To: City Officials

Your immediate assistance is requested to help the League provide input to the CalPERS Board as it prepares to adopt changes to its actuarial assumptions. CalPERS recently altered its smoothing methodology, resulting in increased plan costs in the near term. These costs are reflected in your 2013 actuarial reports.

CalPERS is now considering changes in actuarial assumptions including mortality and retirement age. These assumptions will also impact employer contribution rates now and in future years. The League and CalPERS need your input on your preferences for these rate changes and help to understand the potential impacts on local agency budgets that might result. CalPERS staff and Board members have expressed great interest in receiving this information prior to making a decision at their February 19 meeting. The CalPERS staff report including tables with the estimated rates under the different options under consideration is attached.

The attached survey will help you estimate the dollar impact of these proposed changes and the potential program and service impacts on your agency. The impact calculations are based on the recommended five year phase-in, 20 year amortization approach which is current CalPERS policy. In addition, the survey asks for your preference among the alternative phase-in and amortization options under consideration that would reduce costs in the near term, while increasing costs in the long term and in total.

Note that this survey has been modified since our January 9 webinar. Please use this latest version which includes a question on preference among amortization and phase-in options.

Survey responses will be compiled by League staff and a summary will be presented by CalPERS staff to the CalPERS board at its February 19 meeting. All information provided in the survey will remain confidential as to the specific agency unless you provide permission to publicly identify your agency and related data. To meet the deadline for the CalPERS Board meeting, please return surveys via email to Meghan McKelvey at mmckelvey@cacities.org as soon as possible but no later than noon on Tuesday, January 21.

If you have any questions about completing the survey, contact Michael Coleman at coleman@muni1.com or (530) 758-3952.

Thank you for helping to provide this vital input.