



Roberto L. Peña
Retirement Administrator

**FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
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January 16, 2004

Dear Member:

We pledged to keep you informed of events and developments related to FCERA's formula for calculating final compensation for the purposes of retirement. A court date has been set for January 30th to discuss one narrow, but crucial aspect of the issue – whether the county retirement law permits FCERA to use the "Fresno Method" as it has come to be called. This is a formula unique to Fresno County under which the selection of non-consecutive pay periods from throughout an employee's career is used to calculate his or her final compensation figure. Please note that no other aspects of the pending litigation over this issue will be tried at the January 30th court date.

However, in view of the imminent court date, the Board of Trustees will hold a general discussion on this matter at its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 21st, at approximately 11:00 AM. The Board is considering whether to take action at a future time on continuing to calculate benefits using the "26 highest pay period method"; and if the method were to change, how the change might be implemented fairly for our active, deferred and retired members. Again, there will be no action, but members may wish to attend and listen to the discussion or offer new input during the public comment portion of the meeting.

I apologize for the short notice of this meeting, but the item was added to the agenda just this week for discussion prior to the court date. However, be assured that this is only a general discussion. No changes or decisions will be made related to final compensation at this time.

Sincerely,

Roberto L. Peña
Retirement Administrator

RLP:alh