

**California 2021 Funding Assumption Survey**  
Updated April 2021

RANK											PLAN SPONSOR	Assumed Investment Return (%)	Base Wage Growth (%)	Assumed "Excess" Return (%)	Amortization Period	Valuation Asset Corridor	Asset Smoothing (years)	Trailing Returns (market percent)				
2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2011	2010								2009	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year	20 Year
1	2	3	4	5	5	5	4	7	10	11	15	City of San Diego <sup>1</sup>	6.50%	3.05%	3.45%	7-declining and not layered; GL layered 15; most level \$5	Y:80-120	4	6.1			
2	3	2	2	6	6	6	5	3	4	5	5	CalPERS - Judges System B <sup>1,2</sup>	6.50%	2.75%	3.75%	20-GL 20 layered with some remaining level \$5	N/A (market)	N/A	4.9	8.0		
3	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	9	9	10	San Mateo County	6.90%	3.00%	3.60%	3-declining; GL 15 layered	Y:80-120	5 with offsets				
4	5	5	5	2	4	4	4	23	12	3	7	City of San Jose (Safety) <sup>3</sup>	6.60%	3.00%	3.60%	most GL 15 layered	Y:80-120	5				
5	9	7	2	16	12	12	31	29	33	34	40	City of San Jose (General) <sup>3</sup>	6.62%	3.00%	3.62%	most 19 - declining; most GL layered 20	N	5	3.8	5.5		
6	6	8	8	7	8	8	8	5	6	8	7	LA Department of Water & Power	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	GL 15 - layered Level \$5	N	5	6.38	7.89		
7	18	16	15	29	20	30	32	30	36	27	8	Mendocino County	6.75%	3.25%	3.50%	19-declining; GL 18 layered	Y:75-125	5	5.73	8.27		
8	17	13	12	31	30	28	29	25	24	29		Sacramento County	6.70%	3.00%	3.70%	Most 15 - declining; GL 20 layered	Y:70-130	7	6.36	8.43		
9	7	30	30	30	21	26	20	14	15	6	6	University of California <sup>4</sup>	6.75%	3.25%	3.50%	20-declining; GL 20 layered Level \$5	N	5	9.5	8.3		
10	8	6	6	3	2	2	2	4	5	4	4	Contra Costa County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	3-declining; GL 18 layered	N	5	6.67	8.11		
11	10	11	19	18	12	22	22	31	30	29	30	San Diego County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	5-rolling; GL 20 layered but not less than 5	N	5 <sup>10</sup>	5.26	7.49		
12	11	10	11	10	14	14	12	13	14	13	11	Sonoma County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	8-declining; GL 20 layered	N	5	7.32	8.94		
13	12	11	9	8	11	11	10	22	20	22	24	Fresno County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	13-declining; GL 18 layered	Y:70-130	5	4.55	7.18		
14	13	14	13	11	15	15	13	33	32	31	32	City of Fresno (Safety) <sup>5</sup>	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	GL 15 layered; 100% FR; surplus over 110%-30	N	5	5.42	8.94		
15	14	15	14	12	16	16	14	34	31	32	33	City of Fresno (General) <sup>5</sup>	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	GL 15 layered (100% FR); surplus over 110%-30	N	5	5.41	8.94		
16	15	12	10	9	20	20	16	18	18	30	31	Santa Barbara County	7.00%	3.00%	4.00%	most 10-declining; GL 19 layered and ramped	N/A (market)	N/A	5.5	7.3	5.4	5.0
17	16	26	24	13	7	7	6	8	11	37	36	Alameda-Contra Costa Transit <sup>6</sup>	7.00%	3.00%	4.00%	8-declining; GL 20 layered	Y:80-120	5				
18	19	17	16	19	18	17	17	12	24	33	35	Orange County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	14-declining; GL 20 layered	N	5	6.82	7.13		
19	20	18	17	21	24	19	15	9	21	21	14	Marin County <sup>4</sup>	6.75%	2.75%	4.00%	10-declining; GL 24 layered and ramped	N/A (Market)	N/A	6.5	9.2		
20	21	19	18	15	10	10	9	6	12	12	16	San Bernardino County	7.25%	3.25%	4.00%	2-declining; most GL layered 20	N	5	4.35	6.61		
21	23	21	21	20	19	18	18	23	22	15	17	Imperial County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	11-declining; GL 15 layered	Y:70-130	5	5.85	7.87		
22	22	20	20	24	23	21	25	16	17	16	19	Los Angeles Fire & Police	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	most 17-declining; most GL 20 layered	Y:60-140	7	6.45	8.78		
23	25	23	22	28	28	27	28	24	23	17	20	Alameda County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	12-declining; GL 20 layered	Y:60-140	5	9.74	8.32		
24	24	22	25	14	9	9	7	11	13	10	12	Ventura County	7.25%	3.25%	4.00%	GL 15 - layered	N	5	6.44	8.26		
25	27	25	26	22	22	26	26	37	39	39	38	Stanislaus County	7.00%	3.00%	4.00%	16-declining	Y:80-120	5	5.0	8.1	6.1	5.7
26	29	27	27	25	27	25	27	21	35	35	28	San Luis Obispo County	6.875%	2.75%	4.125%	20-declining; GL 20 layered	N	5	4.4	5.1		
27	28	29	29	23	31	31	21	15	16	14	9	Merced County	7.00%	2.75%	4.25%	13-declining; GL 24 layered Both with ramping	N/A (market)	N/A	6.5	8.4	5.7	5.0
28	31	31	31	33	32	32	30	26	26	20	22	City of Los Angeles	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	most 22-declining; GL 15 layered	Y:50-140	most 7	5.87	8.41		
29	32	32	32	37	37	39	24	19	19	19	21	Tulare County	7.00%	3.00%	4.00%	14-declining; GL 19 layered	Y:70-130	10	4.4	6.9		
30	33	33	34	32	34	34	35	36	40	40	39	East Bay Municipal Utility	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	Pre-2012 layered 30; Otherwise GL 20 layered	Y:70-130	5	6.24	9.31		
31	26	24	23	27	25	24	26	20	24	23	25	Kern County	7.25%	3.25%	4.00%	15 - declining; GL 18 layered	Y:50-150	5	5.14	7.04		
32	34	34	33	36	36	37	37	35	29	28	29	CalSTRS	7.00%	3.50%	3.50%	26 years with some hybrid increases of 0.5%	N	3	6.82	9.31		5.77
33	35	35	32	26	26	23	18	28	28	25	23	San Joaquin County <sup>7</sup>	7.00%	3.00%	4.00%	13-declining; GL 15 layered	Y:80-120	5	5.3	6.5	4.3	4.8
34	36	37	38	35	35	35	34	27	27	26	27	Los Angeles County	7.00%	3.25%	3.75%	most 18 - declining; GL 20 layered	N	5	6.05	8.14		
35	37	38	35	34	33	33	33	32	37	38	37	CalPERS	7.00%	2.75%	4.25%	pre-2019 GL 30; GL 20 level \$5 with certain ramping	N/A (market)	N/A	5.8	9.1	5.8	
36	30	28	28	17	13	13	11	10	8	3	3	City & County of San Francisco	7.40%	3.50%	4.15%	most 13-declining; GL 20 layered	N	5				

**NOTES:** Bold indicates change from previous survey.

- This does not reflect the Judges I system closed in 1994. Features include pay-as-you-go funding and a 3% assumed investment return
- Legal agreement determines contribution level - pegged to specified funded ratios
- Ramping up applies only to the investment portion of the benefits for first 5 years; not to the non-investment component
- 50% of "retroactive" 2008/09 losses amortized over 30 years
- System is now closed for non-Police but subject to ongoing litigation and court challenges; \$276,499,017 is minimum UAL amortization payment
- Amortization will revert to average future working lifetime, roughly 10 years, in event FR becomes < 100%
- Extraordinary 2008 actuarial loss amortized over 30 years
- Post-7/1/16 hires have option to elect to be in defined contribution ("DC") plan; to date, roughly 35% have elected DC
- 6.5% contribution (increases 0.5% per year until 9% is reached) will be made toward UAL for those in DC plan. Additional state contributions may be required as observed employer rate up to 17% and 8% (across all) employee rate are significantly below actuarial funding policy rate.
- Amortization payments increase at less than replacement for San Jose General 2.75% for San Jose Safety 2.25%
- Unrecognized losses as of June 30, 2019 combined into one layer of amortization over 4.5 years

Survey and related text will be posted on [reorderfinancial.com](http://reorderfinancial.com). We can be contacted at (619) 300-8500

FR = Funded ratio GL = actuarial general liability losses "Layered" means a new amortization base is created each year.  
POB = Pension Obligation Bond DC = Defined Contribution

Effective with the 2013 survey, the number of entities was reduced from 40 to 37, eliminating three small closed systems. Effective with the 2021 survey, the number of entities reduced to 36 to reflect omission of another closed system. The amortization periods for assumption changes are often longer than for GL and are not shown here. Often, there is a separate amortization policy applicable to benefit changes.