

SBCERS

Santa Barbara County Employees' Retirement System

DATE: April 23, 2025

TO: SBCERS Board of Retirement

FROM: SBCERS Investment Staff

RE: **Update on PE and PRR Discretionary Consultant Services RFP**

Recommendation

That the Board of Retirement receive an update on the Private Equity and Private Real Return Discretionary Consultant Services Request for Proposal presented by Rebecca M. Valdez, Investment Officer.

Summary

SBCERS received five responses to the Private Equity and four responses to the Private Real Return Discretionary Consultant Services Request for Proposal (RFP) by the April 4, 2025 deadline. Additionally, two firms declined to respond. SBCERS staff finds the response pool competitive.

Aksia and Verus declined to respond to the RFP. Aksia cited scope limitations and competitive economics as reasons for declining and communicated their decision ahead of the response window. Verus initially expressed interest and submitted clarifying questions. After reviewing SBCERS's answers, Verus decided not to proceed, also citing scope of services as the primary reason. Primary reasons cited for the scope issues were mostly related to the negotiation of partnership agreements and ongoing administration of the portfolio after the initial fund selection recommendation is made to the Client.

The following firms submitted responses: Hamilton Lane (incumbent), HarbourVest, StepStone Group, Pathway Capital Management, and NEPC. All firms except HarbourVest addressed both the Private Equity and Private Real Return questionnaires. SBCERS staff will now evaluate these responses, and the ad hoc committee aims to announce finalists for on-site due diligence visits during the May Board of Retirement meeting.

Attachments

- PE & PRR RFP April Board Meeting Update