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## CARPENTER FUNDS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC.

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December 20, 2017

TO:

All Participants, Beneficiaries, Participating Local Unions, and

**Contributing Employers** 

FROM:

**Board of Trustees** 

RE:

Carpenters Pension Trust Fund for Northern California

Notice of Critical Status – EIN #94-6050970 Plan Year: September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018

If you are currently retired and receiving a monthly benefit payment from the Pension Fund, your monthly check will continue uninterrupted.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA") imposed rules designed to accelerate the funding of defined benefit plans like the Carpenters Pension Trust Fund for Northern California. Previously, plans were required to address funding issues only when a plan would not satisfy minimum funding standards for the current year, and could spread investment losses over longer periods of time. Alternatively, the PPA mandates that plans accelerate funding, anticipate future funding issues based upon projections, and for those certified to be in critical status to develop a "Rehabilitation Plan."

Federal law requires that you receive this notice. Following the determination of critical status ("red zone") for prior Plan Years, a Rehabilitation Plan was adopted that was designed to have the Pension Plan emerge from the red zone within the time frame allowed by law.

This is to inform you that on November 29, 2017, the actuary for the Carpenters Pension Trust Fund for Northern California (the "Plan") certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and to the Board of Trustees, that the Plan remains in critical status (the "red zone") for the Plan Year beginning September 1, 2017. The certification also notified the IRS that the Plan is making the scheduled progress in meeting the requirement of its Rehabilitation Plan.

Although the Pension Plan remains in critical (red zone) status, because the Rehabilitation Plan continues to address long term funding issues, no new changes are required at this time.

## **CRITICAL STATUS**

According to provisions of the PPA, for the Plan Year beginning September 1, 2017, the Plan is labeled as being in critical status because (1) the Plan has an accumulated funding deficiency within the next four Plan Years, (2) the Plan was in critical status last year and is projected to have an accumulated funding deficiency within the next ten Plan years and (3), the Plan did not have a projected insolvency.

## **REHABILITATION PLAN**

The Plan's actuary certified the Plan was in critical status for the first time for the Plan Year beginning September 1, 2009. Federal law requires that pension plans in critical status adopt a Rehabilitation Plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. This is the ninth year the Plan has been in critical status. The law permits pension plans in critical status to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "adjustable benefits" as part of a Rehabilitation Plan. On July 27, 2010, the Board of Trustees adopted a Rehabilitation Plan consisting of two contribution rate/benefit schedules. All contributing employers and bargaining units adopted the Rehabilitation Plan's "Preferred Schedule" which does not require elimination or reduction in "adjustable benefits." To minimize the impact to participants and employers, it was anticipated that the adopted Rehabilitation Plan would address the long term funding issues over the full time frame allowed by law.

The Plan remains in critical status. At this time no further modification to the benefit levels under the Preferred Schedule of the Rehabilitation Plan have been made. The Plan is continuing to make scheduled progress in meeting the requirements of its Rehabilitation Plan.