# CITY OF VERNON WATER FUND (AN ENTERPRISE FUND OF THE CITY OF VERNON, CALIFORNIA)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020



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## Introduction

## A Message from Abraham Alemu, General Manager of Vernon Public Utilities

Vernon Public Utilities (VPU) offers electricity, natural gas, water, and fiber optic services to its customers. VPU has a long history of providing highly reliable service at competitive rates. In the past year, VPU completed major infrastructure upgrade projects and financing initiatives. For example, an aging electric substation was successfully replaced and rehabilitation of aging water wells was initiated. In the financing area, VPU successfully secured electric and water bonds at very attractive rates to fund capital improvement projects. It also achieved a boost to its credit rating. Moody's upgraded the Electric Enterprise Credit Rating from Baa3 to Baa2 while S&P assigned the Water Enterprise insured AA/A- insured/underlying rating and the Electric Enterprise a BBB+ credit rating.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic presented a challenge to the utility. At the onset of the pandemic, VPU responded swiftly and adeptly to the rapidly changing conditions. VPU was able to develop a comprehensive plan that ensured it was able to navigate the pandemic without disruption to providing service in four different enterprises while reducing exposure to staff.

VPU continues to remain on track in completing major capital improvements in the current and upcoming years, notwithstanding COVID-19 challenges. Our organization will continue to adhere to the core values of safety, reliability and providing superior customer service.

## FY 2019-2020 Vernon Public Utilities at a Glance

WATER	
Service area	4.2 square miles
Service meters	1,328 meters
Number of miles of water mains	49
Number of active wells	8
Number of reservoirs	8
Total reservoir capacity (gallons)	16.375 MG
Number of booster stations	3
Average day demand	18.09 acre feet
Maximum day peak factor	1.86

## Major Initiatives and Accomplishments

## **Water Division**

- Community Outreach Event and BIC presentation of Water Division CIP and Tax-Exempt Bond
- Water Enterprise Credit Rating earned a AA/A- insured/underlying rating from S&P
- The Water Replenishment District New Well Construction and Rehabilitation Loan Program financially assisted the successful drilling and casing for Well 22
- Continued implementation of program to automate efficient and safe operation of water production, storage, and conveyance facilities
- Ongoing investment into Advanced Metering Infrastructure
- Revised the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Began Water Master Plan and Operational Analysis
- Continued proactive maintenance based bi-directional flushing program to improve water quality
- Initiated rehabilitation projects on Well 15, Well 17, and Well 21
- Secured Tax Exempt Water Bond to fund \$15 million in Water related Capital Improvement Projects
- On behalf of the City, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California secured a state grant to destroy Well 5
- Multiple VPU staff members were nominated and received VEEP (Vernon Exceptional Employee Program) awards in both individual and team categories in acknowledgment of their exceptional work throughout the year

## **Compliance**

 Development and implementation of Policy on Residential Water Service Disconnection in compliance with Senate Bill 998



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Mayor and the Members of the City Council City of Vernon, California

## **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Water Fund of the City of Vernon, (Water Fund), an enterprise fund of the City of Vernon, California (City), which comprise the statement of net position as of June 30, 2020, and the related statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Water Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

## Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Water Fund of the City of Vernon, California, as of June 30, 2020, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Other Matters**

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements present only the Water Fund and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the City of Vernon, California as of June 30, 2020, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

## Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, schedule of proportionate share of the City's net pension, schedule of plan contributions, schedule of proportionate share of the City's net OPEB liability, and schedule of OPEB contributions, identified as Required Supplementary Information (RSI) in the accompanying table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

## Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Water Fund's basic financial statements. The introduction section are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The introduction section has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

## Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 11, 2021, on our consideration of the City's internal control over the financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Clifton Larson Allen LLP

Irvine, California March 11, 2021 The management of the Water Fund of the City of Vernon ("the City") offers the following overview and analysis of the basic financial statements of the Water Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Management encourages readers to utilize information in the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) in conjunction with the accompanying basic financial statements.

## **OVERVIEW OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The MD&A is intended to serve as an introduction to the Water Fund's basic financial statements. Included as part of the financial statements are three separate statements.

The *statement of fund net position* presents information on the Water Fund's total assets and deferred outflows of resources and total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference between the two reported as net position.

The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net position presents information showing how the Water Fund's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. Financial results are recorded using the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, all changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying events occur, regardless of the timing of cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses reported in this statement for some items may affect cash flows in a future fiscal period (examples include billed but uncollected revenues and employee earned but unused vacation leave).

The *statement of cash flows* reports cash receipts, cash payments, and net changes in cash and cash equivalents from operations, noncapital financing, capital and related financing, and investing activities.

The *notes to the basic financial statements* provide additional information that is essential to fully understand the data provided in the financial statements.

## **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Fund Net Position

The table below summarizes the Water Fund's net position as of the current fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 and prior fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The details of the current year's summary can be found on page 9 of this report.

City of Vernon Water Fund Fund Net Position June 30, 2020 and 2019

				 Change	
		2020	 2019	Amount	%
Assets:				 <u> </u>	
Current and other assets	\$	9,780,247	\$ 8,259,653	\$ 1,520,594	18%
Restricted assets		15,005,468	-	15,005,468	100%
Advances to other City funds		4,388,988	6,447,171	(2,058,183)	-32%
Capital assets		10,848,776	 7,378,550	 3,470,226	47%
Total assets		40,023,479	22,085,374	17,938,105	81%
		_	_	 	
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		668,827	 675,417	(6,590)	-1%
Liabilities:					
Current liabilities		1,838,093	1,570,672	267,421	17%
Long term liabilities		20,896,848	 4,320,474	 16,576,374	384%
Total liabilities		22,734,941	5,891,146	16,843,795	286%
	<u> </u>	_	_	 <u> </u>	
Deferred Inflows of Resources		409,346	 441,542	 (32,196)	-7%
	<u> </u>	_	_	 <u> </u>	
Net Position:					
Net investment in capital assets		9,273,640	7,378,550	1,895,090	26%
Unrestricted (deficit)		8,274,379	 9,049,553	 (775,174)	-9%
Total net position	\$	17,548,019	\$ 16,428,103	\$ 1,119,916	7%
Net Position:  Net investment in capital assets Unrestricted (deficit)	\$	9,273,640 8,274,379	\$ 7,378,550 9,049,553	\$ 1,895,090 (775,174)	26% -9%

The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Water Fund exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$17,548,019 (net position).

The category of the Water Fund's net position with the largest balance totaling \$9,273,640 represents resources that are invested in capital assets, net of related liabilities.

The remaining category of net position, totaling \$8,274,379, represents the unrestricted net position that is expected to be used for future projects or other purposes.

## Activities. Net Position:

- Current assets increased by \$1.5 million from the prior year mainly due to increases in cash by \$0.7 million, accounts receivable by \$0.1 million and accrued unbilled revenue by \$0.7 million.
- Restricted assets increased by \$15 million with the issuance of the Water System Revenue Bonds 2020 Series A.
- Capital assets increased \$3.5 million from the prior year mainly due to additional construction expenses and purchase of equipment totaling \$3.9 million, net of depreciation of \$0.4 million (See Note 5).
- Deferred outflows of resources decreased by \$7 thousand in 2020.
- Current liabilities increased by \$267 thousand from the prior year mainly due to increases in the accounts payable balance by \$53 thousand, bond interest payable by \$91 thousand, note payable by \$69 thousand and compensated absences by \$31 thousand.
- Long-term liabilities increased by \$16.5 million from the prior year mainly due to increases in the bond payable by \$15.4 million by the issuance of the Water Systems revenue bonds 2020, the note payable by \$0.7 million and the allocated amounts of the net pension liability by \$0.4 million.
- Deferred inflows of resources decreased by \$32 thousand due to the decrease in the OPEB-related deferred inflows of resources balance of \$42 thousand and an increase in the deferred inflow related to pension of \$10 thousand.
- The net investments in capital assets, net of related debt increased by \$1.9 million while the
  unrestricted net position decreased by \$0.8 million causing an increase of the total net
  position of \$1.1 million.

## Changes in Fund Net Position

The table below summarizes the Water Fund's changes in net position over the current and prior fiscal years. The details of the current year's changes in net position can be found on page 11 of this report.

## City of Vernon Water Fund Changes in Fund Net Position June 30, 2020 and 2019

			Change	
	2020	2019	Amount	%
Operating Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 10,460,467	\$ 9,345,045	\$ 1,115,422	12%
Operating Expenses:				
Cost of sales	8,937,475	7,560,751	1,376,724	18%
Depreciation	356,509	331,922	24,587	7%
Total operating expenses	9,293,984	7,892,673	1,401,311	18%
Operating income	1,166,483	1,452,372	(285,889)	-20%
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):				
Investment income	41,717	13,468	28,249	210%
Interest expense	(88,284)		(88,284)	-100%
Net nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(46,567)	13,468	(60,035)	-446%
Change in net position	1,119,916	1,465,840	(345,924)	-24%
Net position - beginning of year	16,428,103	14,962,263	1,465,840	10%
Net position - end of year	\$ 17,548,019	\$ 16,428,103	\$ 1,119,916	7%

The Water Fund's operating income of \$1.1 million resulted in the increase in net position of the same amount during the current year.

The Water Fund's operating activities increased net position by \$1.1 million which is \$0.3 million lower than the prior year. The key reason for this change was due to the decrease in operating income by \$0.3 million because of a 12% increase in charges for services offset by an 18% increase in operating expenses.

## **CAPITAL ASSET**

The Water Fund's investment in capital assets as of June 30, 2020 amounted to \$10.8 million (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, construction in progress, building, utilities system improvements, and machinery and equipment. The total increase in the Water Fund's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year was \$3.9 million, offset by depreciation of \$0.4 million, for a net increase of \$3.5 million.

Additional information on the Water Fund's capital assets can be found in Note 5 on page 22 of this report.

## **Outstanding debt**

As of June 30, 2020, the following debt remains outstanding:

\$14,840,000 City of Vernon Water System Revenue Bonds, 2020 Series A

The City of Vernon Water System Revenue Bonds, 2020 Series A were issued to provide funds to (i) finance the acquisition and construction of certain capital improvements to the Water System of the City, (ii) purchase a municipal bond debt service reserve insurance policy for deposit in the Reserve Fund in satisfaction of the Reserve Requirement, and (iii) to pay costs of issuance of the 2020 Bonds.

As of June 30, 2020, the ratings on all Water System Revenue Bonds is AA by S&P and not rated by Moody's.

Additional information on the Water Fund's long-term debt can be found in Note 6 on pages 23-25 of this report.

#### **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEW YEAR'S BUDGET AND RATES**

These factors were considered in preparing the Water Fund's budget for the 2021 fiscal year.

- The City is strictly industrial and does not maintain an unemployment rate study of its small population. However, the unemployment rate of adjacent communities is currently 19.6%, which is higher than the State of California's average unemployment rate of 15.1%, and higher than the national average unemployment rate of 11.1%.
- Inflationary trends in the region compare favorably to national indices.
- The occupancy rate of the City's central business district ranges between 96% and 98%.

#### REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Water Fund's finances for all those with an interest in the Water Fund's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Director of Finance, City of Vernon, 4305 Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, California, 90058.

ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,952,517
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$88,000	769,394
Accrued unbilled revenue	1,058,213
Accrued interest receivable	123
Total current assets	9,780,247
Noncurrent assets	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	15,005,468
Advances to other City funds	4,388,988
Capital assets	
Nondepreciable	4,136,340
Depreciable, net	6,712,436
Total noncurrent assets	30,243,232
Total assets	40,023,479
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred outflows related to pensions	540,343
Deferred outflows related to OPEB liability	128,484
Total deferred outflows of resources	668,827

June 30, 2020 (Continued)

LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	0 1 405 045
Accounts payable	\$ 1,425,945
Accrued wages and benefits	120,770
Due to other City funds	5,386
Customer deposits	61,184
Bond interest payable	91,464
Note payable	68,718
Compensated absences	64,626
Total current liabilities	1,838,093
Noncurrent liabilities	
Bonds payable, net	15,413,993
Note payable	670,002
Compensated absences	129,253
Other postemployment benefit liability	719,261
Net pension liability	3,964,339
Total noncurrent liabilities	20,896,848
Total liabilities	22,734,941
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred inflows related to pensions	49,837
Deferred inflows related to OPEB liability	359,509
Total deferred inflows of resources	409,346
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	9,273,640
Unrestricted (deficit)	8,274,379
Total net position	\$ 17,548,019

## City of Vernon, California

## Water Fund

## Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

## Year ended June 30, 2020

Operating revenues	
Charges for services	\$ 10,460,467
Total operating revenue	10,460,467
Operating expenses	
Cost of sales	8,937,475
Depreciation	356,509
Total operating expenses	9,293,984
Operating income	1,166,483
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)	
Investment income	41,717
Interest expense	(88,284)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	(46,567)
Change in net position	1,119,916
	16.400.102
Net position - beginning of year	16,428,103
Net position - end of year	\$ 17,548,019

Cash flows from operating activities	
Cash received from customers	\$ 9,604,955
Cash paid to suppliers for goods and services	(7,271,435)
Cash paid to employees for services	(1,096,828)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,236,692
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities	
Issuance of bonds	15,417,173
Proceeds from note payable	738,720
Net acquisition of capital assets	(3,826,735)
Net cash provided by capital and related financing activities	12,329,158
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities	
Payment from (provided to) other City funds	2,058,183
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	2,058,183
Cash flows from investing activities	
Investment income	41,594
Cash provided by investing activities	41,594
Change in cash and cash equivalents	15,665,627
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	7,292,358
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 22,957,985
Composition of Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,952,517
Restricted cash and investments	15,005,468
	\$ 22,957,985
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash	
provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Operating income (loss)	1,166,483
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss)	, ,
to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Depreciation	356,509
Change in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	(164,125)
Accrued unbilled revenue	(696,187)
Deferred outflows of resources	6,590
Accounts payable	53,260
Accrued wages and benefits	13,246
Due to other funds	5,386
Customer deposits	4,800
Compensated absences	91,641
Other postemployment benefit liability	154
Net pension liability	431,131
Deferred inflows of resources	(32,196)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ 1,236,692

## NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying financial statements present only the Water Enterprise Fund (the Water Fund) of the City of Vernon, California (the City), and do not present fairly the financial position and results of the operations of the City. The Water Fund accounts for the independent operations and the maintenance of the City's Water utility. The Water Fund is administered as an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording resources, related liabilities, obligations, reserves, and equities, segregated for the purpose of carrying out specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations.

For additional information regarding the City of Vernon, refer to the City's annual financial report.

The financial statements of the Water Fund have been prepared in conformity with the U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Water Fund's significant accounting policies are described below.

## **Basis of Presentation**

The Water Fund's financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place.

The Water Fund distinguishes *operating* revenues and expenses from *nonoperating* items. *Operating* revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the sale of Water. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. *Nonoperating* revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or ancillary activities. *Operating* expenses include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses and depreciation on capital assets. All expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating expenses.

## **Pooled Cash**

Part of the Water Fund's operating cash balance is pooled with various other City funds for deposit purposes. The share of each fund in the pooled cash account is recorded in each of the fund's books of accounts, and interest income is apportioned to the participating funds based on the relationship of their average monthly balances to the total of the pooled cash.

## NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

## **Cash Deposits and Investments**

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Water Fund considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted cash and investments) with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Investment transactions are recorded on the settlement date. Investments in nonparticipating interest-earning investment contracts are reported at cost and all other investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is defined as the amount that the Water Fund could reasonably expect to receive for an investment in a current sale between a willing buyer and a seller and is generally measured by quoted market prices.

## Receivables/Payables

Short-term City interfund receivables and payables are classified as "due from other City funds" and "due to other City funds", respectively, on the statement of net position. Long-term City interfund receivables and payables are classified as "advances to/from other City funds," respectively, on the statement of net position.

Trade receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts. Allowances for uncollectible accounts were \$88,000 as of June 30, 2020. The Water Fund's customers are billed monthly. The estimated value of services provided, but unbilled at year-end has been included in the accompanying financial statements.

## **Capital Assets**

Capital assets (including infrastructure) are recorded at historical cost or at estimated historical cost if the actual historical cost is not available. Contributed capital assets are recorded at their estimated acquisition value at the date contributed. Capital assets include land, construction in progress, and plant assets including building, improvements, and machinery and equipment. The capitalization threshold for all capital assets is \$5,000. Capital assets used in operations are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Utility plant and buildings25 to 50 yearsImprovements10 to 20 yearsMachinery and equipment3 to 35 years

Maintenance and repairs are charged to operations when incurred. Betterments and major improvements, which significantly increase values, change capacities or extend useful lives, are capitalized. Upon sale or retirement of capital assets, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any resulting gain or loss is included in the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

City of Vernon, California Water Fund Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2020

## NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

## **Compensated Absences**

Accumulated vacation is accrued when incurred. Upon termination of employment, the Water Fund will pay the employee all accumulated vacation leave at 100% of the employee's base hourly rate.

## **Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources**

The Water Fund recognizes deferred outflows and inflows of resources. A deferred outflow of resource is defined as a consumption of net position by the Water Fund that is applicable to a future reporting period. A deferred inflow of resources is defined as an acquisition of net position by the Water Fund that is applicable to a future reporting period. On June 30, 2020, the Water Fund has deferred outflows of resources representing deferred amounts on pension-related transactions and postemployment benefit-related transactions and deferred inflows of resources representing pension-related transactions and postemployment benefit-related transactions.

## **Long-Term Obligations**

Bond discounts and premiums are amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method.

## **Net Position**

The Water Fund financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized as invested in capital assets (net of related debt), restricted and unrestricted.

- Net Investment in Capital Assets This category groups all capital assets into one component of net position. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of liabilities that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce the balance in this category.
- Restricted Net Position This category presents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- Unrestricted Net Position This category represents the net position of the Water Fund not restricted for any project or other purposes.

The Water Fund's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available is to use restricted resources first.

## Use of Estimates

The preparation of the basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

## NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

## **Pensions**

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability and deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the City's California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) plan and additions to/deductions from the Pension Plans' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by CalPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

## Other Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense information about the fiduciary net position of the City's OPEB Plan and additions to/deductions from the Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Plan. For this purpose, the Plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

## **Implementation of New Accounting Pronouncements**

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, the City adopted the following new Statement of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB):

## GASB Statement No. 95

In May 2020, GASB issued Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authority Guidance*, which was effective immediately. This Statement provided temporary relief to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and postponed the effective dates of certain provisions in Statements and Implementation Guides that first became effective or are scheduled to become effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2018, and later. The City implemented Statement No. 95 and postponed the implementation of the provisions in Statements and Implementation Guides that were previously required to be implemented for fiscal year 2019-2020.

## **Pending Accounting Standards**

The City is evaluating the impact of the following GASB statements on financial reporting in the future:

- GASB 87 Leases, effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2021.
- GASB 96 Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022.

## **NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash and cash equivalents as of June 30, 2020, are classified in the accompanying statement of net position as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,952,517
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	15,005,468
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22,957,985

Cash and cash equivalents as of June 30, 2020 consist of the following:

Equity in the City's pooled cash	\$ 1,917,739
Deposits with financial institutions	6,034,778
Short-term investments	15,005,468
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22,957,985

## **Equity in the Cash Pool of the City of Vernon**

The Water Fund has equity in the cash pool managed by the City. The Water Fund is a voluntary participant in that pool and the pool is governed by and under the regulatory oversight of the Investment Policy adopted by the City Council of the City. The Water Fund has not adopted an investment policy separate from that of the City. The amount of the Water Fund's cash in this pool is reported in the accompanying financial statements based upon the Water Fund's pro rata share of the amount calculated by the City. The balance available for withdrawal is based on the accounting records maintained by the City.

## The City's Investment Policy

The City's Investment Policy sets forth the investment guidelines for all funds of the City. The Investment Policy conforms to the California Government Code Section 53600 et. seq. The authority to manage the City's investment program is derived from the City Council. Pursuant to Section 53607 of the California Government Code, the City Council annually, appoints the City Treasurer to manage the City's investment program and approves the City's investment policy. The Treasurer is authorized to delegate this authority as deemed appropriate. No person may engage in investment transactions except as provided under the terms of the Investment Policy and the procedures established by the Treasurer.

This Investment Policy requires that the investments be made with the prudent person standard, that is, when investing, reinvesting, purchasing, acquiring, exchanging, selling or managing public funds, the trustee (Treasurer and staff) will act with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing, including but not limited to, the general economic conditions and the anticipated needs of the City.

## **The City's Investment Policy (Continued)**

The Investment Policy also requires that when following the investing actions cited above, the primary objective of the trustee be to safeguard the principal, secondarily meet the liquidity needs of depositors, and then achieve a return on the funds under the trustee's control. Further, the intent of the Investment Policy is to minimize the risk of loss on the City's held investments from:

- A. Credit risk
- B. Custodial credit risk
- C. Concentration of credit risk
- D. Interest rate risk

## Investments Authorized by the California Government Code and the City's Investment Policy

The table below identifies the investment types that are authorized for the City by the California Government Code and the City's Investment Policy. The table also identifies certain provisions of the California Government Code that address interest rate risk, credit risk, and concentration of credit risk. This table does not address investment of debt proceeds held by the bond trustee that are governed by the provisions of debt agreements of the City, rather than the general provisions of the California Government Code or the City's Investment Policy.

		Maximum	Maximum	
Authorized	Maximum	Percentage	Investment	Minimum
Investment Type	Maturity	of Portfolio*	in One Issuer	Rating
U.S. Treasury Bonds	5 years	None	None	None
State and Local Agency Bonds	5 years	None	None	None
Securities of the U.S. Government, or its Agencies	5 years	None	None	None
Certain Asset-Backed Securities	5 years	20%	None	AA
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	5 years	30%	None	None
Bankers' Acceptances	180 days	40%	30%	None
Commercial Paper	270 days	25%	10%	P-1
Repurchase Agreements	1 year	None	None	None
Reverse Repurchase Agreements	92 days	20%	None	None
Medium-Term Notes	5 years	30%	None	A
Mutual Funds Investing in Eligible Securities	N/A	20%	10%	AAA
Money Market Mutual Funds	N/A	20%	10%	AAA
Mortgage Pass-Through Securities	5 years	20%	None	AA
State Administered Pool Investment	N/A	None	\$75 million	None

<sup>\*</sup> Excluding amounts held by bond trustee that are not subject to California Government Code restrictions.

## **Investments Authorized by Debt Agreements**

Investments of debt proceeds held by bond trustees are governed by provisions of the debt agreements, rather than the general provisions of the California Government Code or the City's Investment Policy. The table below identifies the investment types that are authorized for investments held by the bond trustee. The table also identifies certain provisions of these debt agreements that address interest rate risk, credit risk, and concentration of credit risk.

Authorized Investment Type	Maximum Maturity	Maximum Percentage of Portfolio	Maximum Investment in One Issuer	Minimum Rating
Securities of the U.S. Government, or its Agencies	None	None	None	None
Certain Asset-Backed Securities	None	None	None	AA
Certificates of Deposit	None	None	None	None
Bankers' Acceptances	1 year	None	None	None
Commercial Paper	None	None	None	P-1
Money Market Mutual Funds	N/A	None	None	AAA
State Administered Pool Investment	N/A	None	\$75 million	None
Investment Contracts	None	None	None	None

## **Disclosure Relating to Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. One of the ways that the City manages its exposure to interest rate risk is by purchasing a combination of shorter-term and longer-term investments and by timing cash flows from maturities so that a portion of the portfolio is maturing or coming close to maturity evenly over time as necessary to provide the cash flow and liquidity needed for operations. The City has no specific limitations with respect to this metric. Information about the sensitivity of the fair values of the Water Fund's investments (including investments held by bond trustee) to market interest rate fluctuations is provided in the following table that shows the distribution of the Water Fund's investments by maturity:

		Investment Maturities				
	Fair Value	Fair Value (in Months)				
	as of	Less than	13 to	25 to		
Investment Type	6/30/2020	12 Months 24 Months		60 Months		
Held by Trustee:						
Money Market Mutual Funds	\$ 15,005,468	\$ 15,005,468	\$ -	\$ -		

## **Disclosures Relating to Credit Risk**

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. Presented below is the minimum rating required by the California Government Code, the City's Investment Policy, or debt agreements, and the actual rating as of the year-end for each investment type.

	Minimum	Actual	Fair Value
	Required	Credit Rating	as of
Investment Type	Rating	Moody's / S&P	June 30, 2020
Held by Trustee:  Money Market Mutual Funds	Aaa / AAA	Aaa / AAA	\$ 15,005,468
Wiolicy Warker Wuldar Funds	Add / AAA	Add / AAA	\$ 13,003, <del>1</del> 08

## **Concentration of Credit Risk**

The City's Investment Policy places no limit on the amount the City may invest in any one issuer excluding a 10% limitation on commercial paper, mutual funds, and money market mutual funds and a 30% limitation on bankers' acceptances. The City's Investment Policy also places no limit on the amount of debt proceeds held by the bond trustee that the trustee may invest in one issuer that is governed by the provisions of debt agreements of the City, rather than the general provisions of the California Government Code or the City's Investment Policy. As of June 30, 2020, there were no investments held by the Water Fund that exceeded 5% in any one issuer, excluding money market mutual funds.

## **Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. The California Government Code and the City's Investment Policy do not contain legal or policy requirements that would limit the exposure to custodial credit risk for deposits or investments. Under the California Government Code, a financial institution is required to secure deposits, in excess of the FDIC insurance amount of \$250,000, made by state or local governmental units by pledging government securities held in the form of an undivided collateral pool. The market value of the pledged securities in the collateral pool must equal at least 110% of the total amount deposited by the public agencies. California law also allows financial institutions to secure City deposits by pledging first trust deed mortgage notes having a value of 150% of the secured public deposits. Such collateral is held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the City's name.

At June 30, 2020, all of the Water Fund's deposits were insured or collateralized as required by Section 53652 of the California Government Code.

## Fair Value Measurement

The Water Fund categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset.

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the government can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs are other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for an asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for an asset or liability.

The Water Fund's investments in money market mutual funds is not subject to categorization in the fair value hierarchy.

## NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES

The Water Fund's accounts receivable at June 30, 2020, are as follows:

Accounts receivables	\$ 857,394
Less: Allowance for uncollectible accounts	 (88,000)
Total receivables, net	\$ 769,394

## **NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Transactions between the Water Fund and the other City funds commonly occur in the normal course of business for services received or furnished (accounting, management, engineering, legal services, and capital projects).

## **Due to and Due From Other City Funds**

The Water Fund has a due to the City's Electric Enterprise Fund of \$5,386 for capital outlay.

## NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

## **Advances to Other City Funds**

The following table summarizes the Water Fund's advances to the other City funds at June 30, 2020:

Advances to other City funds, July 1, 2019	\$ 6,447,171
Advance repaid by City funds during the year	(2,058,183)
Advances to other City funds, June 30, 2020	\$ 4,388,988

The advances between the other City funds and the Water Fund does not accrue interest due to the nature of the City's operational relationship and capital projects funded by the Water Fund that benefits the both. On November 6, 2012, the City adopted Resolution No. 2012-215 extending the repayment term of the advance to the other City funds from 15 months to a period of over 10 years.

The City's General Fund allocates certain administrative and overhead costs to the Water Fund which is included as part of the cost of sales. The allocated costs for the year ended June 30, 2020, were \$586,500.

## **NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activities of the Water Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, were as follows:

		Balance						Balance
	June 30, 2019		Additions		Deletions		June 30, 2020	
Capital assets, not being depreciated:								
Land	\$	467,640	\$	-	\$	-	\$	467,640
Construction in progress		1,255,124		3,339,978		(926,402)		3,668,700
Total capital assets, not being depreciated		1,722,764		3,339,978		(926,402)		4,136,340
Capital assets, being depreciated:								
Water utility plant		20,612,155		1,413,158				22,025,313
Total capital assets, being depreciated		20,612,155		1,413,158				22,025,313
Less accumulated depreciation for:								
Water utility plant		(14,956,368)		(356,509)				(15,312,877)
Total accumulated depreciation		(14,956,368)		(356,509)				(15,312,877)
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net								
Water utility plant		5,655,787		1,056,649		-		6,712,436
Total		5,655,787	-	1,056,649		-		6,712,436
Total capital assets, net	\$	7,378,551	\$	4,396,627	\$	(926,402)	\$	10,848,776

The Water Fund's total depreciation expense for the year was \$356,509.

#### NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

As of June 30, 2020, outstanding debt obligations consisted of the following:

## \$14,840,000 Water System Revenue Bonds (2020 Series A)

At June 30, 2020, \$14,840,000 remained outstanding. The bonds are special obligation bonds which are secured by an irrevocable pledge of water revenues payable to bondholders. The debt service remaining on the bonds is \$26,305,245, payable through fiscal 2051. For the current year, debt service and net water revenues were \$0 and \$1,522,992, respectively. Under the Indenture of Trust dated May 6, 2020, interest and principal on the bonds are payable from Net Revenues (or Revenues less Operation and Maintenance Expenses) and/or amounts in the Water Enterprise (as those terms are defined in the Indenture of Trust). The City of Vernon Water System Revenue Bonds, 2020 Series A were issued to provide funds to (i) finance the acquisition and construction of certain capital improvements to the Water System of the City, (ii) purchase a municipal bond debt service reserve insurance policy for deposit in the Reserve Fund in satisfaction of the Reserve Requirement, and (iii) to pay costs of issuance of the 2020 Bonds.

A summary of the bonds payable under the Water Fund is as follows:

Bonds	Maturity	Fixed Interest Rates	Annual Principal Installments	Original Issue Amount	Outstanding June 30, 2020
City of Vernon Water System Revenue Bonds, 2020 Taxable Series A	08/01/50	5.00%	To begin 08/01/21: \$240,000 - \$3,785,000	14,840,000	14,840,000
Premium					573,993
Total revenue bonds					\$ 15,413,993

## **Note Payable**

In May 2019, the City entered into an agreement with Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) for assistance with the construction of a new groundwater well or rehabilitation of an existing groundwater well. The promissory note is unsecured and has no interest basis for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. As of June 30, 2020, WRD has disbursed \$738,720 under the agreement to the City. The note is payable in quarterly principal payments commencing the first day of the second full calendar month following the Completion Date, as defined by the agreement, in an amount which, together with all quarterly payments, will be sufficient to fully amortize the principal balance of the note by the maturity date of April 1, 2031.

## NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

As of June 30, 2020, annual debt service requirements of the Water Fund to maturity are as follows:

	Water System Revenue Bonds				
		2020 Taxal	ole S	eries A	
Fiscal year ending					
June 30:		Principal		Interest	
2021	\$	-	\$	437,232	
2022		240,000		587,975	
2023		250,000		575,725	
2024		265,000		562,850	
2025		275,000		549,350	
2026-2030		-		2,712,375	
2031-2035		1,985,000		2,265,750	
2036-2040		2,180,000		1,725,625	
2041-2045		2,680,000		1,264,100	
2046-2050		3,180,000		718,025	
2051		3,785,000		66,238	
Total requirements	\$	14,840,000	\$	11,465,245	
		Note P	ayab	ole	
Fiscal year ending					
June 30:		Principal		Interest	
2021	\$	68,718	\$	_	
2022		68,718		_	
2023		68,718		_	
2024		68,718		_	
2025		68,718		_	
2026-2030		343,591			
2031-2035		51,539			
Total requirements	\$	738,720	\$	-	

## **Changes in Long-Term Liabilities**

The following is a summary of long-term liabilities transactions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020:

	Balance e 30, 2019	 Additions	R	eductions	Ju	Balance ne 30, 2020	D	Amounts ue Within One Year
Other Debt - Bonds payable	\$ -	\$ 14,840,000	\$	-	\$	14,840,000	\$	-
Bond premium	-	577,173		(3,180)		573,993		-
Note payable	-	738,720		-		738,720		68,718
Compensated absences (Note 1)	 102,238	181,523		(89,882)		193,879		64,626
	\$ 102,238	\$ 16,337,416	\$	(93,062)	\$	16,346,592	\$	133,344

## **NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)**

## **Credit Ratings**

As of June 30, 2020, the ratings on all Water System Revenue Bonds is AA by S&P and not rated by Moody's.

## **NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Water Fund is in the City's self-insurance program as part of its policy to self-insure certain levels of risk within separate lines of coverage to maximize cost savings.

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, errors and omissions; injuries to employees, and natural disasters. The City utilizes insurance policy(s) to transfer these risks. Each policy has either self-insured retention or deductible, which are parts of the City's Risk Financing Program. These expenses are paid on a cash basis as they are incurred. There have been no significant settlements or reductions in insurance coverage during the past three fiscal years.

Starting in Fiscal 2010, the City chose to establish Risk Financing in the General Fund, whereby assets are set aside for claim-litigation settlements associated with the abovementioned risks up to their self-insured retentions or policy deductibles. Athens Administrators Inc. is the Third-Party Administrator for the City's workers' compensation program, and they provide basic services for general liability claims and litigation.

The insurance limits for the fiscal year 2020 are as follows:

	Program	Deductible/SIR
Insurance Type	Limits	(Self-Insured Retention)
Excess Liability Insurance	\$20,000,000	\$2,000,000 SIR per occurrence
D & O Employment Practice	\$2,000,000	\$150,000 SIR non-safety; \$150,000 SIR safety
Excess Workers Compensation	\$50,000,000	\$1,500,000 SIR per occurrence for presumptive loss
Employer's Liability	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 SIR per occurrence for all employees
Commercial Property Insurance	\$100,000,000	\$25,000 except:
	\$25,000,000 Flood Sublimit	\$250,000 power stations
		\$1.5/kVA transfers, subject to a \$250,000 minimum
Employee Dishonest - Crime	\$1,000,000	\$25,000
Pollution - Site Owned	\$5,000,000	\$25,000 for non-utility locations, divested locations
		and scheduled storage tanks
		\$50,000 for utility locations
		\$100,000 for natural gas pipeline
Cyber Liability	\$3,000,000	\$100,000
Contractors Equipment/Auto	\$10,000,000 Maximum Loss Per Occurrence	\$5,000
Physical Damage	\$1,000,000 Equipment Limit-loss or damage	
	to any one piece	
Residential Property Insurance	\$8,023,126 Blanket Building Limit	\$2,500
	\$89,013 Blanket Business Personal Property	
	Limit	
Terrorism & Sabotage	\$100,000,000 Policy Aggregate	N/A
	\$5,000,000 Active Shooter & Malicious	
	Attack Per Occurrence/Aggregate	
	\$5,000,000 Terrorism & Sabotage Liability	
	Per Occurrence/Aggregate	

City of Vernon, California Water Fund Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2020

## **NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

The City has numerous claims and pending litigations, which generally involve accidents and/or liability or damage to City property. The balance of claims/litigations against the City is in the opinion of management, ordinary routine matters, incidental to the normal business conducted by the City. In the opinion of management, such proceedings are substantially covered by insurance, and the ultimate dispositions of such proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Water Fund's financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Further information regarding the City's self-insurance program may be found in the City's Annual Financial Report.

## **NOTE 8 - PENSION PLAN**

## A. General Information about the Pension Plans

## **Plan Descriptions**

All full-time safety (police and fire personnel) and miscellaneous personnel and temporary or part-time employees who have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours in a fiscal year are eligible to participate in the City's agent multiple-employer defined benefit pension Safety and Miscellaneous Plans administered by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating public entities within the State of California. The City allocates the costs of these Plans across all City departments. The Water Fund's proportionate share of the net pension liability of these Plans is reported as a cost-sharing plan in the financial statements. Benefits vest after five years of service. Employees who retire at the minimum retirement age with five years of credited service are entitled to retirement benefits. Monthly retirement benefits are based on a percentage of an employee's average compensation for his or her highest consecutive 12 or 36 months of compensation for each year of credited service.

## **Benefits Provided**

Miscellaneous members hired prior to January 1, 2013, with five years of credited service may retire at age 55 based on a benefit factor derived from the 2.7% at 55 Miscellaneous formula or may retire between ages 50 and 54 with reduced retirement benefits. New Miscellaneous members (PEPRA) with five years of credited service may retire at age 62 based on a benefit factor derived from the 2% at 62 Miscellaneous formula or may retire between age 52 and 61 with reduced retirement benefits. The benefit factor increases to a maximum of 2.5% at age 67. Safety members with five years of credited service may retire at age 50 based on a benefit factor derived from the 3% at 50 Safety formula for sworn Police and Fire Department employees. New Safety members (PEPRA) with five years of credited service may retire at age 57 based on a benefit factor derived from the 2.7% at 57 Safety (PEPRA) formula or may retire between age 50 and 56 with reduced retirement benefits for new Safety (PEPRA) members of both Police and Fire Departments. CalPERS also provides death and disability benefits. These benefit provisions and all other requirements are established by State statute provided through a contract between the City and CalPERS.

## **Benefits Provided (Continued)**

The Plans' provisions and benefits in effect at the measurement date of June 30, 2019, are summarized as follows:

	Miscellaneous		
	Prior to	On or After	
Hire date	January 1, 2013	January 1, 2013	
Benefit formula	2.7%@55	2%@62	
Benefit vesting schedule	5 years of service	5 years of service	
Benefit payments	monthly for life	monthly for life	
Retirement age	50	52	
Monthly benefits, as a % of eligible compensation	2.0% to 2.7%	1.0% to 2.5%	
Required employee contribution rates	7.698%	5.750%	
Required employer contribution rates:			
Normal cost rate	9.443%	5.542%	
Payment of unfunded liability	\$ 2,398,173	\$ -	

	Safety		
	Prior to	On or After	
Hire date	January 1, 2013	January 1, 2013	
Benefit formula	3.0%@50	2.7%@57	
Benefit vesting schedule	5 years of service	5 years of service	
Benefit payments	monthly for life	monthly for life	
Retirement age	50	50	
Monthly benefits, as a % of eligible compensation	3.0%	2.0% to 2.7%	
Required employee contribution rates	9.049%	11.00%	
Required employer contribution rates:			
Normal cost rate	19.197%	10.933%	
Payment of unfunded liability	\$ 4,434,734	\$ -	

## **Contributions**

Section 20814(c) of the California Public Employees' Retirement Law requires that the employer contribution rates for all public employers be determined on an annual basis by the actuary and shall be effective on July 1 following notice of a change in the rate. Funding contributions for both Plans are determined annually on an actuarial basis as of June 30 by CalPERS. The actuarially determined rate is the estimated amount necessary to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. The City is required to contribute to the difference between the actuarially determined rate and the contribution rate of employees.

# B. <u>Pension Liabilities, Pension Expenses, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions</u>

## **Actuarial Assumptions**

The net pension liability of each of the Plans is measured as of June 30, 2019, using an annual actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2018, rolled forward to June 30, 2019, using standard update procedures. A summary of principal assumptions and methods used to determine the net pension liability is shown below.

	Miscellaneous	Safety
Valuation Date	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2018
Measurement Date	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2019
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal	Entry Age Normal
Actuarial Assumptions:		
Discount Rate	7.15%	7.15%
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Payroll Growth	3.00%	3.00%
Projected Salary Increase	(1)	(1)
Mortality Rate Table	(2)	(2)
Post-Retirement Benefit Increase	(3)	(3)

- (1) Varies by entry age and service.
- (2) The mortality table used was developed based on CalPERS-specific data. The probabilities of mortality are based on the 2017 CalPERS Experience Study for the period from 1997 to 2015. Pre-retirement and Post-retirement mortality rates includes 15 years of projected mortality improvement using 90% of Scale MP-2016 published by the Society of Actuaries. For more details on this table, please refer to the CalPERS Experience Study and Review of Actuarial Assumptions report from December 2017 that can be found on the CalPERS website.
- (3) The lessor of contract COLA or 2.50% until Purchasing Power Protection Allowance Floor on purchasing power applies, 2.50% thereafter.

## **Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class.

## **Long-Term Expected Rate of Return (Continued)**

In determining the long-term expected rate of return, CalPERS took into account both short-term and long-term market return expectations as well as the expected pension fund cash flows. Using historical returns of all the funds' asset classes, expected compound (geometric) returns were calculated over the short-term (first 10 years) and the long-term (11+ years) using a building-block approach. Using the expected nominal returns for both short-term and long-term, the present value of benefits was calculated for each fund. The expected rate of return was set by calculating the rounded single equivalent expected return that arrived at the same present value of benefits for cash flows as the one calculated using both short-term and long-term returns. The expected rate of return was then set equal to the single equivalent rate calculated above and adjusted to account for assumed administrative expenses.

The expected real rates of return by asset class are as follows:

	Assumed	Real Return	Real Return
	Asset	Years	Years
Asset Class (a)	Allocation	1 - 10 (b)	11+(c)
Global Equity	50.00%	4.80%	5.98%
Fixed Income	28.00%	1.00%	2.62%
Inflation Assets	0.00%	0.77%	1.81%
Private Equity	8.00%	6.30%	7.23%
Real Assets	13.00%	3.75%	4.93%
Liquidity	1.00%	0.00%	-0.92%
Total	100.00%		

- (a) In the CalPERS CAFR, Fixed Income is included in Global Debt Securities; Liquidity is included in Short-term Investments; Inflation Assets are included in both Global Equity Securities and Global Debt Securities
- (b) An expected inflation of 2.0% used for this period.
- (c) An expected inflation of 2.92% used for this period.

#### **Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.15%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

## Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability - Allocation of the City's Pension Plans to the Water Fund

The Water Fund's net pension liability for the Plans is measured as the proportionate share of the combined net pension liability of the City's miscellaneous and safety agent multiple-employer plans. The Water Fund's proportionate share of the combined net pension liability was based on the Water Fund's current year share of contributions to the pension plans relative to the City's total current year contributions to the pension plans.

The Water Fund's proportionate share of the combined net pension liability for the pension plans as of the measurement date ended June 30, 2018 and 2019 were as follows:

	1			
	Total Pension Liability	Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Proportionate Share
Balance at June 30, 2018 (MD) Balance at June 30, 2019 (MD)	\$ 13,255,564 14,700,445	\$ 9,722,356 10,736,106	\$ 3,533,208 3,964,339	3.11% 3.28%
Net Changes during 2018-19	\$ 1,444,881	\$ 1,013,750	\$ 431,131	0.17%

## Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

For the measurement period ended June 30, 2019, the Water Fund recognized its proportionate share of the combined pension expense of the Plans, totaling \$725,300. At June 30, 2020, the Water Fund reported its proportionate share of the Plans' deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred		Ι	Deferred	
	(	Outflows	]	Inflows	
	of	Resources	of Resource		
Pension contributions subsequent					
to measurement date	\$	404,765	\$	-	
Differences between actual and					
expected experience		125,710		(5,234)	
Change in assumptions		9,868		(7,103)	
Net differences between projected and					
actual earnings on plan investments		_		(37,500)	
Total	\$	540,343	\$	(49,837)	

## Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources (Continued)

\$404,765 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2021. Differences between projected and actual investment earnings are amortized on a five-year straight-line basis and all other amounts are amortized over the expected average remaining service lives of all members that are provided with benefits. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized as pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year		
Ended June 30	_	Total
2021	\$	112,387
2022		(36,781)
2023		(1,394)
2024		11,529
2025		_
Thereafter		_

## Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Water Fund's proportionate share of the Plans' combined net pension liability, calculated using a discount rate of 7.15%, as well as what the Water Fund's proportionate share of the Plans' combined net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is a 1-percentage point lower or a 1-percentage point higher than the current rate:

	Total
1% Decrease	 6.15%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 5,994,829
Current Discount Rate	7.15%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 3,964,339
1% Increase	8.15%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,298,920

## **Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about each pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued CalPERS financial reports.

## **Subsequent Events**

There were no subsequent events that would materially affect the results of this disclosure.

## Payable to the Pension Plan

At June 30, 2020, the Water Fund had no outstanding amount of contributions to the pension plans required for the year ended June 30, 2020.

City of Vernon, California Water Fund Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2020

## NOTE 9 - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

The other postemployment benefits (OPEB) described in the following paragraphs relate to the City's OPEB plan. The Water Fund's share of the net pension liability of the City's OPEB Plan is reported as a cost-sharing plan in these financial statements since the Water Fund's operations are handled by City employees who are eligible to participate in the City's OPEB Plan.

## **Benefits Provided**

Retiree medical and dental benefits are established through the City's Fringe Benefits and Salary Resolution as well as individual memoranda of understanding between the City and the City's various employee bargaining groups. Generally, the City will provide postemployment benefit plan for the employee only to those who retire at age sixty (60) or later with twenty (20) years of continuous uninterrupted service, up to the age of sixty-five (65). Alternatively, employees who retire before the age of sixty (60) with twenty (20) years of continuous uninterrupted service, will be permitted to pay their medical and dental premium cost and upon reaching the age of sixty (60), the City will pay the premium for the medical and dental plans until they reach the age of sixty-five (65).

Resolution 2012-217 granted specific retiree medical benefits to employees who retired during the 2012-2013 fiscal year in order to provide an incentive for early retirement whereby the City authorized the payment of medical and dental insurance premiums for eligible retiring employees and their eligible dependents with at least ten (10) years of service plus 5% for each additional full year of service above the ten (10) years of service.

Resolution 2013-06 declared that the retiree medical benefits which had not been a vested right for employees will continue to be a non-vested right for employees who continue to be employed by the City on or after July 1, 2013, but will be a vested right for those who retire during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The City's plan is considered a substantive OPEB plan and the City recognizes costs in accordance with GASB Statement No 75. The City may terminate its unvested OPEB in the future.

## **Funding Policy and Contributions**

The City has established an irrevocable OPEB trust with assets dedicated to paying future retiree medical benefits. The City intends to contribute 100% or more of the actuarially determined contribution for the explicit subsidy liability only. The portion of the liability due to the implicit subsidy is not prefunded but is paid as benefits come due. For the measurement date period June 30, 2020, the Water Fund's proportionate share of contributions made was \$128,484 (\$88,366 contributed to the OPEB trust, \$32,073 paid for retiree premiums, and the estimated implied subsidy of \$8,045).

## **Net OPEB Liability**

The City's net OPEB liability is measured as of June 30, 2019, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2018. A summary of the principal assumptions and methods used to determine the total OPEB liability is shown on the next page.

## NOTE 9 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

## **Actuarial Assumptions**

The valuation has been prepared on a closed group basis. Assumptions such as age-related healthcare claims, healthcare trends, retiree participation rates, and spouse coverage, were selected based on demonstrated plan experience and the best estimate of expected future experience.

The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2018, actuarial valuation was rolled forward to the June 30, 2019, measurement date using standard actuarial techniques. Explicit subsidy benefit payments by employee group were allocated based on expected benefit payments. The following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement unless otherwise specified:

Funding method	Entry age normal level percent of pay cost method
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	2.75% annual increases
Long-term return on assets	6.50% net of investment expenses
Discount rate	6.50%
Healthcare cost trend rates	6.9% for FY2019, gradually decreasing over
	several decades to ultimate rate of 4.0% in FY76
	and later years
Mortality	2017 CalPERS Experience Study. Tables include
	15 years of static mortality improvement using 90%
	of scale MP-2016

## **Long-term Expected Rate of Return**

The long-term expected rate of return was determined using a building-block method in which bestestimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of OPEB plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighing the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the OPEB plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2019 are summarized in the following table:

		Long-term
	Target	Expected Real
Asset Class	Allocation	Rate of Return
CERBT Strategy 1		
Equity	59.00%	4.76%
Fixed Income	25.00%	2.01%
TIPS	5.00%	1.20%
Commodities	3.00%	2.39%
REITs	8.00%	4.53%
Total	100.00%	

## NOTE 9 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

#### **Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 6.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that City's contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rates. Based on those assumptions, the fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected OPEB payments for current active and inactive employees and beneficiaries. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability.

## **Change of Assumptions**

Medical trend rates were updated to exclude the Affordable Care Act's Excise Tax on high-cost health insurance plan due to its repeal.

## Allocation of the Net OPEB Liability

The Water Fund's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as of the measurement dates ended June 30, 2018 and 2019 was as follows:

	Increase (Decrease)						
	Total		Plan		Net OPEB		
	OPEB		Fiduciary		Liability		Proportionate
	Liability Net Position		iability Net Position (Asse		(Asset)	Share	
Balance at June 30, 2018 (MD)	\$	786,960	\$	67,853	\$	719,107	3.11%
Balance at June 30, 2019 (MD)		859,322		140,061		719,261	3.28%
Net Changes during FY 2018-19	\$	72,362	\$	72,208	\$	154	0.17%

## Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Water Fund's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% point lower or 1% point higher than the current rate:

			Dis	count Rate		
	1'	% Decrease	Cu	rrent Rate	19	% Increase
		(5.50%)	(	(6.50%)		(6.50%)
Net OPEB liability	\$	823,969	\$	719,261	\$	631,387

## Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates

The following presents the Water Fund's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability if it were calculated using a healthcare cost trend rates that are 1% point lower (5.9% decreasing to an ultimate rate of 3.0%) or 1% point higher (7.9% decreasing to an ultimate rate of 5.0%) than the current rate:

		Healthcare Trend Rate				
	1%	Decrease	Cı	urrent Rate	1%	6 Increase
Net OPEB liability	\$	677,918	\$	719,261	\$	763,358

## NOTE 9 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (CONTINUED)

## **OPEB Expense and Deferred Inflows and Outflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

For the year ended June 30, 2020, the Water Fund recognized its proportionate share of the OPEB expense(revenue) of \$(3,855). At June 30, 2020, the Water Fund reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	 Deferred Outflows of Resources		Deferred Outflows of Resources		
Contributions between measurement date and reporting date	\$ 128,484	\$	-		
Difference between expected and actual liability	-		(157,988)		
Changes of assumptions	-		(200,590)		
Net differences between projected and actual					
earnings on investments	_		(931)		
Total	\$ 128,484	\$	(359,509)		

The \$128,484 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ended June 30, 2021. Differences between projected and actual investment earnings are amortized on a five-year straight-line basis and all other amounts are amortized over the expected average remaining service lives of all members that are provided with benefits. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized as OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year	Deferred Outflow		
Ended June 30	(Inflows	) of Resources	
2021	\$	(69,542)	
2022		(69,542)	
2023		(69,556)	
2024		(69,839)	
2025		(69,387)	
Thereafter		(11,643)	

## **Subsequent Events**

There were no subsequent events that would materially affect the results presented in this disclosure.

## Payable to the OPEB Plan

At June 30, 2020, the Water Fund had no outstanding amount of contributions to the OPEB plan required for the year ended June 30, 2020.



Fiscal Year Ended Measurement Date	6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	
Plan's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	3.28%	3.11%	3.74%	3.80%	
Plan's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 3,964,339	\$ 3,533,209	\$ 4,100,788	\$ 3,619,851	
Plan's Covered Payroll	925,620	1,100,727	1,038,438	499,838	
Plan's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	428.29%	320.99%	394.90%	724.20%	
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	76.15%	77.68%	77.85%	78.91%	

## **Notes to Schedule:**

Benefit Changes:

There were no changes in benefits.

## Changes in Assumptions:

From fiscal year June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018:

The discount rate was reduced from 7.65% to 7.15%.

From fiscal year June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2019:

There were no significant changes in assumptions.

From fiscal year June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020:

There were no significant changes in assumptions.

<sup>\*</sup>Fiscal year 2017 was the 1st year the City allocated a portion of the net pension liability to the Water Fund, therefore only four years are shown.

Fiscal Year Ended	6/30/2020		6/30/2019		6/30/2018		6/30/2017	
Actuarially Determined Contribution	\$	404,765	\$	339,930	\$	354,831	\$	346,113
Contributions in relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution		(404,765)		(339,930)		(354,831)		(346,113)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$	<u>-</u>	\$		\$		\$	
Covered Payroll	\$	891,592	\$	925,620	\$	1,100,727	\$	1,038,438
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll		45.40%		36.72%		32.24%		33.33%
Notes to Schedule:								
Valuation Date	6	/30/2017	6	/30/2016	6	5/30/2015	(	6/30/2014
Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Contribution Rate Actuarial cost method Amortization method Asset valuation method	Е	Entry age (1) air Value		Entry age (1) air Value		Entry age (1) air Value		Entry age (1) Fair Value
Inflation Salary increases Investment rate of return Mortality		2.625% (2) .25% (3) (4)	7.	2.75% (2) 375% (3) (4)	7	2.75% (2) 7.50% (3) (4)	,	2.75% (2) 7.50% (3) (4)

- (1) Level percentage of payroll, closed
- (2) Depending on age, service, and type of employment
- (3) Net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
- (4) Mortality assumptions are based on mortality rates resulting from the most recent CalPERS Experience Study adopted by the CalPERS Board.

<sup>\*</sup>Fiscal year 2017 was the 1st year the City allocated a portion of the net pension liability to the Water Fund, therefore only four years are shown.

Fiscal Year Ended Measurement Date	6/30/2020 6/30/2019	6/30/2019 6/30/2018	6/30/2018	
Plan's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	3.28%	3.11%	4.08%	
Plan's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 719,261	\$ 719,107	\$ 1,482,614	
Plan's Covered-employee Payroll	1,095,236	1,368,166	1,368,760	
Plan's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered-employee Payroll	65.67%	52.56%	108.32%	
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	16.30%	8.62%	2.83%	

## Notes to Schedule:

#### Changes in assumptions:

The discount rate was changed from 2.85% to 3.58% for the measurement period ended June 30, 2017. The discount rate for the measurement periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2019 were 3.87% and 3.50%, respectively.

The mortality, retirement, disability, and termination rates for the measurement periods ended June 30, 2017 and 2018 were based on the CalPERS 1997-2011 Experience Study and CalPERS 1997-2015 Experience Study, respectively.

The mortality improvement rates for the measurement periods ended June 30, 2017 and 2018 were based on the Scale MP-2016 and Scale-2018, respectively.

In the June 30, 2018 measurement period, the pre-65 waived retiree re-election was updated to be 10% after age 65.

<sup>\*</sup>Fiscal year 2018 was the 1st year of implementation, therefore only three years are shown.

Fiscal Year Ended	6/30/2020	6/30/2019	6/30/2018	
Actuarially Determined Contribution	\$ 63,389	\$ 83,829	\$ 109,990	
Contributions in relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	(128,484)	(93,060)	(84,361)	
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ (65,095)	\$ (9,231)	\$ 25,629	
Covered Payroll	\$ 1,048,734	\$ 1,095,236	\$ 1,368,166	
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	6.04%	7.65%	8.04%	
Notes to Schedule:				
Valuation Date	6/30/2017	6/30/2016	6/30/2015	
Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Contribution Rates: Actuarial cost method Amortization method	Entry age (1)	Entry age (1)	Entry age (1)	
Amortization period Asset valuation method	27 years Market Value	27 years Market Value	29 years Market Value	
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%	2.75%	
Healthcare trend rates	(3)	(3)	(2)	
Investment rate of return	6.50%	7.00%	7.00%	
Mortality	(5)	(5)	(4)	

- (1) Level percentage of payroll, closed.
- (2) 8.50% trending down to 5.00%.
- (3) 6.90% trending down to 4.00%.
- (4) CalPERS December 2014 experience study
- (5) CalPERS December 2017 experience study

<sup>\*</sup> Fiscal year 2018 was the first year of implementation, therefore three years year are shown.

