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Press Release

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Contact: Brian White, 619.515.6844

SDCERA fund sound despite recent losses

SAN DIEGO, CA – San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA) released financial reports announcing the fund declined \$800 million in September and \$1.1 billion fiscal year to date.

Despite these losses, the \$7.3 billion fund remains sufficiently funded. Benefits are secure and there will be no immediate impact on employer contribution rates.

“These are significant declines, but anticipated ones given the current difficulties in the financial markets. SDCERA has been in existence since 1939 and has emerged from past financial crises and thrived. The markets will recover, and when they do, SDCERA will be well positioned to profit,” said Brian White, Chief Executive Officer.

Softening the impact of investment setbacks is the fact that SDCERA experienced double-digit gains in the four previous years. SDCERA has a history of strong performance: since 1983, SDCERA’s portfolio produced three-year rolling cumulative investment returns in excess of 40%, 15 times. Additionally, SDCERA spreads investment gains and losses over five years. This practice, commonly referred to as *smoothing*, reduces the effect of short-term market unpredictability and helps stabilize member and employer contribution rates.

SDCERA is an independent association established by the County Employees Retirement law of 1937, which governs 20 California county retirement systems. SDCERA provides retirement benefits for approximately 35,000 eligible employees, former employees who are vested, and retirees of the County of San Diego.

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