

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CEMENT MASONS TRUST FUNDS

2023-2024 NOTICE OF ENDANGERED STATUS

For

San Diego County Cement Masons Pension Plan

October 2023

To: All Participants, Beneficiaries, Participating Unions, and Contributing Employers

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that in September 2023, the Plan's actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and to the plan sponsor that the Plan is in endangered status for the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2023. The Plan was previously certified in critical status since the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2012 but emerged from critical status into endangered status in the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2015 and remains in endangered status for the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2023. Federal law requires that you receive this notice. The certification of Plan status and this notice are requirements provided for under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) and Section 432 of the Internal Revenue Code for multiemployer plans for plan years beginning in 2008. This notice is intended to meet the disclosure requirements of that Act and to inform you of the status of this Plan.

If the actuary certifies that the Plan's status is endangered (yellow zone), seriously endangered (orange zone), critical (red zone), or critical and declining (deep red zone), the Board of Trustees must notify the Plan's participants and beneficiaries, the bargaining parties, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, in writing, of this certification and take action to improve the Plan's funding status.

Endangered Status (Yellow Zone)

A Plan is considered to be in endangered status when its assets are less than 80% of its liabilities or the Plan is projected to have a funding deficiency within the next seven years. While the actuary for the San Diego County Cement Masons Pension Plan has certified that the Plan is not projected to have a funding deficiency, the Plan's assets are less than 80% of its projected liabilities. Therefore, the Plan is in endangered status (yellow zone).

Due to positive investment returns, hours improvement, provisions adopted by the Trustees under the previous Rehabilitation Plan adopted on September 17, 2012 as well as changes under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Plan emerged from critical status into endangered status in the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2015 and remains in endangered status for the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2023. The Plan successfully emerged from critical status because it was not projected to have a funding deficiency in the current and succeeding nine plan years and it satisfied the 30-year solvency requirement.

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Funding Improvement Plan

Federal law requires pension plans in endangered status to adopt a funding improvement plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. A funding improvement plan is an action plan designed to increase a plan's funded percentage and to ensure that contributions will be sufficient to satisfy the minimum amount required under law. A funding improvement plan was adopted on May 25, 2016 based on the Plan's emergence from critical status into endangered status as certified by the actuary on September 28, 2015. At the December 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees elected to extend the funding improvement plan by 5 years as permitted under Section 9702 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The funding improvement plan is expected to help the Plan emerge from endangered status by the end of its 15-year funding improvement period, which began July 1, 2017.

The law requires that the Plan's funding status be reviewed and certified annually and notices like this one be sent each year until the Plan is out of endangered status. Similarly, the funding improvement plan must be updated annually. There are several variables beyond the control of the Board of Trustees, including market volatility, the number of plan participants and/or the number of contributing employers, which could affect the Plan's funding status and necessary corrective actions in the future. The Board of Trustees remains confident that the Plan will continue to provide participants and their families with secure retirement benefits.

Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact the Plan Administrator by phone at (626) 444-4600 or by mail at Zenith American Solutions, 5417 N Peck Road, Arcadia, California 91006.

cc: U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation