



GREAT EXPECTATIONS!

TULARE COUNTY DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN NEWSLETTER

457 DEFERRED COMP PLAN

JULY 2004

GET TO KNOW YOUR RETIREMENT PLANNING RESOURCES

So, you're convinced that planning for your retirement is a prudent activity to undertake. You've looked at the benefits offered by the County's Defined Benefit plan (TCERA) and those offered by

Social Security. You've come to realize, however, that these two retirement programs alone will not provide enough future income for you to retire with the lifestyle you are hoping for. You've heard that the Deferred Compensation Program might be another good option for helping you to build a retirement portfolio. But you don't really know how to get started. Worse, all of the financial terms and phrases seem so confusing. How can you get it to make sense? Well, even though some people spend their entire working lives studying the broad field of investments, perhaps we can make a few suggestions here that will help you to get started in sorting things out:



Investment Education Website

Do you want to know more about investing, but find that all of the terminology sounds like a foreign language? Why not try searching the internet for some help? Here are three sites that might be helpful to you:

1) www.investopedia.com – This site gives you the opportunity to learn the basics of investing in stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other financial instruments. You can even read one of their training tutorials and then take a short test to make sure that you've understood what you've read.

2) Motley Fool at www.fool.com - Although the name may imply it, this site is not just for fools. The site seeks to educate and help people gather knowledge about a wide variety of investment options. (They even throw in a touch of humor!)

3) NAIC at www.better-investing.org - The NAIC has been around for over 50 years. In that time they've tried to spread their investment philosophy by encouraging people to form investment clubs. The NAIC emphasizes investments in stocks and mutual funds. You can become a member of their organization and receive a monthly magazine and discounts to investment related publications.

Community and Other Local Colleges

If you prefer the interaction of a classroom setting, why not consider taking some basic courses in investments? The College of Sequoias, for example, offers classes in Investments and Personal Finance. Who knows, you may just find the beginning to a whole new career!



Great West Representative and Website

Great West is the provider of investment services for the County's 457 (Deferred Compensation) plan. If you belong to the plan, or are thinking about joining, you can receive personal assistance in determining how much you might want to invest on a biweekly basis, the impact your deductions will have on your taxable income and the impact an investment in the Deferred Comp program could have on future retirement benefits. We encourage you to contact the Great West representative, Stephanie Henry at (559) 967-2280, with your questions pertaining to Deferred Comp plan.

If you currently participate in the 457 program, we highly recommend that you become familiar with the Great West website at www.gwrs.com. The site provides a wealth of information on planning for retirement, your investment choices and options, your individual account balance, your rate of investment return and a comparison of your rate of return to other investment portfolios. The website's "Dream Tracker" feature helps you to determine the appropriate amount to save now in order to reach your future retirement goals. Even if you're not currently enrolled in the 457 program, you can sign on to the website as a guest and still receive information to assist you with your retirement planning. In addition,

Great West makes an "800" number available to plan members who need telephone assistance. You can get additional help by calling (800) 701-8255.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tulare County Deferred Compensation Plan:
www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/financial_services/auditor/deferredcomp/default.asp

If you are interested in finding out more about the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for Tulare County, please contact:

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This newsletter is a product of the Tulare County Deferred Compensation Subcommittee.

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