

StanCERA Message from the Executive Director

General Information

Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, StanCERA will be implementing limited service protocol for our members. Beginning March 17th, StanCERA will no longer be allowing customer access onsite. This means that one-on-one counseling sessions will not be available, and you will not have the ability to interact with StanCERA staff or drop off forms and applications in person at our counter. This does NOT mean that StanCERA is ceasing business.

We are currently transitioning staff to be able to work remotely and given our technological capabilities, staff can process all documents, applications, benefit checks, and forms off-site. The major inconvenience will of course be members' ability to meet and conduct business face-to-face. To that end, we will also be providing popular forms and applications down in the lobby of our building. You can always call or email StanCERA staff and discuss any business, to make sure you have access to the required forms and applications and to work out any issues regarding submission of information or questions you may have. Additionally, most popular forms, packets and applications are available online to download.

To Our Retirees

StanCERA considers its ability to pay members timely and without delay our top priority. We currently have processes in place that allow us to process all retiree checks remotely and without delay. Any change on our end processing retiree payroll will be seamless with one exception. There are a handful of retirees that regularly pick their checks up at our counter and new retirees that generally receive their first check also at the counter. For those retirees, you should call StanCERA and direct us to mail the check to you to avoid any delays.

StanCERA Investments

StanCERA is a strategic, long-term institutional investor. Built into our actuarial and investment processes is the assumption that from time to time, the markets will experience turbulent and volatile swings. StanCERA invests your assets accordingly. We have a substantial part of the portfolio dedicated to mitigating market volatility and uncertainty. These assets are designed to mute some of the volatility by having more exposure to less risky assets and have recently performed as expected. That said, StanCERA also has substantial exposure to risky assets. However, StanCERA is a long-term investor and has very long-term liabilities. The nature of these long-term liabilities allows StanCERA to take risk in other areas of the portfolio, since these liabilities won't have to be satisfied or paid for quite some time.

To assist in this idea, StanCERA has a portion of its portfolio dedicated strictly to paying benefits. These assets are bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury, Government Sponsored Entities (GSE's) and high-grade Corporates. The assets pay off precisely when StanCERA needs to pay benefits. Currently, the portfolio is set up to pay benefits for the next 8 years. As a result, StanCERA should never have to tap its illiquid or long-term assets or even its public equities (stocks) to pay benefits. Consequently, StanCERA can withstand market disruptions without having to sell assets at an inopportune time.