

Great Expectations

Deferred Compensation

Tulare County Deferred Compensation Plan Newsletter

Investment Option Changes

Just a reminder of the fund changes that are taking place within the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. Effective September 20, 2006 two additional funds were added to your list of investment options. They were the Pennsylvania Mutual Inv (PENNX) and Mainstay Small Cap Opportunity I (MOPIX). Both of these funds fall within the Small Cap asset class. Additionally, effective November 15, 2006, the following funds will no longer be available to plan participants:

MFS Massachusetts Investors Growth Stock A (MIGFX) and Blackrock Aurora Inv A (SSRAX)

All monies invested in these funds will be "mapped" (transferred) to their respective replacement funds. As always, all participants have the opportunity to initiate their own transfers if they would prefer not to have their funds transferred according to the listing below. Funds can be transferred prior to the November 15th mapping or shortly after the funds have been transferred.

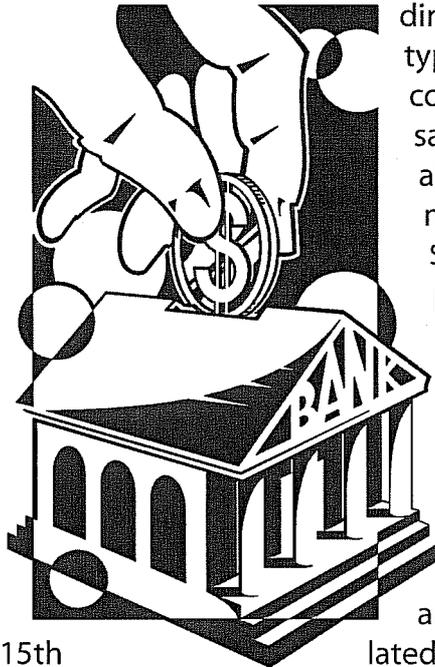
MFS Massachusetts Inv Growth will be mapped to American Fund Growth Fund of America (AGTHX) and Blackrock Aurora Inv will be mapped to Pennsylvania Mutual Inv (PENNX). Again, if you are a participant with monies invested in either of the eliminated funds, you can either initiate a transfer on your own, or let the mapping take care of it for you.

New Participants

Are you one of the many employees that sign up for your 457 Deferred Compensation account during New Employee Orientation (NEO)? If you are, have you taken the time to review your Investment Option selections and contribution amount? If not, now is a great time to do so. The majority of participants that enroll into the Plan at NEO contribute just \$10 per pay check (the minimum) and

direct their contributions into a "savings" type account. Although you should be commended for your commitment to saving for your retirement, you may be able to do even better. The annual maximum contribution for 2006 is \$15,000 per year or \$577/per pay period. Yes, that is a large contribution amount that most of us can not do, but that also means you have a lot of options when determining how much is right for you to contribute. Even a small increase (another \$5 to \$10) in your contribution may not seem like much now, but over time the growth and compounding on those accumu-

lated deposits and interest can be quite significant. In the same way, a change or adjustment in your investment selection can also make a significant difference in the growth of your retirement account. Your 457 Plan has a variety of investment options with varying amounts of risk to help you achieve your retirement goals.



Managed Accounts

Great News!!!! **Reality Investing** is now available to you within your 457 Plan. The reality is life is busy and not everyone is comfortable taking on the ongoing responsibility of selecting, monitoring and adjusting their investment options in their retirement savings account. Now, you don't have to! **Reality Investing** allows you the ability to have your account managed for you. That's right, you can have your account professionally managed. You have three levels of service to choose from, the true "managed account" for the individual that says "do-it-for-me" - this service will actually make your investment selections for you. The selections are made, monitored and rebalanced over time as the market fluctuates and your life changes.

For those who prefer a more hands on approach, there is Investment Guidance – "help-me-do-it". This level of service will offer personalized asset allocation and savings rate recommendations that you can use to manage your account. And for the "do-it-myself" investor, there is Investment Advice. This service will give you the tools and information to continue making your own investment selections.

If you are interested in any of these services, please contact your local Great West Retirement Services representative, Stephanie Henry at 967-2280 for details on each level of service and any potential fees.



Unrepresented Employees

If you are not represented by a bargaining unit, you are eligible for a matching contribution to your 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. If you are already enrolled in the Plan, you are already getting your matching contribution. Not enrolled? You are missing out on an opportunity to have additional money set aside for you for your retirement. Last year the County implemented a matching program to the 457 Plan for all unrepresented employees. For every \$4 dollars an eligible employee contributes, the County will contribute another \$1 up to a maximum of \$1,500 per year. In order to take advantage of the total amount the County is willing to contribute on your behalf, an eligible employee would need to contribute \$6,000 per year. Can't afford to contribute \$6,000 per year? Don't let that stop you the County will still make a contribution based on the above schedule.

Open Enrollment

Although you can enroll and make changes to your Deferred Compensation Plan throughout the course of the year, open enrollment is always a time employees are thinking about their benefits. Your local GWRS representative, Stephanie Henry will be available during the County Open Enrollment process to assist you with your Deferred Compensation questions. It is a convenient way for you to get enrolled, increase your contributions, review your investment options, update your beneficiary information and ask questions about your Plan.

Contact Information:

TC Deferred Compensation Plan
www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/auditor/defercomp/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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