



San Joaquin County Employees' Retirement Association

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Your SJCERA Retirement Benefit is Secure!

You have probably heard of the troubles suffered by some large banks and insurance companies, creating turmoil in the financial markets. While the current crisis is unique, it is not unfamiliar. Rest assured that your SJCERA retirement benefit is secure.

Unlike a 401(k) savings plan, your monthly benefit from SJCERA is determined by a formula defined in state statute and guaranteed for your lifetime. The employer, rather than individual plan participants, bears the risk of the plan's gains and losses on investments.

It is important to note that fluctuations in the market value of assets are to be expected. SJCERA is a long-term investor. The pension plan is sound and well funded. The current volatility in the capital markets will not impact the continued payment of your monthly retirement benefit.

Our goal is to manage investments to achieve the highest possible return at an acceptable level of risk. The SJCERA investment portfolio is diversified into several asset classes, so that over the long run any weaknesses in one area are offset by gains in another. The Board of Retirement follows a strategic asset allocation policy that targets the percentage of funds to be invested in each asset class.