



Southern California Pipe Trades Administrative Corporation
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ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE
For
Southern California Pipe Trades Retirement Fund

Introduction

This notice provides key details about your multiemployer pension plan (the “Plan”) for the plan year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 (“Plan Year”).

This is an informational notice. You do not need to respond or take any action.

This notice includes:

- Information about your Plan’s funding status.
- Details on your benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal insurance agency.

What if I have questions about this notice, my Plan, or my benefits?

Contact your plan administrator at:

- Southern California Pipe Trades Administrative Corporation
- **Phone:** (213) 385-6161
- **Address:** 501 Shatto Place, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90020

To better assist you, provide your plan administrator with the following information when you contact them:

- **Plan Number:** 001
- **Plan Sponsor Name:** Board of Trustees of the Southern California Pipe Trades Retirement Fund
- **Employer Identification Number:** 51-6108443

What if I have questions about the PBGC and the pension insurance program’s guarantees?

Visit www.pbgc.gov/prac/multiemployer for more information. For specific information about your pension plan or pension benefits, you should contact your employer or plan administrator as the PBGC does not have that information.

Federal law requires all traditional pension plans, also known as defined benefit pension plans, to provide this notice every year regardless of funding status. This notice does not mean your Plan is terminating.

How Well Funded Is Your Plan?

The law requires the Plan’s administrator to explain how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage.” The funded percentage is calculated by dividing Plan assets by Plan liabilities. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The chart below shows the Plan’s funded percentage for the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. It also lists the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for those years.

	Funded Percentage		
	2024	2023	2022
Valuation Date	January 1	January 1	January 1
Funded Percentage	104%	103%	102%
Value of Assets	\$1,518,708,002	\$1,444,415,925	\$1,376,003,880
Value of Liabilities	\$1,456,675,137	\$1,408,425,533	\$1,347,547,032

Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

To provide further insight into the Plan’s financial position, the chart below shows the fair market value of the Plan’s assets on the last day of the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years as compared to the actuarial value of the Plan’s assets on January 1.

- **Actuarial values (shown in the chart above)** account for market fluctuations over time. Unlike market values, actuarial values do not change daily with stock or market shifts.
- **Market values (shown in the chart below)** fluctuate based on investment performance, providing a more immediate snapshot of the plan’s funding status.

	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$1,548,899,450 ¹	\$1,424,940,533	\$1,265,065,282

Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status

Under federal pension law, a plan’s funding status determines the steps a plan must take to strengthen its finances and continue paying benefits:

- Endangered:** The plan’s funded percentage drops below 80 percent or meets other endangered status criteria. The plan’s trustees must adopt a funding improvement plan. However, under a law enacted in 2014, a plan will not be treated as in endangered status if the plan actuary certifies that (1) the plan is projected to no longer be in endangered status as of the end of the tenth plan year ending after the plan year to which the certification relates, and (2) the plan was not in critical or endangered status for the immediately preceding plan year.
- Critical:** The plan’s funded percentage falls below 65 percent or meets other financial distress criteria. The plan’s trustees must implement a rehabilitation plan.
- Critical and Declining:** A plan in critical status is also designated as critical and declining if projected to become insolvent—meaning it will no longer have enough assets to pay out benefits—within 15 years (or within 20 years under a special rule). The plan’s trustees must continue to implement the rehabilitation plan. The plan’s sponsor may seek approval to amend the plan, including reducing current and future benefits.

The Plan was not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.

Participant and Beneficiary Information

The following chart shows the number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the last day of the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. The numbers for the plan year ending in 2024 reflect the plan administrator’s reasonable, good faith estimate.

Number of participants and beneficiaries on last day of relevant plan year	2024	2023	2022
1. Last day of plan year	December 31	December 31	December 31
2. Participants currently employed	6,627	6,611	6,346
3. Participants and beneficiaries receiving benefits	5,846	5,774	5,748
4. Participants and beneficiaries entitled to future benefits (but not receiving benefits)	<u>3,016</u>	<u>2,799</u>	<u>2,735</u>
5. Total number of covered participants and beneficiaries (Lines 2 + 3 + 4 = 5)	15,489	15,184	14,829

Funding & Investment Policies

Funding Policy

Every pension plan must establish a funding policy to meet its objectives. The funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The Plan’s funding policy is to confirm that the minimum funding requirements of ERISA are being satisfied and to determine that anticipated employer contributions will not exceed the amounts deductible under the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan is funded through contributions paid by employers based on hours worked by their employees. The contribution amounts and procedure for remitting these contributions to the Plan are set forth in collective bargaining agreements.

Investment Policy

Once money is contributed to the Plan, the money is invested by plan officials called fiduciaries, who make specific investments in accordance with the Plan’s investment policy. Generally speaking, an investment policy is a written statement that provides the fiduciaries who are responsible for plan investments with guidelines or general instructions concerning investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan describes the:

- Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Administrator, Counsel, Investment Consultant, Investment Managers and Custodian
- Goals and Objectives
- Asset Allocation
- Investment Manager selection, guidelines, monitoring and reporting

The investment program is highly diversified and designed to prudently balance the desire to maximize returns over the long term with the short-term need to control risks and maintain sufficient liquidity to meet the current obligations of the Plan. The assets are managed by professional investment managers with specific expertise in their assigned mandates.

Under the Plan’s investment policy, the Plan’s assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. Note that this asset allocation is based on calculations of fair market value of assets as of December 31, 2024 which are preliminary and which are subject to change upon completion of the audited financial statements. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
Public equity	39.94%
Private equity	13.71%
Investment grade debt instruments	13.30%
High-yield debt instruments	2.82%
Cash and cash equivalents	2.59%
Real estate	7.54%
Other	20.10%

The average return on assets for the Plan Year was 8.9%.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension plans must file an annual report, called the **Form 5500**, with the U.S. Department of Labor. The Form 5500 includes financial and other information about these pension plans.

You can get a copy of your Plan’s Form 5500:

- Online:** Visit www.efast.dol.gov to search for your Plan’s Form 5500.
- By Mail:** Submit a written request to your plan administrator.
- By Phone:** Call 202-693-8673 to speak with a representative of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Public Disclosure Room.

The Form 5500 does not include personal information, such as your accrued benefits. For details about your accrued benefits, contact your plan administrator.

Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal. The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan’s available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC, below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan’s financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and the PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

Only vested benefits—those that you’ve earned and cannot forfeit—are guaranteed.

What the PBGC Guarantees

The PBGC guarantees “basic benefits” including:

- Pension benefits at normal retirement age.
- Most early retirement benefits.
- Annuity benefits for survivors of plan participants.
- Disability benefits for disabilities that occurred before the earlier of the date the plan terminated or the sponsor’s bankruptcy date.

What the PBGC Does Not Guarantee

The PBGC does not guarantee certain types of benefits, including:

- A participant’s pension benefit or benefit increase until it has been part of the plan for 60 full months. Any month in which the multiemployer plan was insolvent or terminated due to mass withdrawal does not count toward this 60-month requirement.
- Any benefits above the normal retirement benefit.
- Disability benefits in non-pay status.
- Non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

Determining Guarantee Amounts

The maximum benefit the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Your plan is covered by the PBGC’s multiemployer program. The maximum PBGC guarantee is \$35.75 per month, multiplied by a participant’s years of credited service.

The PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit based on the plan’s monthly benefit accrual rate and your years of credited service. The guarantee is calculated as follows:

- Take 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan’s monthly benefit accrual rate.
- Take 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate.
- Add both amounts together.
- Multiply the total by your years of credited service to determine your guaranteed monthly benefit.

Example 1: Participant with a Monthly \$600 Benefit and 10 Years of Service.

- Find the accrual rate: \$600/10 = \$60 accrual rate.
- Apply the PBGC formula:
Take 100 percent of the first \$11= \$11
Take 75 percent of the next \$33 = \$24.75
- Add the two amounts together: \$11 + \$24.75 = \$35.75
- Multiply by years of credited service: \$35.75 x 10 years = \$357.50

In this example, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50.

Example 2: Participant with a \$200 Monthly Benefit and 10 Years of Service.

- Find the accrual rate: \$200/10 = \$20 accrual rate.
- Apply the PBGC formula:
Take 100 percent of the first \$11= \$11
Take 75 percent of the next \$9 = \$6.75
- Add the two amounts together: \$11 + \$6.75 = \$17.75
- Multiply by years of credited service: \$17.75 x 10 years = \$177.50

In this example, the participant’s guaranteed monthly benefit is \$177.50.

¹ The December 31, 2024 fair market value of assets figure is an estimate provided by the investment consultant. The final figure may differ from this estimate once the Plan’s regular audit is issued for the Plan Year.