



## San Joaquin County Employees' Retirement Association

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE:  
RECENT CHANGES IN FEDERAL AND STATE TAX LAWS ALLOW CERTAIN  
MEMBERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT  
ASSOCIATION (SJCERA) TO USE FUNDS FROM THEIR DEFERRED  
COMPENSATION ACCOUNTS TO PURCHASE ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT SERVICE  
CREDIT.**

Effective January 1, 2002, certain members of SJCERA (active employees, deferred retirees, and persons who retired since January 1, 2002), are able to directly transfer or rollover funds from eligible deferred compensation accounts for the purchase of eligible service credit in SJCERA. Eligible deferred compensation accounts include, but are not limited to, the County's 457 Plan administered by Hartford Life, 403b Plans, 401k Plans and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's).

Eligible service credit which may be purchased will depend upon the requirements of the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937 (the 1937 act), but includes prior San Joaquin County service (including temporary, contract, or part-time service) or prior public service (military service or service in a reciprocal retirement system such as PERS, STRS, or other county systems), for which the member is not already entitled to receive a pension or retirement allowance. Eligibility for the prior public service will require certification from the public agency for whom the services were rendered. For purchase of eligible military service, veterans should contact the Veterans' Service Officer at (209) 468-2916 and provide a copy of their form DD 214.

The purchase of service credit utilizing deferred compensation funds must be made in a lump sum. Members who retired since January 1, 2002 may purchase eligible service credit only by means of a direct transfer from 457 or 403(b) deferred compensation accounts. Pursuant to California law, this transfer must be completed by December 31, 2002. Deferred members are also eligible to purchase service credit through the rollover from a deferred compensation account or continue to use the other available methods – payroll deductions (pre or post tax) or by a lump sum payment check. SJCERA will not accept rollover funds beyond the cost to purchase eligible service.

If you are interested in this new payment method, begin by requesting an "Additional Service Credit Form" from SJCERA. Either call (209) 468-2163 or visit our web site at <http://www.sjcera.org> and download the form. Fill it out and return it to SJCERA. Computation of the cost to purchase service credit is generally completed within four to six weeks of the request. You will also need to contact your deferred compensation account administrator directly to determine the forms and procedures they will require in order to transfer or rollover the required payment directly to SJCERA. To determine the impact of purchasing additional service credit on your retirement benefit, visit our web site to calculate what your retirement benefits might be.

Any questions? Call us at SJCERA at (209) 468-2163.

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