

July 27, 2022

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Sacramento, CA 94229
Transmitted via email to: Regulation_Coordinator@calpers.ca.gov

RE: Public Comment on the Adoption of Proposed Regulations for Limited Duration Employment

Dear CalPERS Board of Administration:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in response to the proposed regulations regarding the definition of Limited Duration Employment for annuitants in the California Code of Regulations (Section 574.1, Article 4, Subchapter 1, Chapter 2, Division 1, Title 2). While the City welcomes CalPERS' efforts to clarify certain regulations for limited duration employment, the proposed restrictions will negatively impact how public agencies utilize retired annuitants for essential services and projects.

The City employs a couple-dozen retired annuitants each year, on average. Annuitants work in limited duration roles to help eliminate backlogs, work on special projects, and complete tasks that regular staff cannot do. Retired annuitants offer unique skillsets, institutional expertise, and knowledge of City systems and services necessary to ensure consistency in the delivery of projects. In compliance with existing regulations, the City has established four retired annuitant classifications to clarify the scope of work they perform as retirees, including administrative, management, special projects, and specialized supports.

Although in most situations retired annuitants are utilized on a short-term basis (i.e., 1-2 years), we recognize that rare circumstances may require more time for annuitants than would be allowed under the proposed regulations. The City requests CalPERS to provide an exception process beyond the proposed timeline for annuitants in these cases.

Furthermore, the proposed language is unclear whether it applies to an employee providing work that is substantially the same as the work the retired person performed before retirement. This definition should be clarified with respect to the proposed language. The City needs to retain the ability for retired annuitants to perform work that may be similar but a different classification, since they provide irreplaceable expertise on specific projects and services.

I would ask that the Board of Administration consider allowing more time for annuitants to serve in extenuating circumstances and clarify that annuitants can continue to perform work that may be similar to what they were doing prior to retirement. While clearer definitions for annuitants would be beneficial, the City asks for more flexibility in administering this program.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at tyler.curley@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

