



Becky Van Wyk  
Interim Retirement Administrator

FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF RETIREMENT  
Dr. Rod Coburn, III, Chair  
Alan Cade, Jr., Vice Chair  
Marion Austin  
Laura P. Basua  
Judith Case McNairy  
Vicki Crow  
Robert Dowell  
Eulalio Gomez  
Steven J. Jolly

**DATE:** April 16, 2014  
**TO:** Trustees  
Board of Retirement  
**FROM:** Becky Van Wyk  
Interim Retirement Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Authority to Require Direct Deposit

Your Board recently requested that Administration determine if direct deposit could be required for all recurring benefit payments. This request was the result of numerous complaints of late receipt and non-receipt of paper benefit checks by our recipients. After researching California statutes and obtaining input from legal counsel, we have determined that your Board cannot require the use of direct deposit.

Please be aware, that FCERA staff and Administration strongly encourage the use of direct deposit. The topic is discussed during retirement counseling sessions and seminars, in the member handbooks and newsletter, as well as when returned mail is processed. However, for reasons known only to the participant, some people do not wish to use direct deposit. FCERA has reimbursed members for late fees, returned check fees, etc. that resulted from late/non-delivery of a check.

For those people that wish to continue receiving a paper check, the attached letter was drafted to remind them of the risks they are taking in connection with the possible late/non-receipt of the check and informing them that FCERA will not be liable for any costs incurred as a result of late or non-receipt of their monthly benefit checks. This letter will be provided to all beneficiaries that are currently receiving a paper check and during retirement counseling sessions. It will also be posted on FCERA's website and included in a future newsletter.

With your concurrence, FCERA will immediately begin distributing the attached letter. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this topic.



Updated: \_\_\_\_\_

# DIRECT DEPOSIT REQUEST

FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
1111 H Street, Fresno, CA 93721-2515

Phone (559) 457-0681 FAX (559) 457-0318 [www.fcera.org](http://www.fcera.org)

We are glad to be able to offer you **Direct Deposit** to your checking or savings account. If you would like to have your pension check directly deposited, please have your Bank complete **Section I** on the form below. You must complete **Section II** and then return it to **FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (FCERA)** office at the address below.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

**FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION  
1111 H STREET  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93721  
Phone (559) 457-0681**

## I. AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC DEPOSITS (ACH CREDITS)

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE **NORTHERN TRUST BANK**, HEREINAFTER CALLED COMPANY, TO INITIATE CREDIT ENTRIES AND TO INITIATE, IF NECESSARY, DEBIT ENTRIES AND ADJUSTMENTS FOR ANY CREDIT ENTRIES MADE IN ERROR TO THE CHECKING/ SAVINGS ACCOUNT INDICATED BELOW AT THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED BELOW, HEREINAFTER CALLED DEPOSITORY, TO CREDIT AND/OR DEBIT THE SAME TO SUCH ACCOUNT.

BANK NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BANK ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BANK PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKING \_\_\_\_\_ SAVINGS \_\_\_\_\_

ABA ROUTING # \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

The Depository Bank agrees to refund to the Trustee any payment or payments received and credited to the account in error or subsequent to the date of his/her death, to the extent funds are available in the account.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Depository Bank Representative's Signature)

Print Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form will not be accepted if modified in any way.**

**II.** This Authority is to remain in full force and effect until Company has received written notification from me of it's termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Company and Depository reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Check this box if you would like to receive a paper check and wish to **discontinue your direct deposit**. Please be aware, paycheck delivery may be delayed due to weather or postal service. Please carefully review the information on page 2 of this form before making this selection.

**NOTE: This section must be completed and signed to begin processing.**

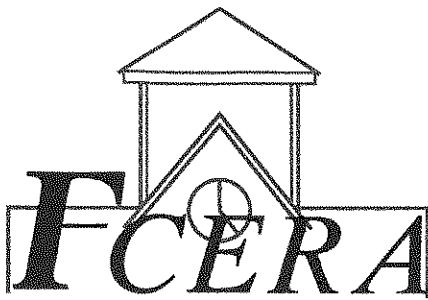
NAME \_\_\_\_\_, FRESNO COUNTY RETIREE

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_





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April 16, 2014

The Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association (FCERA) would like to take a moment to address concerns regarding the delivery of monthly benefits paid by paper check. While we strive to meet our members' expectations, there are some instances for which we have no control. That being said FCERA would like to note that benefit checks received by mail are not considered late until the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar day after expected delivery, which is the last County of Fresno business day of each month. Should there be an extended delay in delivery that is caused by weather or other event outside the control of FCERA or its disbursement bank, FCERA can not be held liable for any fees or other implications that may occur. However, a delay resulting from FCERA's operational delays, including FCERA's disbursement bank delays, will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

In order to reduce situations which could result in a delay of benefit payment, the Board of Retirement highly recommends the use of direct deposit. The utilization of direct deposit removes most reasons for delay and provides immediate access to funds on the day of payment. In addition a monthly benefit statement with an advice attached will be mailed to the address provided for record keeping. To establish direct deposit a signed direct deposit form is required. A direct deposit form is attached for your use. For future changes, a direct deposit form can be obtained from our website at [www.fcera.org](http://www.fcera.org) or by contacting us at 559.457.0681 to have one mailed to you.

FCERA wishes you a continued long and happy retirement. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at 559.457.0681.