



Tracy Rural County Fire Protection District

Agenda Item 4.1

STAFF REPORT

Meeting: Regular Meeting
Date: May 12, 2026
To: Board of Directors
Prepared by: Raychel Jackson, District Clerk
Approved by: Craig Miller, Chairperson

Re: Review and Approval of Proposal of Actuarial Consulting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Action Item Non-Action Item

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the proposal from VIA Actuarial Solutions for actuarial consulting services related to the review and analysis of the District's CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) and authorize staff to execute the necessary agreement and related documents.

BACKGROUND

The District participates in various CalPERS retirement plans associated with the District, the City of Tracy, and the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority (SSJCFA). As the District evaluates future financial obligations and long-term pension liabilities, the Board has expressed interest in obtaining an independent actuarial review and analysis of the District's CalPERS related unfunded liabilities and contribution requirements.

VIA Actuarial Solutions submitted a proposal to provide actuarial consulting services to the District. VIA specializes in public sector pension and retiree healthcare actuarial analyses and currently provides services to more than 100 California public agencies, including cities, counties, and special districts.

DISCUSSION

Via includes two service options for Board consideration:

Option 1: Analytical Report

Under this option, VIA would prepare a comprehensive standalone actuarial analysis and written report regarding the District's portion of the CalPERS unfunded pension liability. The report would include:

- Independent actuarial analysis and estimates
- Review of plan data, assumptions, methodologies, and contribution requirements
- Written findings and actuarial context
- Professional recommendations and analysis to support Board decision-making



Tracy Rural County Fire Protection District

Option 2 – Review and Commentary on Existing Report

Under this option, VIA would:

- Review the existing CalPERS analysis prepared for the City of Tracy
- Evaluate the reasonableness of methods, assumptions, and conclusions
- Provide written commentary, observations, and identification of key issues for further consideration

VIA identifies Option 2 as the recommended and more cost-effective approach because it avoids duplication of work already completed while still providing the District with independent actuarial expertise and professional analysis.

The proposal also includes one complimentary videoconference meeting with the District at no additional charge.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The proposal provides the following fixed-fee pricing structure:

- Option 1 – Analytical Report: \$17,500
- Option 2 – Review and Commentary on Existing Report: \$8,500

Funding for the selected option would be allocated from the Operating budget, which is proposed in the FY26-27.

ATTACHMENTS

- Via Actuarial Solutions Proposal

May 5, 2026

Raychel Jackson, CSDM
Clerk of the Board
Tracy Rural County Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 731
Tracy, CA 95378

Re: Quote for Actuarial Consulting Services

VIA Actuarial Solutions (VIA) is pleased to submit our quote for actuarial consulting services to the Tracy Rural County Fire Protection District (Tracy Rural). We bring deep California public sector expertise to this engagement. Our clients include more than 100 California cities, counties, special districts, and other public agencies.

- We work with our clients to provide pension and retiree healthcare actuarial analyses, including review of unfunded liabilities and contribution requirements, and preparation of GASB accounting reports. **We are one of the few actuarial firms in California that help public agencies evaluate alternative CalPERS contribution strategies to help reduce long-term costs.**
- Our clients range from agencies with only a few employees to agencies with thousands of employees and retirees. We've worked with retirement plans in every California county and understand the California retirement landscape.



We provide our clients with value that goes beyond competitive pricing. Our customer service approach revolves around three core principles: responsiveness, experience, and practical advice



Responsiveness. If it's important to you, it's important to us. Our actuaries understand the importance of providing timely, high-quality actuarial services. Our staff size ensures that we have sufficient resources to respond to our clients' needs. We're committed to providing your actuarial information on time and on budget.



Experience. We have been preparing public and private sector pension and OPEB valuations since our founding in 1991. Our clients include over 500 cities, counties, special districts and other public agencies across the USA. More than 100 of our public sector clients are in California – we know and understand these types of benefits.



Practical advice. We're known for practical solutions that get the job done. You need a consultant who provides an array of solutions and explains them in layperson's terms to help you decide which one is best. **We are experts in communicating complex pension topics clearly to staff, boards, and other stakeholders.**

Our firm employs 15 actuarial professionals plus an operations supervisor. Our consulting team consists of 6 consulting actuaries, including 5 Fellows of the Society of Actuaries and 1 additional ERISA Enrolled Actuary. Our consultants are all Members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Academy's Qualification Standards to render actuarial opinions.

Our company size ensures that you receive timely actuarial services from a reputable firm.

We also have strong relationships with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT), Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS), CalPERS, and the California State Controller's Office (SCO). These connections are useful when questions arise on technical and reporting issues.

The remainder of this document summarizes our proposed fees. We would be glad to provide additional information about our firm's experience and expertise.

We trust that this proposal satisfactorily outlines our services and fees. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Ganab in our Los Angeles office at 310.596.7045 / gganab@viaactuarial.com.

We look forward to working with Tracy Rural!

Gina N. Ganab, FSA, EA, MAAA, FCA
Consulting Actuary, Vice President

L/D/C/R: 4/gng/mws

Scope of Work

Based on our discussions and correspondence with Tracy Rural, our understanding is the Board is interested in receiving a comprehensive analysis and written report reviewing the CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) and related contribution requirements for various plans benefiting Tracy Rural employees and retirees. These CalPERS plans are offered by Tracy Rural, the City of Tracy (the City), and the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority (SSJCFA), which is a JPA between the City and Tracy Rural.

Our proposed scope of services includes two options for Tracy Rural to choose from:

1. Full Replication and Analytical Report

We will prepare a standalone actuarial analysis and written report addressing Tracy Rural's CalPERS-related concerns and considerations, including review of relevant plan data, methodologies, assumptions, and contribution or liability measures, as applicable.

The deliverable will be a formal written report based on an independent estimate of Tracy Rural's portion of the total unfunded pension liability. The report will summarize key findings, explain underlying drivers, and provide actuarial context to support informed decision-making. This scope is intended to result in a complete and self-contained report, independent of prior analysis prepared by others, and will reflect our professional judgment and actuarial expertise.

2. Review and Commentary on Existing Report (Recommended Approach)

While we are prepared to perform the full analysis described above, we also recommend Tracy Rural consider a more streamlined initial approach. Under this alternative, we would:

- Perform a detailed review of the CalPERS analysis prepared for and provided by the City of Tracy and the City's actuary,
- Assess the reasonableness of methods, assumptions, and conclusions presented, and
- Provide written commentary and professional observations, including identification of key issues or areas warranting further consideration.

This approach allows Tracy Rural to benefit from independent actuarial perspective and expertise while avoiding unnecessary duplication of work already performed. In our experience, this can be an efficient and more cost-effective way to address Board or stakeholder questions, particularly when an existing analysis is already available as a starting point.

Cost Proposal

Our proposed engagement fees for each option are outlined below.

Actuarial Consulting Services	Fixed Fee
Option 1: Full Analytical Report	\$17,500
Option 2: Review and Commentary on Existing Report	\$8,500

Meetings: Each report includes one complimentary videoconference call with Tracy Rural at no additional charge. If Tracy Rural prefers additional meetings (virtual or in-person), then we would be glad to participate in those as well and will provide a fixed fee quote upon request.

Hourly Rates: Out-of-scope projects will be billed at our normal hourly rates or for a fixed fee agreed upon in advance. For 2026, our hourly rates range from \$165 to \$265 for actuarial analysts and managers, and from \$365 to \$425 for consulting actuaries. Our hourly rates increase with inflation annually. We will notify you if any out-of-scope fees will apply and provide fee quotes for additional consulting projects.