

SBCERS

Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System

DATE: February 26, 2025

TO: SBCERS Board of Retirement

FROM: Brian Richard, Assistant CEO

RE: Retiree Extra Help Appointment of Lesley Torgeson

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Retirement:

- 1) In accordance with California Government Code Section 7522.56(f), certify that the appointment SBCERS employee Lesley Torgeson, IT Administrator, is necessary to fill a critical need in the Information Technology Division, before 180 days have passed from the date of her pending retirement; and,
- 2) Approve and authorize the appointment of Lesley Torgeson, as an Extra Help employee to provide training to new staff on a part-time basis not to exceed 960 hours in a fiscal year pursuant to Section 7522.56(d), with an appointment effective date of April 1, 2025; and,
- 3) Approve Resolution 2025-01 celebrating the service of Lesley Torgeson at the Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System.

Summary

Lesley Torgeson, IT Administrator for SBCERS, is retiring effective March 31, 2025. Ms. Torgeson has been a valued member of the SBCERS team since 2016. She is a key member of the Information Technology division providing expertise in departmental automation needs, management of the SBCERS Office365 environment, and established SBCERS' network. She has always been available to assist staff and Board members with IT-related requests ensuring smooth day-to-day operations.

Ms. Torgeson has been a key contributor to some of SBCERS' biggest projects during her time with the System. This includes the PensionGold V3 implementation as well as the office move to Robin Hill Road. She has tactfully managed relationships with building maintenance, vendors, security, and networking companies, going above and beyond to ensure the organization's success. Ms. Torgeson's contributions have been especially critical as SBCERS has undergone significant changes in technology under her lead.

Ms. Torgeson has agreed to return to work for SBCERS as an Extra Help part time employee following her retirement. An SBCERS retiree may return to extra help employment within 180 days of retirement under limited circumstances. To comply with

the provisions of Government Code Section 7522.56, the Board of Retirement as the appointing authority must certify that the nature of the employment and that the appointment is necessary to fill a critically needed position before 180 days have passed since the retirement date. Such appointment must be approved in a public meeting. In approving the recommended action, the Board of Retirement making a determination that Ms. Torgeson's appointment fills a critically needed position for SBCERS, allowing SBCERS to:

1. Ensure continuity in day-to-day operations including support for network security,
2. Recruit and train her successor to ensure a smooth transition of the daily operations within the IT team.

With nearly 10 years of experience with SBCERS information technology, and extensive institutional knowledge of SBCERS policies, procedures, and network framework, Ms. Torgeson is exclusively qualified to fill this critical role. The recruitment process for an EDP Office Automation Specialist II has been initiated with County Human Resources.

Fiscal Impacts

The cost of this half time extra help temporary position will be funded within SBCERS' operating budget. This cost will be mostly offset by the salary savings of the full-time regular position that will be vacated by Ms. Torgeson while it remains unfilled.