## BEFORE THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT OF THE FRESNO COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of	)
Determining "Compensation Earnable" Under	er)
Government Code Section 31461 for Employee	s)
of the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging	)
	)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Retirement has the sole and exclusive responsibility for determining "compensation earnable" for the purpose of calculating the final compensation of retiring members, pursuant to Sections 31461, 31462 and 31462.1 of the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937, Government Code sections 31450, et seq. ("CERL") and the California Constitution, Article XVI, Section 17.

WHEREAS, On October 1, 1997, the decision of the California Supreme Court in the case Ventura County Deputy Sheriffs' Association v. Board of Retirement of Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association (1997) 16 Cal.4th 483 (the "Ventura Decision") became final.

WHEREAS, in the Ventura Decision, the Court mandated a change in the method for calculating pension benefits for members and their beneficiaries by retirement systems governed by CERL.

WHEREAS, Following the *Ventura* Decision, the practice of the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association ("FCERA") was to follow lists of pensionable and non-pensionable earn codes regarding pay items paid by the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging ("FMAAA"), which were developed in 1998 and supplemented from time to time thereafter.

WHEREAS, In early 1998, FCERA, the Board of Retirement, and the County were sued in three separate, and later consolidated, actions (the "Fresno Ventura 2 Cases") by a class of members consisting of all retirees, deferred retirees, beneficiaries and employees who were at that time members of FCERA ("FCERA Class Members").

WHEREAS, On December 15, 2000, the San Francisco Superior Court issued a Judgment in the Fresno Ventura 2 Cases approving a Revised Settlement Agreement that resolved all outstanding issues relating to the determination of "compensation earnable," pursuant to CERL Section 31461, as between the County, FCERA Class Members, FCERA and the Board of Retirement ("Settlement Agreement").

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2009, the Board of Retirement first adopted this Resolution regarding "compensation earnable" reported to FCERA by the FMAAA. .

WHEREAS, Effective January 1, 2013, the Legislature amended CERL section 31461. The Board of Retirement has determined that such amendment to CERL section 31461 does not require any changes to the FMAAA's reporting of "compensation earnable" to FCERA.

WHEREAS, This Earn Code Resolution is not intended to limit the Board's statutory authority and responsibility to exclude from "compensation earnable" "any compensation determined by the board to have been paid to enhance a member's retirement benefit under that system," as set forth in CERL section 31461(b)(1).

WHEREAS, After considering all of the information available to the Board, and exercising its judgment in the matter,

#### NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

(A) That the Board of Retirement hereby determines that only those FMAAA earn codes set forth in the list attached hereto as <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> shall be included in "compensation earnable" and all other FMAAA earn codes are excluded from

"compensation earnable." <u>Exhibit A</u> shall supersede the earn code lists attached to the December 16, 2009 earn code resolution.

- (B) That the Board of Retirement hereby adopts the following Policies and Guidelines, which shall be separate from the Board's Bylaws and the Board's Regulations:
  - Elements to be Included in "Compensation Earnable".

Remuneration <u>earned</u> and <u>received in cash</u> by the employee for working the ordinary time required of other employees in the same grade/class during normal working hours **s**hall be included in "compensation earnable," including but not limited to the following items of compensation, and others <u>substantially similar</u> to them:

**Base Salary** 

"Differential" Pay and other similar additional compensation paid to employees for special skills or services they provide or special circumstances of their employment during normal working hours

Bilingual Premium Pay

Uniform Allowance (paid in cash, not in-kind)

Educational Incentive Pay

Longevity Incentive

Payoffs of Vacation and Sick Leave and Holiday, to the extent earned and payable before termination under the applicable MOU

Employee Contributions to Deferred Compensation Plan

"Overtime" required to be worked that is ordinarily worked by all others in the same grade/class/rate of pay

Compensatory Time (if not excluded as "true overtime" (see definition below) and to the extent in excess of minimum required reserve)

Flexible Benefits to the extent paid in cash

Such additional elements as the Board may determine in the future.

### Elements to be Excluded From "Compensation Earnable".

Remuneration or other value received by the employee that is not earned and paid in cash to the employee for working the ordinary time required of other employees in the same grade/class during normal working hours shall be excluded from "compensation earnable," including but not limited to the following items, and others substantially similar to them:

True Overtime (amounts paid for working in excess of the time required and ordinarily worked by all others in the same grade/class)

Employer Contributions to Deferred Compensation Plan

Employer Contributions to Retirement System

Employer "Pick-up" of Employee Contributions to Retirement System

Flexible Benefits provided in-kind (payments to 3d-party providers or otherwise)

**Terminal Pay** 

**Expense Reimbursements** 

In-kind Advantages (e.g., food, lodging, laundry, fuel)

Fees, Licenses, Memberships provided to FCERA members by their employers

Standby and On Call

Such additional elements as the Board may determine in the future.

 This Earn Code Resolution does not, in any way, limit the Board's statutory authority and responsibility to exclude from "compensation

earnable" "any compensation determined by the board to have been paid to enhance a member's retirement benefit under that system," as set forth in Government Code section 31461(b)(1). Thus, amounts reported to the Board pursuant to this Earn Code Resolution are subject to exclusion from a member's "compensation earnable," pursuant to Government Code section 31461(b)(1).

(C) That this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.
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This Resolution was adopted by the Board of Retirement of the Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association at a meeting of the Board on December 16, 2009 and was amended and restated at a meeting of the Board, held on this 18th day of December, 2013 by the following vote, to wit:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

**BOARD OF RETIREMENT** 

Attest:

Phillip Kapler, Retirement Administrator

# Exhibit A Eligible Earn Codes - FMAAA - Pre-PEPRA Members

Code	Payroll System Description	Notes
01	REGULAR HOURS	
03	VACATION (TAKEN) - OLD A\L	Hired prior to October 19, 2000
04	VACATION (TAKEN) - NEW A\L	Hired on or after October 19, 2000
05	VACATION BUYOUT (Every 5 Yrs)	Allowed by Employer once every 5 years. Not retirement eligible for Tier V members. Eligible for Tiers I and II, but limited to the amount accrued and payable in the final compensation period for benefit determination purposes.
07	SICK LEAVE (taken) SELF	
08	SICK LEAVE (taken) FAMILY	
09	HOLIDAY ( Paid, not worked )	Regular rate of pay for Observed Holiday not worked.
10	JURY DUTY	
11	BEREAVEMENT LEAVE ( taken )	
12	JOB INJURY - ANNUAL LEAVE	
13	JOB INJURY - DAY OF INJURY ONLY	
17	DOCK TIME	Included at this time for all Tiers, subject to future review for consistency with all employer units.
18	ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE WITH PAY PENDING INVESTIGATION	
19	CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS	Regular Pay while member is in training. Used for tracking of time spent in training, but not a "premium pay" element.
20	MERIT - SALARY INCREASE	Regular Pay. A category used for tracking compensation changes. Not a "premium pay" element or "one-time".
21	MERIT - ONE-TIME PAYMENT	Eligible for Tier I and II. (not eligible under Tier V, not regular or recurring)