIBUTIONS OWED, INCLUDING LITIGATION

#### **Kaufman-Couch – 8 Ayes**

(Couch, Duffey, Gill, Hughes, Kaufman, Kratt, Sanders, Seibly)

*Trustee Robb Seibly voted in place of Trustee Phil Franey*

ITEM 34 – NO REPORTABLE ACTION

ITEM 35 – NO REPORTABLE ACTION

ITEM 36 – NO REPORTABLE ACTION

### **REFERRALS TO STAFF, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS**

37. On their own initiative, Board members may make a brief announcement, refer matters to staff (subject to KCERA's rules and procedures), or make a brief report on their own activities – NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS**

38. Consider, discuss, and take possible action to agendaize one or more items for future meetings of the Board of Retirement – NONE

39. ADJOURNED – 11:53 A.M.

  
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Secretary, Board of Retirement

  
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Chair, Board of Retirement