



# **Overview:**

# **Supplemental Pension Payment**

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# Background

- **The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) manages the retirement benefits of more than 1.8 million members, including almost 600,000 state members**
- **Retirement benefits of CalPERS members, including state employees, are funded by**
  - 1. Employee contributions**
  - 2. Employer Contributions**
  - 3. Investment returns earned by those contributions**

# Background (Continued)

- **State employees belong to one of the five CalPERS state retirement plans**
- **The state makes an annual contribution to these plans, towards the retirement benefits of its employees**
- **The amount is actuarially calculated to determine how much the state needs to contribute to secure state employees' retirement benefits**

# Current State of CalPERS' State Plans

- **As of June 30, 2016, the five CalPERS state retirement plans have an aggregate funded status of 65.1%, and an aggregate unfunded liability of \$59.5 billion**
- **CalPERS recently decided to lower its expected rate of future investment returns (discount rate) from 7.5 to 7%, which increased unfunded liabilities**
- **This increased the actuarially-required state contribution to \$5.3 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2017-18**

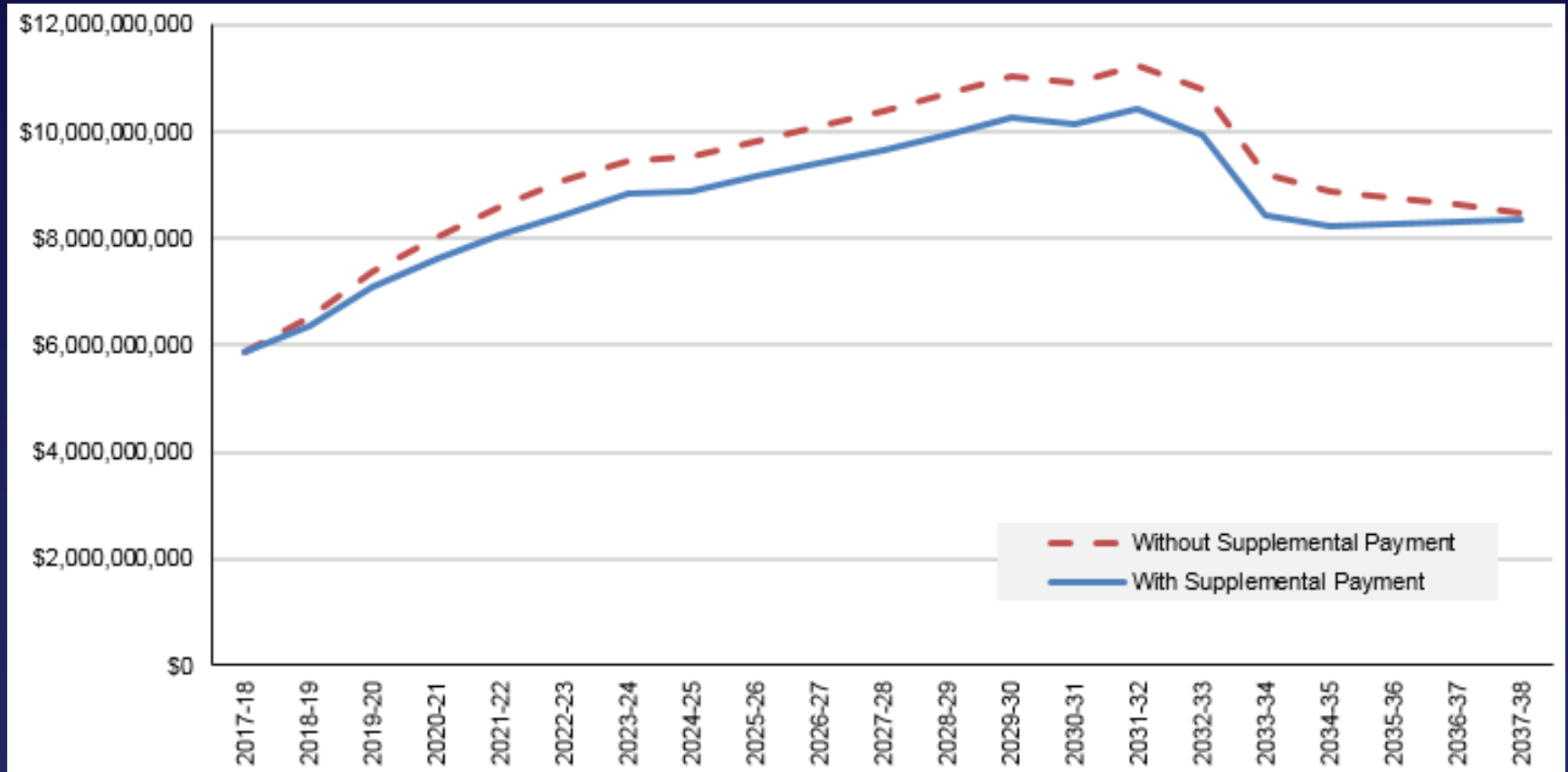
# Supplemental Pension Payment

- **The payment is a one-time, \$6 billion payment to CalPERS, in addition to the actuarially-determined annual state contribution**
- **Without payment, state contributions are estimated to reach \$9.7 billion in FY 2023-24**
- **Partially buys down the impact of the discount rate reduction**
- **Will be funded through an internal cash loan from a pooled fund that houses the state's surplus cash for short periods, and earns a low rate of return (currently about 1%)**

# Estimated Impact

- **\$11 billion in savings over the next 20 years**
- **Estimated savings account for the decrease in future state contributions (\$12 billion), and the interest owed on the loan funding the payment (\$1 billion)**
- **Estimated savings based on CalPERS' actuarial assumptions, including the 7% discount rate**
- **For reference, the 20-year average return for CalPERS is 7.03% as of June 30, 2016**

# Projected State Contributions



# Internal Cash Loan

- **State is in a healthy cash position to execute the loan**
- **The cash loan takes advantage of the large cash cushion the state has grown through the implementation of significant ongoing spending reductions and structurally balanced budgets**
- **FY 2017-18 is projected to end with \$33 billion in unused cash, after making the \$6 billion loan**



# Loan Repayment

- **All state funds normally responsible for retirement contributions must pay back the loan by 2030**
- **The General Fund's portion of the loan will be repaid using available debt repayment funds**
- **These debt repayment funds have been made available through the passage of Proposition 2**

# Loan Repayment (Continued)

- **Proposition 2 was an initiative passed by voters in 2014**
- **Requires a small percent of specified revenues to be set aside by the state to build a rainy day fund, and to pay down qualified debt payments**
- **Qualifying payments include budgetary borrowing, pensions, and retiree health benefits**
- **The supplemental pension payment meets the eligibility requirements for Proposition 2 debt repayment funding**

# Rating Agency Feedback

- **Credit rating agencies have viewed the payment positively because it reduces long-term unfunded pension liabilities at a faster rate**
- **In June 2017 report, Moody's referred to the payment as a "credit positive development"**
- **Fitch viewed "California as being well positioned to realize the plan's goals" and added that the payment "poses relatively little risk to overall state liquidity"**