



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS      **Agenda Number:**  
AGENDA LETTER

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** County Executive Office  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** June 9, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Contact: Paul Clementi, Budget Director  
**SUBJECT:** FY 2026-27 Employer and Member Retirement Contribution Rates

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Pursuant to Government Code Section 31454, adopts the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 employer and member contribution rates, recommended by Cheiron, the Santa Barbara County Employees Retirement System (SBCERS) actuary, and recommended by the Board of Retirement on December 10, 2025, with an effective date of July 1, 2026 or for the payroll cycle in which that date occurs;
- b) Pursuant to Government Code Section 31873, elects to pay the portion of the normal cost of living adjustment that would be otherwise assessed to individual members who are not deemed to be new members pursuant to Government Code Section 7522.04(f), with an effective date of July 1, 2026 or for the payroll cycle in which that date occurs; and
- c) Determines that the actions above are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because they consist of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The proposed action will adopt the FY 2026-27 retirement contribution rates, which are included in the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget and were the basis of information provided in the preliminary budget at April workshops. Specifically, the action sets an overall Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 employer retirement contribution rate of 36.73% prior to negotiated employee offsets of the County contribution rate. This is a 2.45% contribution rate decrease from the FY 2025-26 rate of 39.18%. Negotiated employee offsets are expected to reduce the overall employer contribution rate by 1.34% to 35.39%, a decrease of 2.33% from the prior year net contribution rate of 37.72%.

The Santa Barbara County Employees Retirement System (SBCERS) reports that adjusting the rates of contribution as recommended will not reduce the individual benefits provided by either the County Employee Retirement Act of 1937 or the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) of 2013.

The Board of Retirement took action at its December 10, 2025 meeting to accept and approve the valuation and recommend the rates of contribution for approval to the Board of Supervisors.

**Background:**

In correspondence dated April 23, 2026, SBCERS requested that the recommended rates be brought to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The referenced correspondence is Attachment A to this item and the employer and member contribution rates resulting from the June 30, 2025 Actuarial Valuation are included in Attachment B.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget, released on May 30, 2026, and scheduled for adoption on June 16, 2026, includes the employer contribution rates and employee offsets discussed above. It contains budgeted retirement costs of \$186.9 million and employee offsets of \$6.5 million, for a net budgeted County cost of \$180.4 million. This is a decrease of \$11.5 million or 6.0% compared to the net retirement contribution of \$191.9 million included in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget largely driven by a reduction in funded positions but also as a result of the 2.33% decrease in retirement plan contribution rates. The recommended action formally adopts the rates recommended by the Board of Retirement, as requested by the letter dated April 23, 2026 (Attachment A), and is required by Government Code 31454.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – April 23, 2026 Correspondence from SBCERS to County

**Attachment B** – June 30, 2025 Actuarial Valuation Report

**Contact Information:**

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**cc:**

Greg Levin, SBCERS Chief Executive Officer  
Kristine Schmidt, Human Resources Director  
Rachel Van Mullem, County Counsel  
Betsy Schaffer, Auditor-Controller  
Catie Medina, Payroll Division Chief