

Becky Van Wyk Interim Retirement Administrator

FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF RETIREMENT

BOARD OF RETIREMENT
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October 23, 2014

Dear Retired FCERA Member,

I must inform you of an important change in your non-vested health benefit allowance ("Health2" on your check advice) that will be occurring shortly. FCERA staff has recently discovered that funds previously earmarked for payment of the <u>vested</u> retiree health benefit were incorrectly credited to the <u>non-vested</u> health benefit account many years ago. Had they been properly credited at the time, the funds remaining in the non-vested account would now be fully depleted.

Although we recently notified you that the non-vested benefit would be available until July – September next year, we now know that there are no more funds left in that account and the funding of this non-vested benefit must end as soon as possible.

Your FCERA Retirement Board is keenly aware that many of our retirees have come to depend on receiving these discretionary benefits to help manage their personal budgets, and did not expect that these funds would run out before next year. However, we cannot continue to pay this non-vested benefit out of money that was designated to pay for your promised benefits. California law and the Internal Revenue Service require us to adjust our books accordingly.

The Retirement Board is just now learning about this matter and intends to address it and discuss all available options during its next regularly scheduled public meeting on November 5th. We invite all members to attend and provide your comments at that time. If you are unable to attend but wish the Board to consider your views, please submit them in writing to the Board no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on October 30th so we may include them in the material provided to the Board in their meeting packet. Written comments may be emailed to FCERAWebmail@co.fresno.ca.us, or sent by U.S. Mail to the attention of Elizabeth Avalos, Board Secretary, FCERA, 1111 H Street, Fresno, CA 93721.

On behalf of the Board and all of us at FCERA, thank you for your patience as we work through this unexpected change in our ability to continue to pay these non-vested benefits. We pledge to seek the very best options legally available for lessening the impact on your personal budgets.

Sincerely,

Becky Van Wyk

Becky Van West

Interim Retirement Administrator