



Governance Committee Agenda

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

TIME: 9:15 A.M.

MEETING LOCATION:

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to the concerns over COVID-19, the LACERS Governance Committee's, November 10, 2020, meeting will be conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

Important Message to the Public

Information to call-in to participate: Dial: (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799 Meeting ID# 865 5660 6569

Instructions for call-in participants:

- 1- Dial in and enter Meeting ID
- 2- Automatically enter virtual "Waiting Room"
- 3- Automatically enter Meeting
- 4- During Public Comment, press *9 to raise hand
- 5- Staff will call out the last 3-digits of your phone number to make your comment

Information to listen only: Live Committee Meetings can be heard at: (213) 621-CITY (Metro), (818) 904-9450 (Valley), (310) 471-CITY (Westside), and (310) 547-CITY (San Pedro Area).

Chair: Nilza R. Serrano

Committee Members: Annie Chao

Cynthia M. Ruiz

Manager-Secretary: Neil M. Guglielmo

Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

Legal Counselor: City Attorney's Office

Public Pensions General

Counsel Division

Notice to Paid Representatives

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 *et seq.* More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

Request for services

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Sign Language Interpreters, Communication Access Real-Time Transcription, Assistive Listening Devices, Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS), or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days' notice is strongly recommended. For additional information, please contact: Board of Administration Office at (213) 855-9348 and/or email at ani.ghoukassian@lacers.org.

Disclaimer to participants

Please be advised that all LACERS Board and Committee Meeting proceedings are audio recorded.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS BOARD REPORTS

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND COMMENTS ON ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS ON THE AGENDA – THIS WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - PRESS *9 TO RAISE HAND DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2020 AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION
- III. PROPOSED REVISION TO THE LACERS TRAVEL POLICY AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS
- V. NEXT MEETING: The next Governance Committee meeting is not scheduled at this time, and will be announced upon scheduling. Please continue to view the LACERS website for updated information on public access to Board/Committee meetings while public health concerns relating to the novel coronavirus continue.
- VI. ADJOURNMENT





Board of Administration Agenda

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

TIME: 9:15 A.M.

MEETING LOCATION:

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President: Cynthia M. Ruiz Vice President: Sung Won Sohn

Commissioners: Annie Chao

> Elizabeth Lee Sandra Lee Nilza R. Serrano Michael R. Wilkinson

Manager-Secretary: Neil M. Guglielmo

Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

Legal Counsel: City Attorney's Office

Public Pensions General

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- VI. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda of: Nov. 10, 2020

Item No:

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to the concerns over COVID-19, the LACERS Governance Committee's August 25, 2020, meeting was conducted via telephone and/or videoconferencing.

August 25, 2020

9:00 a.m.

PRESENT via Videoconferencing: Chair: Nilza R. Serrano

Committee Members: Annie Chao

Cynthia M. Ruiz

Commissioners: (arrived at 9:08 a.m.) Elizabeth Lee

Manager-Secretary: Lita Payne

Legal Counselor: Miguel Bahamon

PRESENT at LACERS Offices: Executive Assistant: Ani Ghoukassian

The Items in the Minutes are numbered to correspond with the Agenda.

Commissioner Elizabeth Lee was present at this meeting, this is considered a Special Meeting of the Board of Administration. Any votes taken will be taken by Governance Committee Members only.

I

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND COMMENTS ON ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS ON THE AGENDA – THIS WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – PRESS *9 TO RAISE HAND DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Chair Serrano asked if any persons wished to speak on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction, to which there was no response.

П

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 26, 2020 AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – Committee Member Ruiz moved approval of the minutes for the Special Meeting of May 26, 2020, and adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Committee Members Chao, Ruiz and Chair Serrano -3; Nays, None.

Commissioner Elizabeth Lee joined the Governance Committee Meeting at 9:08 a.m. and left the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

REVIEW OF BOARD PROCEDURES ON OFFICER ELECTIONS AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – Chhintana Kurimoto, Management Analyst with Administration Division, presented this item to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee recommended this item to be forwarded to the full Board for discussion without a recommendation from the Governance Committee.

IV

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE LACERS TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – Edeliza Fang, Senior Benefits Analyst II with Administration Division and Todd Bouey, Assistant General Manager presented and discussed this item with the Committee. After discussion, Committee Member Ruiz moved approval, and adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Committee Member Ruiz and Chair Serrano -2; Nays, Committee Member Chao -1.

V

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LACERS PROXY VOTING POLICY AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE ACTION – Rod June, Chief Investment Officer and Ellen Chen, Investment Officer I, presented this item to the Committee. Committee Member Chao moved approval, and adopted by the following vote: Ayes, Committee Members Chao, Ruiz, and Chair Serrano -3; Nays, None.

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OTHER BUSINESS – Chair Serrano requested staff to research how LADWP and LAFPP provide travel advances to staff and report back to the Committee to consider the same process at LACERS.

VII

NEXT MEETING: The next Governance Committee meeting is not scheduled at this time, and will be announced upon scheduling. Please continue to view the LACERS website for updated information on public access to Board/Committee meetings while response to public health concerns relating to the novel coronavirus continue.

VIII

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Serrano adjourned the Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Nilza R. Serrano
Chair

Lita Payne Manager-Secretary





REPORT TO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: NOVEMBER 10, 2020

From: Neil M. Guglielmo, General Manager ITEM: III

Milm. Duglipus

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISION TO THE LACERS TRAVEL POLICY AND POSSIBLE

COMMITTEE ACTION

ACTION: ☑ CLOSED: ☐ CONSENT: ☐ RECEIVE & FILE: ☐

Recommendation

That the Committee consider the proposed revision to the Board Travel Policy of the LACERS Board Administrative Policies.

Executive Summary

Revision of the Board Travel Policy is proposed to provide LACERS business travelers with more options and added flexibility in the areas of air travel and travel advances. The recommended changes related to air travel include: 1) allowing the reservation of non-stop flights when booking through the City's authorized business travel agency, CalTravelStore, if the cost of the airline ticket is no more than 50% higher than the lowest cost of flight with one layover; and 2) reimbursing traveler-purchased airline tickets up to 150% of the lowest fare ticket with one layover, for the same days of travels. Modifications to the travel advance policy are also proposed to mirror the policy of LACERS' sister pension systems in the City.

Discussion

On September 22, 2020, staff presented to the Board proposed revisions to the LACERS Travel Policy which had been considered by the Governance Committee on August 25, 2020. The Board discussed the advantages and limitations of using CalTravelStore as LACERS' exclusive source for all air travel needs. The Board referred the item back to the Governance Committee for an alternative recommendation.

Proposed are enhancements to the Travel Policy to provide travelers with more options when making airline reservations. Travelers may choose a non-stop flight so long as the airline ticket is in coach/economy class, and that the cost is no more than 50% higher than the lowest cost flight with one layover (e.g., a \$600 non-stop airline ticket is allowable if the lowest cost ticket with one stop is \$400). LACERS continues to encourage travelers to use CalTravelStore as it lessens the administrative burden on both the traveler and staff not only in dealing with airline reservations, airfare payment, and

reimbursement but also in situations wherein air travel changes, cancellations, and associated charges, refunds or credits of air travel costs are involved. Reserving through CalTravelStore limits the number of parties involved since arrangements are handled entirely by the travel service and the LACERS travel coordinator, which makes for an efficient process when issues arise. However, should travelers elect to purchase their own airline tickets, LACERS will reimburse the lower of the actual cost of the ticket or 150% of the lowest cost one-stop fare for the same days of travel. All responsibilities for making changes, cancellations, seeking refunds or credits fall solely on the traveler. It is strongly recommended that the traveler purchase traveler's insurance if using an outside travel agency. This cost is the responsibility of the traveler and will not be reimbursed by LACERS.

Additionally, changes to the LACERS travel advance policy are recommended. After reviewing the policies of LACERS' sister pension systems, the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions (LAFPP) and the Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan (WPERP), staff proposes modifications to mirror the policies of LAFPP and WPERP.

The proposed changes are in the following areas:

Appendix B – Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy

Section II - Transportation (pages 1-2)

A. Air Travel

- Adding the following language to state LACERS' current practice: "Travelers are strongly
 encouraged to use the City's authorized business travel service, CalTravelStore, to book
 airline reservations, but may use another travel service or reserve directly with an airline."
- Airline tickets purchased outside of CalTravelStore will be reimbursed at the lower of the
 actual cost of the ticket or 150% of the lowest cost one-stop airfare for the same days of
 travel (personal travel days excluded). The traveler will be responsible for the handling of
 any changes, cancellations, refunds, and credits. Purchase of traveler's insurance is
 recommended. The cost of this coverage is solely the responsibility of the traveler.
- Travelers are allowed to book non-stop flights provided that the seat is in coach or economy class and that the cost is no more than 50% higher than the lowest cost flight with one stop for the same travel dates.
- If the airline ticket is purchased outside of CalTravelStore, the traveler is responsible for obtaining a quote, generated on the same day as the flight booking, from CalTravelStore. This quote, to be used for cost comparison purposes, shall be for a one-stop coach/economy class ticket from any airline for the same days of travel.

Section IV – Non-Reimbursable Travel Expenses (page 11)

A. Travel Advances

• Adding "traveler's insurance" as another cost that cannot be reimbursed by LACERS.

<u>Section V – Other Rules and Restrictions</u> (pages 12-13)

B. Travel Advances

- Establishing the amount advanced to the traveler at 90% of the estimated total travel expense. In addition, a travel advance will not be issued if this amount is less than \$500 in total.
- Allowing travelers to submit written requests for a travel advance fifteen (15) business days prior to the date of travel but no earlier than thirty (30) calendar days before travel.
- Deleting "airfare" from the list of allowable travel expenses that a traveler may request a cash advance for.

Appendix C – Board Travel Reimbursement Checklist

<u>Section I – Steps for Travel Approval and Reimbursement</u> (page 15)

Step 4: Book flight

- Removing language referencing the need to secure three fare quotes as well as the need to submit said quotes.
- Adding the need to submit the CalTravelStore quote to establish the base fare. This quote
 is for a one-stop coach/economy class ticket from any airline for the same days of travel.

Step 5: Submit written justification for items requiring pre-approval from the Board President or Vice President

- Revising language to state "Requests for reimbursement of airfare which is more than 150% of the lowest cost one-stop airfare" to establish reimbursement threshold for airfare.
- Deleting language requiring the traveler to provide justification for airfare that exceeds the lowest regular fare.
- Revising the deadline/time period wherein travel advance requests are to be submitted.

Section II - Reimbursement Checklist (pages 16-17)

Air Travel Table

- Deleting the language requiring the submission of three air fare quotes.
- Adding the requirement of submitting the airline ticket receipt and the CalTravelStore quote.

Other Transportation Table

 Adding language requiring the submission of airfare/rail travel confirmation and/or transportation receipt from the taxi, shuttle, or private car service.

There are two attachments to this report: (A) a red-line version of the policy appendices showing the proposed changes, and (B) a clean version of the proposed policy appendices accepting the changes to the red-line version. Upon the Committee's finalization of the proposed revised LACERS Travel Policy, it will be presented to the Board for further consideration and approval.

Strategic Alignment

The Committee's action on this item aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal to uphold good governance practices which affirm transparency, accountability, and fiduciary duty.

Prepared By: Edeliza Fang, Senior Benefits Analyst II

NMG/TB:DW:EF

Attachments: 1. Board Education and Travel Policy, Appendix B and Appendix C - Red-line Version

2. Board Education and Travel Policy, Appendix B and Appendix C - Clean Version

Item III Attachment 1

Section 1.0 GUIDANCE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

APPENDIX B LACERS TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF CITY TRAVEL POLICY (LAAC Chapter 5, Article 4, §§ 4.242.1-4.242.9)

Approved: March 11, 2014;

Revised: September 23, 2014; January 22, 2019; November 10, 2020

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A copy of the Travel and Education Policy including the Guidelines for Travel and Personal Expenses will be provided to new Board Members and staff before processing their first travel request.

- A. LACERS considers an individual traveling if:
 - i) the travel is outside the geographic boundaries of Los Angeles County [LAAC §4.242.2]; and more than 50 miles away from both LACERS' offices and the traveler's home; and
 - ii) the duties require the individual to be away from the general area of the individual's primary residence substantially longer than an ordinary day's work; or
 - iii) the individual needs to sleep or rest to meet the demands of work while away from the primary residence.
- B. Costs incurred on travel days which are not conference days are allowable (subject to limitations covered in the applicable sections of the guidelines): (i) on the day before the first educational session of the conference or seminar if transportation on the first conference day would require the traveler to leave his/her point of departure (e.g., home) earlier than 9:00 a.m.; or (ii) on the day after the last educational session of the conference or seminar if transportation on the last conference day would cause the traveler to get to his/her final destination (e.g., home) after 8:00 p.m.
- C. Board approval of travel is required prior to payment of any related fees. If a Traveler elects to personally incur travel-related fees prior to the Board's approval, the Traveler assumes personal financial liability that his or her expenses may not be reimbursed.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. AIR TRAVEL LAAC Requirement LACERS Policy 1. Air travel may be used when it is the most Except in the case of official necessity, air travel expenses are allowable only efficient means of travel. 2. Travelers are strongly encouraged to use the for the lowest regular fare available for regularly scheduled airlines for the date City's authorized business travel service, CalTravelStore, to book airline reservations, and time selected [§4.242.2(a)(1)] but may use another travel service or reserve directly with an airline. Claims for reimbursement of higher fare or extra charges for transportation by 3. Purchase of airline tickets outside of CalTravelStore is allowed and will be schedule airlines are allowable only if certified by the Department Head¹ that reimbursed at the lower of the actual cost of

¹ Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures; the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

he or she has reviewed and concurs with the facts constituting the official necessity. [§4.242.2(a)(1)]

- the ticket or 150% of the lowest cost one-stop airfare for the same days of travel (personal travel days excluded). Traveler is responsible for the handling of any changes, cancellations, refunds, and credits involving non-CalTravelStore reservations. Purchase of traveler's insurance is recommended for such reservations. Traveler bears this cost, not LACERS.
- Air travel shall be at coach or economy fare. Coach or economy fare is presumed to be the lowest regular fare available for regularly scheduled airlines. Airfare quotes from several airlines are not necessary.
- 5. Non-stop flights are permissible if the airline ticket is coach or economy class and if the cost is no more than 50% higher than the lowest cost flight with one stop.
- 6. If the airline ticket is purchased from a travel service other than CalTravelStore or directly from the airline, the traveler is required to obtain a quote from CalTravelStore generated on the same day the flight was booked. The quote shall be for a one-stop coach/economy class ticket from any airline for the same days of travel. It will be used for cost comparison purposes as part of the reimbursement process.
- 7. When the airfare receipt shows an upgrade to business or first class accommodation
 - Without further justification, the traveler may be reimbursed at the lower of the lowest regular fare rate available² and actual cost, or
 - b. the traveler shall provide a memo stating the case of official necessity, for approval by the Department Head¹.
- 8. LACERS will pay directly for airfare booked with the City's authorized business travel service, CalTravelStore.
- If CalTravelStore is not used, LACERS travelers must use their personal credit card to book flights or other modes of transportation.
- 10. Consistent with Federal and City travel standards, coupons, or promotional mileage

- credits earned by the traveler during the course of LACERS business travel may be used for LACERS or personal business. The traveler will not be reimbursed for such coupons or promotional mileage credits used for LACERS travel.
- 11. Fees for the first checked baggage will be reimbursed. Fees for additional checked baggage may be reimbursed if a justification for an official business need is provided.
- 12. The cost of air flight insurance is not eligible for reimbursement.
- 13. With pre-approval of the Department Head, refundable airline tickets may be purchased if the traveler provides acceptable justification that the benefit of booking a refundable ticket outweighs the risk of changes in travel plans.

B. PERSONAL VEHICLE OR NON-AIR TRANSPORTATION

LAAC Requirement

LACERS Policy

In all instances where a mode of transportation other than regularly scheduled airlines is chosen, the Department Head¹ shall authorize such alternate mode of transportation in advance and the allowable cost shall be the actual cost of the alternate mode of transportation or the cost allowable under Subsection (a)1, whichever is less. [§4.242.3.(a)(2)]

In the case of travel by modes of transportation other than regularly scheduled airlines, transportation costs shall be the regular fare for the mode of transportation chosen. [§4.242.3(a)]

In the instance of the use of private automobile, mileage shall be in accordance with mileage provisions of Division 4, Chapter 5, Article 2 of the Administrative Code. [§4.242.3.(a)(2)]

- 14. Pre-approval by the Department Head¹ is required for all non-air travel in advance of travel. Travelers must submit the following items for pre-approval:
 - a. For travelers using personal automobiles for business purposes – Provide proof of automobile insurance at minimum coverage levels as follows: \$25,000 injury to or death of one person; and, \$50,000 injury to or death of more than one person; and, \$5,000 property damage for any one accident.
 - b. Cost comparisons are required for all non-air travel, with exceptions listed below: Traveler shall submit: a quote for the lowest regular fare available for regularly scheduled airlines to the destination for the date and time selected; and the cost for regular fare on the alternative mode of transportation.

Exceptions (no cost comparison is required):

If traveling by vehicle to neighboring counties of Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo, or to the San Francisco Employees Retirement System to transport sensitive computer equipment for the LACERS emergency hot/warm site.

- 15. Receipts for alternate modes of travel are required. Reimbursement will be for the lower of the actual cost of transportation or lowest regular airfare verified by Accounting prior to encumbrance of the travel request.
- 16. Mileage reimbursement
 - a. Mileage reimbursement for the Board will be calculated on a roundtrip basis between official's residence and official destination.
 - b. Mileage reimbursement for staff will be based on the distance in excess of home to City office for travels during regular work days; for other days, reimbursement will be based on a roundtrip between staff's residence and official destination.

¹Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures; the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

² The acceptable amount will be the fare verified by the Accounting staff prior to encumbrance of the travel request.

- 17. Additional travel time and expenses (such as meals and lodging) incurred in choosing other than the fastest and most direct mode of transportation are at the traveler's own personal time and expense.
- 18. Claims for repairs, replacements, towage, gas and car insurance are not reimbursable.
- 19. Ground transportation refers to transportation from home to airport, airport to hotel and/or conference/ meeting/seminar location, and back. This includes taxis, shuttles, limousines, and private vehicles.
- 20. Mileage reimbursement is provided when personal vehicle is used for ground transportation to/from airport. Commissioner's mileage reimbursement will be computed based on roundtrip miles from residence to airport. Staff mileage reimbursement will be computed based on the distance in excess of home to City office for travels during regular work day; and roundtrip miles from residence to airport on non-work days.

C. GROUND TRANSPORTATION		
LAAC Requirement LACERS Policy		
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The least expensive and most practical form of public transportation shall be used, taking into consideration such factors as time, availability, and personal safety or health. [§4.242.3.(c)]	 21. Reimbursement for airport parking is actual amount, not to exceed \$20 per day. Pre-approval is not required. Reimbursement for actual amounts in excess of \$20 per day requires the traveler submitting a memo to justify the expense based on time, availability, and personal safety or health. 22. Reimbursement for use of taxi, shuttle, private car or limousine service is limited to the lesser of roundtrip taxi fare (http://www.taxifarefinder.com)² or shuttle fare (http://www.shuttlefare.com)². 	
D. AUTOMO	BILE RENTAL	
LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy	
Such expenses are allowable if traveling by car is less expensive or more appropriate for the efficient conduct of City business than by taxi or bus. [§4.242.3.(d)]	 23. Pre-approval by the Department Head¹ is required. Travelers must provide written justification that the traveling by car is less expensive or more efficient in conducting LACERS business than by use of taxi or bus. 24. The traveler will not be reimbursed for car rental insurance within the United States. Car rental insurance costs required in foreign countries may be claimed for reimbursement. 	

¹ Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures; the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

² The acceptable amount will be the fare verified by the Accounting staff prior to encumbrance of the travel request.

III. LODGING, MEALS AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSE ALLOWANCE

A. LODGING	
LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy

This section is not intended to preclude an employee or elected official from staying in a hotel where the meeting or convention to be attended is held. [§4.242.3.(b)(1)]

- 25. Acceptable documentation shall include original itemized hotel receipt marked 'Paid in Full' or showing a zero balance; otherwise, proof of payment is also required.
- 26. Reimbursement for lodging in a hotel where the meeting or convention to be attended is deemed the most practical accommodation and permissible.
- 27. A traveler may elect to stay in a hotel sponsored by the conference as it is presumed to be the most practical or convenient. The reimbursement will be limited to the lesser of the actual hotel costs incurred or the conference hotel rate.
- 28. For any official System travel for training. due diligence trips, meetings with investment managers, or training where hotels are not pre-designated, the traveler should select the most economical lodging taking into consideration the proximity of the selected place to conduct the official System business, traveler's safety, time and transportation costs and other relevant factors. Any of the following methods are acceptable for determining "moderately priced establishments of acceptable quality", "the most economical and practical accommodations", and those which would be presumed not to meet the IRS definition of "lavish and extravagant" accommodations:
 - Lodging does not exceed the highest Federal domestic lodging per diem rate; cost comparison is not necessary; or
 - (ii) The most economical hotel identified using the City traveler provider website (www.concursolutions.com/), with availability, with at least a 3 star rating on a 5 star scale travel, and within walking distance or no less than ½ mile radius of the first business location; or

In the selection of restaurants and hotel rooms, it is expected that individuals will seek moderately priced establishments of acceptable quality. [LAAC §4.242.3.(b)]

An employee or elected official must consider transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors in selecting the most economical and practical accommodations. [§4.242.3.(b)(1)]

- (iii) The most practical hotel on the above list with acceptable written justification; or
- (iv) Any lodging expenses may be reimbursed provided that the expense does not exceed 300% of the lodging per diem and traveler must clearly demonstrate no other acceptable alternative lodging was available, as in the event of a state of emergency, or other justifiable reason reviewed and certified by the Department Head¹ as reasonable and proper, and incurred in the pursuit of System business.
- 29. Reimbursement is limited to single occupancy room rate, as documented on hotel letterhead or the hotel's room rates listing, plus applicable taxes and charges unless additional occupants are LACERS trustees/staff on official LACERS business.

B. MEALS AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES (M&IE)

LAAC Requirement

Expenses incurred by an employee or elected official for food and beverage served at meals, scheduled receptions, or other functions necessary for the conduct of City business are allowable to a maximum of three meals a day. [§4.242.3.(b)(2)]

LACERS Policy

- 30. LACERS intends to be compliant with IRS accountable plan rules, therefore M&IE allowance will be provided only when business travel results in a necessity for lodging. LACERS will provide travelers with a standard meal allowance at the Federal per diem rate per locale. The allowance, in lieu of providing receipts, is acceptable under the IRS accountable plan rules. The IRS (Publication 463) defines meals and incidental expenses include: meals, transportation to acquire meals, fees/tips to porters, baggage carriers, bellhops, hotel maids, wait staff, and other service providers.
- 31. No meal allowance will be paid when meals are provided throughout the day by the host or at the conference.
- 32. Prorating the standard meal allowance The IRS permits LACERS to adopt its own

¹ Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures; the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

rules for prorating the standard meal allowance on partial days of travel so long as we consistently apply the method in accordance with reasonable business practice.

The meal and incidental expense allowance will be prorated from a daily allowance to a per meal period allowance on partial days of travel; and when some meals are prepaid/to be paid by LACERS (complimentary breakfast provided at the hotel, meals at the conference, or pre-paid to comply with the City/LACERS gift restrictions.

The M&IE allowance = incidental expense + breakfast allowance (if traveling between 1AM – 9AM) + lunch allowance (if traveling between 9AM – 5PM) + dinner allowance (if traveling between 5PM – 1AM).

Utilize the M&IE per travel locale and provide an allowance for each meal period the traveler is away from home (based on the current Federal General Services Agency six tiered M&IE allowance):

Total	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	ΙE
\$46	\$7	\$11	\$23	\$5
\$51	\$8	\$12	\$26	\$5
\$56	\$9	\$13	\$29	\$5
\$61	\$10	\$15	\$31	\$5
\$66	\$11	\$16	\$34	\$5
\$71	\$12	\$18	\$36	\$5

Gratuities. Such expenses, not exceeding 15%, are allowable where reasonable and customary. [§4.242.3.(h)]

33. Gratuities are included in the IRS definition of "incidental" expenses and are therefore subject to per diem limits. Reimbursement for restaurant gratuities are calculated as up to 15 percent of the restaurant bill exclusive of taxes, except when the gratuity percentage is required and the amount is added on the bill by the service provider.

IV. OTHER EXPENSES

(j) Other Expenses. Expenses not specifically set forth in other subsections of this section that are incurred by an employee or an elected official are allowable where deemed necessary in the conduct of City business; provided that such expenses have been reviewed and certified by the Department Head¹ as reasonable and proper and incurred in pursuit of City business. Wherever the type of expenditure is not specifically listed in this section, the employee or elected

official should be prepared to absorb the

that such expense is not certified by the

Department Head¹. [§4.242.3.(j)]

cost as a personal expenditure in the event

LAAC Requirement

LACERS Policy

- 34. Other travel expenses are allowable when deemed necessary in the conduct of System business provided such expenses are reviewed and certified by the Department Head¹ as reasonable, proper, and incurred in pursuit of System business. Otherwise, these expenses become personal expenditures.
- 35. Travel Interruptions When there is an interruption or deviation from planned travel due to bona fide public emergencies outside of the traveler's control such as weather or shutdown of air travel, travelers may be reimbursed at full cost for emergency lodging, meals, and incidental expenses.
- 36. Indirect Travel whether for the traveler's personal leave or for convenience, expenses allowable will not exceed those that would have been incurred for uninterrupted travel utilizing the direct travel route or travel days. Supporting documentation showing the cost for direct travel and the deviation should be provided by the traveler.

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IV. NON-REIMBURSABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES

LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy
Expenditures which are incurred by an employee or elected official that are of a purely personal nature will not be reimbursed	37. Expenditures which are not substantive to LACERS business will not be reimbursed by LACERS, such as:
 by the City. a) Auto repairs, replacement or towage to personal vehicle when such use has been authorized (see established City procedures for repair to City vehicle); b) Flight insurance; c) Personal telephone calls (except those specified in Section 4.242.3 (g) of this article); d) Expenses for persons other than the employee or elected official, except as 	 a) Any expenses related to entertainment and recreational activities; b) Flight upgrade fees for seats other than coach or economy: c) Internet usage fees (unless the internet is used for City business); d) Any expenses related to alcohol and tobacco; e) Traveler's insurance. 38. The traveler must submit reimbursement for personal expenditures paid by
specified in Section 4.242.3 (b) 2. [§4.242.4]	LACERS. If there are portions of the conference or seminar that are entertainment in nature and not business-related (e.g., golf tournaments, musical performances or concerts, etc.), the traveler is required to reimburse LACERS for the cost of these recreational activities.

V. OTHER RULES AND RESTRICTIONS

A. DOCUMENTATION OF EXPENSES - PERSONAL EXPENSE STATEMENTS

LAAC Requirement

All expenses claimed shall be listed on separate forms provided and used for required documentation of travel expense.

Completed travel expense forms shall be forwarded to the Controller within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trip.

The Department Head¹ shall certify that all expenditures were incurred in pursuit of City business. Falsification of such certification shall be grounds for appropriate disciplinary action and such other sanctions provided by law.

Receipts shall be provided for transportation costs incurred under Section 4.242.3(a), lodging, and for any single item of expenditure in excess of \$25.00. Receipts for expenditures under \$25.00 should be presented when available. [LAAC § 4.242.7]

39. All expenses claimed for reimbursement must be itemized on the Personal Expense

Statement (PES - Form Gen. 16).

- 40. The traveler is responsible for verifying all charges on receipts before making payment. Charges made in error will not be reimbursed.
- 41. Original receipts are required for any single expenditure in excess of \$25.

 Receipts are not required for a meal and incidental expense allowance, regardless of amount, when the Federal per diem rate per locale is provided to the traveler and prorated in accordance with LACERS' policy.

B. TRAVEL ADVANCES

LAAC Requirement

Requests for an advance for funds shall be submitted to the Controller, where feasible, at least ten (10) days in advance of the beginning of the planned expenditure of funds and such request shall include the persons traveling, period covered, and the destination. In addition, the request should state the purpose of the trip, the nature of the City business to be conducted on the trip, and the proposed total estimated expenditure. Documentation of actual expenses incurred shall be submitted to the Controller in conformance with Section 4.242.7.

LACERS Policy

- 42. For trips of one night or more, a travel advance may be requested. The amount advanced is limited to the lodging, meal and incidental expenses per diem. Only 90% of the total travel estimate is advanced. A travel advance will not be issued if this amount is less than \$500 in total.
- 43. Written requests for the travel advance are to be submitted by the Traveler to the CEA/travel coordinator for approval at least thirty (30) days fifteen (15) business days prior to the date of travel but no earlier than thirty (30) calendar days prior to travel. The request must include a statement certifying that the traveler has no outstanding cash advance.
- 44. A cash advance request will be denied if

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- a traveler has an outstanding cash advance for past travel with does not comply with the procedures.
- 45. Regular travel advances will be released no earlier than one (1) week before travel.
- 46. Outstanding travel advances not accounted for and delinquent over 120 days will be included as part of an employee's wages on the first payroll period of the subsequent calendar quarter following the end of the 120 calendar days; and, for non-City employees, IRS Form 1099-Misc will be issued per IRS Federal, State, Local Government Taxable Fringe Benefit Guide. Nothing herein eliminates the traveler's obligation to return to the Fund any excess monies that were received that were not used for approved travel expenses.
- 47. Future travel advances will not be processed for traveler(s) with delinquent PES over 30 days. Requests for reimbursement may be processed in advance of the travel for expenditures such as registration fees, airfare and/or one-night hotel deposit. To ensure timely processing of the reimbursement, such requests along with supporting documents and proof of payment (credit card statement, etc.) must be submitted to the CEA/travel coordinator, in writing, at least fifteen (15) working days before the date of travel.
- 48. Advanced payment for cancelled travel:
 Any amount that was paid by department in advance of travel is considered an advance. In the event of the need to cancel the trip, the traveler is responsible for notifying all payees to as soon as possible to avoid/minimize cancellation fees
 - a. If cancellation was due to personal reasons, the traveler must personally reimburse the department for any amount not recovered (net of cancellation fees). If the refund or credit was issued directly to the traveler,

- traveler must pay LACERS the entire amount of credit received within 14 calendar days from the credit issued date.
- b. If travel was cancelled due to the business or public reason, traveler is responsible to submit a justification along with the proper documentation to the General Manager within 14 calendar days from the cancelled date.
- c. Unrecovered amounts are reported as taxable income to the traveler. The traveler may be required to pay for future airfare using their own credit card, and LACERS will reimburse airfare upon completion of travel.

APPENDIX C BOARD TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT CHECKLIST

Adoption Date: May 26, 2009

Revised Dates: June 22, 2010; December 13, 2011; March 11, 2014; November 10, 2020

I. STEPS FOR TRAVEL APPROVAL AND REIMBURSEMENT:

- Step 1: Provide details of the educational event to the Commission Executive Assistant (CEA)
- Step 2: Submit information on estimated expenses to the CEA

Fees Paid Directly By LACERS:

Step 3: Register for the Conference

- Conference registration and registration fees can be arranged through the CEA prior to the conference date. Registration fees are paid directly by LACERS with no out-ofpocket expenses for the traveler;
 - Under State and City gift laws, complimentary conferences or conference-related events could be considered gifts. LACERS will evaluate the circumstances with the assistance of the City Ethics Commission and may be required to pay a pro-rata share of conference expenses provided by the hosting organization.
- Or, after the fact, submit a receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment.

Step 4: Book flight

- Provide desired flight numbers, dates, and times to the CEA. The CEA will book the flight. Flights booked through the City's travel service negate the need to secure three fare quotes. The City's travel service will also provide a flight credit if the traveler is unable to fly and proper notification is given.
- Or after the fact, submit a receipt for the purchase of the airline ticket and three fare
 quotes, for cost comparison, the CalTravelStore quote for a one-stop coach/economy
 class ticket from any airline and for the same days of travel generated on the same
 day the flight was booked. Reimbursement is limited to the lowest regular
 fare/economy rate.

Items Requiring Pre-Approval for Expenditure Reimbursement:

- Step 5: Submit written justification for items requiring pre-approval from the Board President or Vice President. If approval is not secured prior to incurring the expense, reimbursement may not be granted.
 - Requests for reimbursement of airfare which exceeds the lowest regular fare is more than 150% of the lowest cost one-stop airfare – justification should demonstrate the official necessity of the selected flight. Attach to the request three air fare quotes generated on the same day the flight was booked.
 - Requests for transportation other than air flight justification should indicate reasons for use of the alternate mode of transportation.
 - Requests for cash advances to cover lodging and per diem for meals must be submitted 30 days 15 business days, but no earlier than 30 calendar days, prior to the commencement of travel. See further instructions below.

After the Travel has been completed, submit report and receipts:

Step 6: Submit an Event Evaluation Report within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trip

- The report is required prior to reimbursement
- Step 7: Submit a Personal Expense Statement (PES) within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trip:
 - Itemize all reimbursable daily expenses for lodging, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses; list the per diem for meals and incidentals.
 - Report expenses paid directly by LACERS as a deduction to the total reimbursable amount
 - See further instructions on the following checklist

II. REIMBURSEMENT CHECKLIST:

ALLOWABLE TRAVEL COSTS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL Air Travel Transportation Expenses ☐ Submit a receipt showing a zero balance as Air travel expenses are only allowable for the lowest regular fare available. If the flight with proof of payment for airfare the lowest regular fare is not booked, ☐ If purchasing outside of CalTravel Store, reimbursement will only be for the lowest provide three air fare quotes from the regular fare. same date as the booked flight, the airline If three fare quotes are not submitted, the ticket receipt and CalTravelStore quote lowest regular fare will be determined by a demonstrating that the selected flight is the quote from the City's travel agent for a direct lowest regular fare practically available the flight, coach class, 14 days prior to the date of cost of the booked flight is no more than business travel. The CEA will determine the 50% higher than the quote, for the same reasonable flights to be quoted which best days of travel, from CalTravelStore. meet the conference dates and times. Provide three air fare quotes from the Exceptions allowing reimbursement for a same date as the booked flight. higher cost fare may be approved by the General Manager for "official necessity." ☐ Provide written justification of the "official Official necessity means there is a bona fide necessity" for any higher cost fare if benefit to LACERS for taking the selected seeking reimbursement above the lowest flight which outweighs the cost of the higher fare rate. The General Manager must fare. concur for the expense to be submitted for reimbursement. OTHER TRANSPORTATION **Bus or Rail Travel** ☐ Submit request for pre-approval from the The allowable cost shall be the actual cost for General Manager for all modes of the regular fare for the bus/rail travel. transportation other than regularly scheduled airlines. **Automobile Rental** Automobile rental expenses are allowable if ☐ Submit request for pre-approval from the traveling by automobile is less expensive or General Manager demonstrating that

more appropriate than by other modes of transportation.	traveling by rental car is less expensive or more appropriate for the efficient conduct of City business than by taxi or bus.	
Private Automobile The allowable cost shall be the actual total mileage rate allowance as determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).	□ Submit request for pre-approval from the General Manager, and include a satisfactory liability insurance policy covering the full use and operation of the vehicle. The limits of liability on any such policy shall not be less than \$25,000 in the case of injury to or death of one person, and \$50,000 in the case of injury to or death of more than one person; and in the case of property damage, not less than \$5,000 in any one accident	
	☐ Submit airfare confirmation (provided by CalTravelStore, other travel service, and airline), rail travel confirmation notice or transportation receipt from taxi, shuttle, or private car service.	
REGISTRA	TION FEES	
Registration Fees Reimbursable if paid by the Trustee	☐ Submit a receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment	
LODGING		
Hotels generally offer specially rated room blocks for conference participants. The Trustee may stay at an "off-site" hotel if the room blocks are exhausted.	☐ Submit receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment. Personal credit card information must be redacted from the receipt.	
Transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors must be considered in selecting the most economical and practical accommodations.	 If lodging is for other than single occupancy, secure a rate sheet or other documentation of the single occupancy rate. 	
An extra-night stay is allowable if it sufficiently reduces the airfare, or if the conference commences early in the morning or adjourns late in the evening.		
MEALS & INCIDE	NTAL EXPENSES	
 The meal and incidental per diem for domestic travel is currently \$71 per day. Incidental expenses are fees and gratuities provided to service workers. 	Receipts for meals and incidental expenses are not required.	

 and for transportation costs in acquiring meals. The daily allowance is prorated at 75% on days of travel, and if some meals are provided by the hotel or conference. No meal allowance is provided when meals are provided throughout the day by the hosting organization. The rate for international travel is in accordance with current Federal per diem rate guidelines. 	☐ Submit justification letter if claiming reimbursement for expenses exceeding the per diem allowance.
MISCELLANEO	OUS EXPENSES
Checked Baggage Fees Such expenses are allowable when the Trustee is charged for the first checked bag.	☐ Baggage fees for second and additional items require a justification memo that it meets a business purpose.
Laundry Service Such expenses are allowable if the duration of the trip, traveling conditions, or some other special circumstances dictate.	☐ Submit receipts for all miscellaneous expenses.
City Business Telephone Calls Such expenses are allowable if the telephone calls are relevant to appropriate City business.	
Personal Telephone Calls Such expenses are allowable for one call to the Trustee's immediate family if they are located within the locale of their residence.	
If travel is in excess of three (3) days, one such call is permitted for each successive three (3) days thereafter.	
Each call should last a reasonable amount of time, such as 10 minutes per call.	
Ground Transportation	

Transportation between the traveler's

residence and airport, and transportation between the airport and conference location.

Item III Attachment 2

Section 1.0 GUIDANCE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

APPENDIX B LACERS TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF CITY TRAVEL POLICY (LAAC Chapter 5, Article 4, §§ 4.242.1-4.242.9)

Approved: March 11, 2014;

Revised: September 23, 2014; January 22, 2019; November 10, 2020

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A copy of the Travel and Education Policy including the Guidelines for Travel and Personal Expenses will be provided to new Board Members and staff before processing their first travel request.

- A. LACERS considers an individual traveling if:
 - i) the travel is outside the geographic boundaries of Los Angeles County [LAAC §4.242.2]; and more than 50 miles away from both LACERS' offices and the traveler's home; and
 - ii) the duties require the individual to be away from the general area of the individual's primary residence substantially longer than an ordinary day's work; or
 - iii) the individual needs to sleep or rest to meet the demands of work while away from the primary residence.
- B. Costs incurred on travel days which are not conference days are allowable (subject to limitations covered in the applicable sections of the guidelines): (i) on the day before the first educational session of the conference or seminar if transportation on the first conference day would require the traveler to leave his/her point of departure (e.g., home) earlier than 9:00 a.m.; or (ii) on the day after the last educational session of the conference or seminar if transportation on the last conference day would cause the traveler to get to his/her final destination (e.g., home) after 8:00 p.m.
- C. Board approval of travel is required prior to payment of any related fees. If a Traveler elects to personally incur travel-related fees prior to the Board's approval, the Traveler assumes personal financial liability that his or her expenses may not be reimbursed.

II. TRANSPORTATION

A. AIR TRAVEL LAAC Requirement LACERS Policy 1. Air travel may be used when it is the most Except in the case of official necessity, air travel expenses are allowable only efficient means of travel. 2. Travelers are strongly encouraged to use the for the lowest regular fare available for regularly scheduled airlines for the date City's authorized business travel service, CalTravelStore, to book airline reservations, and time selected [§4.242.2(a)(1)] but may use another travel service or reserve directly with an airline. Claims for reimbursement of higher fare 3. Purchase of airline tickets outside of or extra charges for transportation by CalTravelStore is allowed and will be schedule airlines are allowable only if certified by the Department Head¹ that reimbursed at the lower of the actual cost of

¹ Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures; the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

he or she has reviewed and concurs with the facts constituting the official necessity. [§4.242.2(a)(1)]

- the ticket or 150% of the lowest cost one-stop airfare for the same days of travel (personal travel days excluded). Traveler is responsible for the handling of any changes, cancellations, refunds, and credits involving non-CalTravelStore reservations. Purchase of traveler's insurance is recommended for such reservations. Traveler bears this cost, not LACERS.
- Air travel shall be at coach or economy fare. Coach or economy fare is presumed to be the lowest regular fare available for regularly scheduled airlines. Airfare quotes from several airlines are not necessary.
- 5. Non-stop flights are permissible if the airline ticket is coach or economy class and if the cost is no more than 50% higher than the lowest cost flight with one stop.
- 6. If the airline ticket is purchased from a travel service other than CalTravelStore or directly from the airline, the traveler is required to obtain a quote from CalTravelStore generated on the same day the flight was booked. The quote shall be for a one-stop coach/economy class ticket from any airline for the same days of travel. It will be used for cost comparison purposes as part of the reimbursement process.
- 7. When the airfare receipt shows an upgrade to business or first class accommodation
 - Without further justification, the traveler may be reimbursed at the lower of the lowest regular fare rate available² and actual cost, or
 - b. the traveler shall provide a memo stating the case of official necessity, for approval by the Department Head¹.
- 8. LACERS will pay directly for airfare booked with the City's authorized business travel service, CalTravelStore.
- If CalTravelStore is not used, LACERS travelers must use their personal credit card to book flights or other modes of transportation.
- 10. Consistent with Federal and City travel standards, coupons, or promotional mileage

- credits earned by the traveler during the course of LACERS business travel may be used for LACERS or personal business. The traveler will not be reimbursed for such coupons or promotional mileage credits used for LACERS travel.
- 11. Fees for the first checked baggage will be reimbursed. Fees for additional checked baggage may be reimbursed if a justification for an official business need is provided.
- 12. The cost of air flight insurance is not eligible for reimbursement.
- 13. With pre-approval of the Department Head, refundable airline tickets may be purchased if the traveler provides acceptable justification that the benefit of booking a refundable ticket outweighs the risk of changes in travel plans.

B. PERSONAL VEHICLE OR NON-AIR TRANSPORTATION

LAAC Requirement

LACERS Policy

In all instances where a mode of transportation other than regularly scheduled airlines is chosen, the Department Head¹ shall authorize such alternate mode of transportation in advance and the allowable cost shall be the actual cost of the alternate mode of transportation or the cost allowable under Subsection (a)1, whichever is less. [§4.242.3.(a)(2)]

In the case of travel by modes of transportation other than regularly scheduled airlines, transportation costs shall be the regular fare for the mode of transportation chosen. [§4.242.3(a)]

In the instance of the use of private automobile, mileage shall be in accordance with mileage provisions of Division 4, Chapter 5, Article 2 of the Administrative Code. [§4.242.3.(a)(2)]

- 14. Pre-approval by the Department Head¹ is required for all non-air travel in advance of travel. Travelers must submit the following items for pre-approval:
 - a. For travelers using personal automobiles for business purposes – Provide proof of automobile insurance at minimum coverage levels as follows: \$25,000 injury to or death of one person; and, \$50,000 injury to or death of more than one person; and, \$5,000 property damage for any one accident.
 - b. Cost comparisons are required for all non-air travel, with exceptions listed below:
 Traveler shall submit: a quote for the lowest regular fare available for regularly scheduled airlines to the destination for the date and time selected; and the cost for regular fare on the alternative mode of transportation.

<u>Exceptions</u> (no cost comparison is required):

If traveling by vehicle to neighboring counties of Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo, or to the San Francisco Employees Retirement System to transport sensitive computer equipment for the LACERS emergency hot/warm site.

- 15. Receipts for alternate modes of travel are required. Reimbursement will be for the lower of the actual cost of transportation or lowest regular airfare verified by Accounting prior to encumbrance of the travel request.
- 16. Mileage reimbursement
 - a. Mileage reimbursement for the Board will be calculated on a roundtrip basis between official's residence and official destination.
 - b. Mileage reimbursement for staff will be based on the distance in excess of home to City office for travels during regular work days; for other days, reimbursement will be based on a roundtrip between staff's residence and official destination.

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² The acceptable amount will be the fare verified by the Accounting staff prior to encumbrance of the travel request.

- 17. Additional travel time and expenses (such as meals and lodging) incurred in choosing other than the fastest and most direct mode of transportation are at the traveler's own personal time and expense.
- 18. Claims for repairs, replacements, towage, gas and car insurance are not reimbursable.
- 19. Ground transportation refers to transportation from home to airport, airport to hotel and/or conference/ meeting/seminar location, and back. This includes taxis, shuttles, limousines, and private vehicles.
- 20. Mileage reimbursement is provided when personal vehicle is used for ground transportation to/from airport. Commissioner's mileage reimbursement will be computed based on roundtrip miles from residence to airport. Staff mileage reimbursement will be computed based on the distance in excess of home to City office for travels during regular work day; and roundtrip miles from residence to airport on non-work days.

C. GROUND TRANSPORTATION		
LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy	
The least expensive and most practical form of public transportation shall be used, taking into consideration such factors as time, availability, and personal safety or health. [§4.242.3.(c)]	 21. Reimbursement for airport parking is actual amount, not to exceed \$20 per day. Pre-approval is not required. Reimbursement for actual amounts in excess of \$20 per day requires the traveler submitting a memo to justify the expense based on time, availability, and personal safety or health. 22. Reimbursement for use of taxi, shuttle, private car or limousine service is limited to the lesser of roundtrip taxi fare (http://www.taxifarefinder.com)² or shuttle fare (http://www.shuttlefare.com)². 	
D. AUTOMO	BILE RENTAL	
LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy	
Such expenses are allowable if traveling by car is less expensive or more appropriate for the efficient conduct of City business than by taxi or bus. [§4.242.3.(d)]	 23. Pre-approval by the Department Head¹ is required. Travelers must provide written justification that the traveling by car is less expensive or more efficient in conducting LACERS business than by use of taxi or bus. 24. The traveler will not be reimbursed for car rental insurance within the United States. Car rental insurance costs required in foreign countries may be claimed for reimbursement. 	

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² The acceptable amount will be the fare verified by the Accounting staff prior to encumbrance of the travel request.

III. LODGING, MEALS AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSE ALLOWANCE

A. LODGING	
LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy

This section is not intended to preclude an employee or elected official from staying in a hotel where the meeting or convention to be attended is held. [§4.242.3.(b)(1)]

- 25. Acceptable documentation shall include original itemized hotel receipt marked 'Paid in Full' or showing a zero balance; otherwise, proof of payment is also required.
- 26. Reimbursement for lodging in a hotel where the meeting or convention to be attended is deemed the most practical accommodation and permissible.
- 27. A traveler may elect to stay in a hotel sponsored by the conference as it is presumed to be the most practical or convenient. The reimbursement will be limited to the lesser of the actual hotel costs incurred or the conference hotel rate.
- 28. For any official System travel for training. due diligence trips, meetings with investment managers, or training where hotels are not pre-designated, the traveler should select the most economical lodging taking into consideration the proximity of the selected place to conduct the official System business, traveler's safety, time and transportation costs and other relevant factors. Any of the following methods are acceptable for determining "moderately priced establishments of acceptable quality", "the most economical and practical accommodations", and those which would be presumed not to meet the IRS definition of "lavish and extravagant" accommodations:
 - Lodging does not exceed the highest Federal domestic lodging per diem rate; cost comparison is not necessary; or
 - (ii) The most economical hotel identified using the City traveler provider website (www.concursolutions.com/), with availability, with at least a 3 star rating on a 5 star scale travel, and within walking distance or no less than ½ mile radius of the first business location; or

In the selection of restaurants and hotel rooms, it is expected that individuals will seek moderately priced establishments of acceptable quality. [LAAC §4.242.3.(b)]

An employee or elected official must consider transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors in selecting the most economical and practical accommodations. [§4.242.3.(b)(1)]

- (iii) The most practical hotel on the above list with acceptable written justification; or
- (iv) Any lodging expenses may be reimbursed provided that the expense does not exceed 300% of the lodging per diem and traveler must clearly demonstrate no other acceptable alternative lodging was available, as in the event of a state of emergency, or other justifiable reason reviewed and certified by the Department Head¹ as reasonable and proper, and incurred in the pursuit of System business.
- 29. Reimbursement is limited to single occupancy room rate, as documented on hotel letterhead or the hotel's room rates listing, plus applicable taxes and charges unless additional occupants are LACERS trustees/staff on official LACERS business.

B. MEALS AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES (M&IE)

LAAC Requirement

Expenses incurred by an employee or elected official for food and beverage served at meals, scheduled receptions, or other functions necessary for the conduct of City business are allowable to a maximum of three meals a day. [§4.242.3.(b)(2)]

LACERS Policy

- 30. LACERS intends to be compliant with IRS accountable plan rules, therefore M&IE allowance will be provided only when business travel results in a necessity for lodging. LACERS will provide travelers with a standard meal allowance at the Federal per diem rate per locale. The allowance, in lieu of providing receipts, is acceptable under the IRS accountable plan rules. The IRS (Publication 463) defines meals and incidental expenses include: meals, transportation to acquire meals, fees/tips to porters, baggage carriers, bellhops, hotel maids, wait staff, and other service providers.
- 31. No meal allowance will be paid when meals are provided throughout the day by the host or at the conference.
- 32. Prorating the standard meal allowance The IRS permits LACERS to adopt its own

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rules for prorating the standard meal allowance on partial days of travel so long as we consistently apply the method in accordance with reasonable business practice.

The meal and incidental expense allowance will be prorated from a daily allowance to a per meal period allowance on partial days of travel; and when some meals are prepaid/to be paid by LACERS (complimentary breakfast provided at the hotel, meals at the conference, or pre-paid to comply with the City/LACERS gift restrictions.

The M&IE allowance = incidental expense + breakfast allowance (if traveling between 1AM – 9AM) + lunch allowance (if traveling between 9AM – 5PM) + dinner allowance (if traveling between 5PM – 1AM).

Utilize the M&IE per travel locale and provide an allowance for each meal period the traveler is away from home (based on the current Federal General Services Agency six tiered M&IE allowance):

Total	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	IE
\$46	\$7	\$11	\$23	\$5
\$51	\$8	\$12	\$26	\$5
\$56	\$9	\$13	\$29	\$5
\$61	\$10	\$15	\$31	\$5
\$66	\$11	\$16	\$34	\$5
\$71	\$12	\$18	\$36	\$5

Gratuities. Such expenses, not exceeding 15%, are allowable where reasonable and customary. [§4.242.3.(h)]

33. Gratuities are included in the IRS definition of "incidental" expenses and are therefore subject to per diem limits. Reimbursement for restaurant gratuities are calculated as up to 15 percent of the restaurant bill exclusive of taxes, except when the gratuity percentage is required and the amount is added on the bill by the service provider.

IV. OTHER EXPENSES

(j) Other Expenses. Expenses not specifically set forth in other subsections of this section that are incurred by an employee or an elected official are allowable where deemed necessary in the conduct of City business; provided that such expenses have been reviewed and certified by the Department Head¹ as reasonable and proper and incurred in pursuit of City business. Wherever the type of expenditure is not specifically listed in this section, the employee or elected

official should be prepared to absorb the

that such expense is not certified by the

Department Head¹. [§4.242.3.(j)]

cost as a personal expenditure in the event

LAAC Requirement

LACERS Policy

- 34. Other travel expenses are allowable when deemed necessary in the conduct of System business provided such expenses are reviewed and certified by the Department Head¹ as reasonable, proper, and incurred in pursuit of System business. Otherwise, these expenses become personal expenditures.
- 35. Travel Interruptions When there is an interruption or deviation from planned travel due to bona fide public emergencies outside of the traveler's control such as weather or shutdown of air travel, travelers may be reimbursed at full cost for emergency lodging, meals, and incidental expenses.
- 36. Indirect Travel whether for the traveler's personal leave or for convenience, expenses allowable will not exceed those that would have been incurred for uninterrupted travel utilizing the direct travel route or travel days. Supporting documentation showing the cost for direct travel and the deviation should be provided by the traveler.

¹ Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures; the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

IV. NON-REIMBURSABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES

LAAC Requirement	LACERS Policy
Expenditures which are incurred by an employee or elected official that are of a purely personal nature will not be reimbursed	37. Expenditures which are not substantive to LACERS business will not be reimbursed by LACERS, such as:
 by the City. a) Auto repairs, replacement or towage to personal vehicle when such use has been authorized (see established City procedures for repair to City vehicle); b) Flight insurance; c) Personal telephone calls (except those specified in Section 4.242.3 (g) of this article); d) Expenses for persons other than the employee or elected official, except as specified in Section 4.242.3 (b) 2. 	 a) Any expenses related to entertainment and recreational activities; b) Flight upgrade fees for seats other than coach or economy: c) Internet usage fees (unless the internet is used for City business); d) Any expenses related to alcohol and tobacco; e) Traveler's insurance. 38. The traveler must submit reimbursement for personal expenditures paid by LACERS.
[§4.242.4]	If there are portions of the conference or seminar that are entertainment in nature and not business-related (e.g., golf tournaments, musical performances or concerts, etc.), the traveler is required to reimburse LACERS for the cost of these recreational activities.

V. OTHER RULES AND RESTRICTIONS

A. DOCUMENTATION OF EXPENSES - PERSONAL EXPENSE STATEMENTS

LAAC Requirement

All expenses claimed shall be listed on separate forms provided and used for required documentation of travel expense.

Completed travel expense forms shall be forwarded to the Controller within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trip.

The Department Head¹ shall certify that all expenditures were incurred in pursuit of City business. Falsification of such certification shall be grounds for appropriate disciplinary action and such other sanctions provided by law.

Receipts shall be provided for transportation costs incurred under Section 4.242.3(a), lodging, and for any single item of expenditure in excess of \$25.00. Receipts for expenditures under \$25.00 should be presented when available. [LAAC § 4.242.7]

- 39. All expenses claimed for reimbursement must be itemized on the Personal Expense
- 40. The traveler is responsible for verifying all charges on receipts before making payment. Charges made in error will not be reimbursed.

Statement (PES - Form Gen. 16).

41. Original receipts are required for any single expenditure in excess of \$25.

Receipts are not required for a meal and incidental expense allowance, regardless of amount, when the Federal per diem rate per locale is provided to the traveler and prorated in accordance with LACERS' policy.

B. TRAVEL ADVANCES

LAAC Requirement

Requests for an advance for funds shall be submitted to the Controller, where feasible, at least ten (10) days in advance of the beginning of the planned expenditure of funds and such request shall include the persons traveling, period covered, and the destination. In addition, the request should state the purpose of the trip, the nature of the City business to be conducted on the trip, and the proposed total estimated expenditure. Documentation of actual expenses incurred shall be submitted to the Controller in conformance with Section 4.242.7.

LACERS Policy

- 42. For trips of one night or more, a travel advance may be requested. The amount advanced is limited to the lodging, meal and incidental expenses per diem. Only 90% of the total travel estimate is advanced. A travel advance will not be issued if this amount is less than \$500 in total.
- 43. Written requests for the travel advance are to be submitted by the Traveler to the CEA/travel coordinator for approval at least fifteen (15) business days prior to the date of travel but no earlier than thirty (30) calendar days prior to travel. The request must include a statement certifying that the traveler has no outstanding cash advance.
- 44. A cash advance request will be denied if

¹ Pursuant to Board Resolution 140311-C, Department Head authority to approve and certify travel expenditures is delegated as follows: the Board President approves Board Member and General Manager expenditures, the Vice President approves Board President expenditures; the General Manager approves staff expenditures.

- a traveler has an outstanding cash advance for past travel with does not comply with the procedures.
- 45. Regular travel advances will be released no earlier than one (1) week before travel.
- 46. Outstanding travel advances not accounted for and delinquent over 120 days will be included as part of an employee's wages on the first payroll period of the subsequent calendar quarter following the end of the 120 calendar days; and, for non-City employees, IRS Form 1099-Misc will be issued per IRS Federal, State, Local Government Taxable Fringe Benefit Guide. Nothing herein eliminates the traveler's obligation to return to the Fund any excess monies that were received that were not used for approved travel expenses.
- 47. Future travel advances will not be processed for traveler(s) with delinquent PES over 30 days. Requests for reimbursement may be processed in advance of the travel for expenditures such as registration fees, and/or one-night hotel deposit. To ensure timely processing of the reimbursement, such requests along with supporting documents and proof of payment (credit card statement, etc.) must be submitted to the CEA/travel coordinator, in writing, at least fifteen (15) working days before the date of travel.
- 48. Advanced payment for cancelled travel:
 Any amount that was paid by department in advance of travel is considered an advance. In the event of the need to cancel the trip, the traveler is responsible for notifying all payees to as soon as possible to avoid/minimize cancellation fees
 - a. If cancellation was due to personal reasons, the traveler must personally reimburse the department for any amount not recovered (net of cancellation fees). If the refund or credit was issued directly to the traveler,

- traveler must pay LACERS the entire amount of credit received within 14 calendar days from the credit issued date.
- b. If travel was cancelled due to the business or public reason, traveler is responsible to submit a justification along with the proper documentation to the General Manager within 14 calendar days from the cancelled date.
- c. Unrecovered amounts are reported as taxable income to the traveler. The traveler may be required to pay for future airfare using their own credit card, and LACERS will reimburse airfare upon completion of travel.

APPENDIX C BOARD TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT CHECKLIST

Adoption Date: May 26, 2009

Revised Dates: June 22, 2010; December 13, 2011; March 11, 2014; November 10, 2020

I. STEPS FOR TRAVEL APPROVAL AND REIMBURSEMENT:

- Step 1: Provide details of the educational event to the Commission Executive Assistant (CEA)
- Step 2: Submit information on estimated expenses to the CEA

Fees Paid Directly By LACERS:

Step 3: Register for the Conference

- Conference registration and registration fees can be arranged through the CEA prior to the conference date. Registration fees are paid directly by LACERS with no out-ofpocket expenses for the traveler;
 - Under State and City gift laws, complimentary conferences or conference-related events could be considered gifts. LACERS will evaluate the circumstances with the assistance of the City Ethics Commission and may be required to pay a pro-rata share of conference expenses provided by the hosting organization.
- Or, after the fact, submit a receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment.

Step 4: Book flight

- Provide desired flight numbers, dates, and times to the CEA. The CEA will book the flight. The City's travel service will also provide a flight credit if the traveler is unable to fly and proper notification is given.
- Or after the fact, submit a receipt for the purchase of the airline ticket and, for cost comparison, the CalTravelStore quote for a one-stop coach/economy class ticket from any airline and for the same days of travel generated on the same day the flight was booked. Reimbursement is limited to the lowest regular fare/economy rate.

Items Requiring Pre-Approval for Expenditure Reimbursement:

- Step 5: Submit written justification for items requiring pre-approval from the Board President or Vice President. If approval is not secured prior to incurring the expense, reimbursement may not be granted.
 - Requests for reimbursement of airfare which is more than 150% of the lowest cost one-stop airfare – justification should demonstrate the official necessity of the selected flight.
 - Requests for transportation other than air flight justification should indicate reasons for use of the alternate mode of transportation.
 - Requests for cash advances to cover lodging and per diem for meals must be submitted 15 business days, but no earlier than 30 calendar days, prior to the commencement of travel. See further instructions below.

After the Travel has been completed, submit report and receipts:

Step 6: Submit an Event Evaluation Report within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trip

• The report is required prior to reimbursement

- Step 7: Submit a Personal Expense Statement (PES) within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trip:
 - Itemize all reimbursable daily expenses for lodging, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses; list the per diem for meals and incidentals.
 - Report expenses paid directly by LACERS as a deduction to the total reimbursable amount
 - See further instructions on the following checklist

II. REIMBURSEMENT CHECKLIST:

ALLOWABLE TRAVEL COSTS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

AIR TRAVEL Air Travel Transportation Expenses ☐ Submit a receipt showing a zero balance as Air travel expenses are only allowable for the lowest regular fare available. If the flight with proof of payment for airfare the lowest regular fare is not booked, ☐ If purchasing outside of CalTravel Store. reimbursement will only be for the lowest provide the airline ticket receipt and regular fare. CalTravelStore quote demonstrating that If three fare quotes are not submitted, the the cost of the booked flight is no more lowest regular fare will be determined by a than 50% higher than the quote, for the quote from the City's travel agent for a direct same days of travel, from CalTravelStore. flight, coach class, 14 days prior to the date of business travel. The CEA will determine the Provide written justification of the "official reasonable flights to be quoted which best necessity" for any higher cost fare if meet the conference dates and times. seeking reimbursement above the lowest fare rate. The General Manager must Exceptions allowing reimbursement for a concur for the expense to be submitted for higher cost fare may be approved by the reimbursement. General Manager for "official necessity." Official necessity means there is a bona fide benefit to LACERS for taking the selected flight which outweighs the cost of the higher fare. OTHER TRANSPORTATION **Bus or Rail Travel** ☐ Submit request for pre-approval from the The allowable cost shall be the actual cost for General Manager for all modes of the regular fare for the bus/rail travel. transportation other than regularly scheduled airlines. **Automobile Rental** ☐ Submit request for pre-approval from the Automobile rental expenses are allowable if traveling by automobile is less expensive or General Manager demonstrating that traveling by rental car is less expensive or more appropriate than by other modes of more appropriate for the efficient conduct transportation. of City business than by taxi or bus.

Private Automobile The allowable cost shall be the actual total mileage rate allowance as determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).	 □ Submit request for pre-approval from the General Manager, and include a satisfactory liability insurance policy covering the full use and operation of the vehicle. The limits of liability on any such policy shall not be less than \$25,000 in the case of injury to or death of one person, and \$50,000 in the case of injury to or death of more than one person; and in the case of property damage, not less than \$5,000 in any one accident. □ Submit airfare confirmation (provided by CalTravelStore, other travel service, and airline), rail travel confirmation notice or transportation receipt from taxi, shuttle, or private car service.
REGISTRA	TION FEES
Registration Fees Reimbursable if paid by the Trustee	☐ Submit a receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment.
LOD	GING
Hotels generally offer specially rated room blocks for conference participants. The Trustee may stay at an "off-site" hotel if the room blocks are exhausted.	GING Submit receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment. Personal credit card information must be redacted from the receipt.
Hotels generally offer specially rated room blocks for conference participants. The Trustee may stay at an "off-site" hotel if the	☐ Submit receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment. Personal credit card information must be redacted from the
Hotels generally offer specially rated room blocks for conference participants. The Trustee may stay at an "off-site" hotel if the room blocks are exhausted. Transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors must be considered in selecting the most economical and practical	 Submit receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment. Personal credit card information must be redacted from the receipt. If lodging is for other than single occupancy, secure a rate sheet or other documentation of the single occupancy
Hotels generally offer specially rated room blocks for conference participants. The Trustee may stay at an "off-site" hotel if the room blocks are exhausted. Transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors must be considered in selecting the most economical and practical accommodations. An extra-night stay is allowable if it sufficiently reduces the airfare, or if the conference commences early in the morning or adjourns late in the evening.	 Submit receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment. Personal credit card information must be redacted from the receipt. If lodging is for other than single occupancy, secure a rate sheet or other documentation of the single occupancy
Hotels generally offer specially rated room blocks for conference participants. The Trustee may stay at an "off-site" hotel if the room blocks are exhausted. Transportation costs, time, and other relevant factors must be considered in selecting the most economical and practical accommodations. An extra-night stay is allowable if it sufficiently reduces the airfare, or if the conference commences early in the morning or adjourns late in the evening.	 □ Submit receipt showing a zero balance as proof of payment. Personal credit card information must be redacted from the receipt. □ If lodging is for other than single occupancy, secure a rate sheet or other documentation of the single occupancy rate.

	 The daily allowance is prorated at 75% on days of travel, and if some meals are provided by the hotel or conference. No meal allowance is provided when meals are provided throughout the day by the hosting organization. The rate for international travel is in accordance with current Federal per diem rate guidelines. 	
	MISCELLANE	OUS EXPENSES
	<u>Checked Baggage Fees</u> Such expenses are allowable when the Trustee is charged for the first checked bag.	☐ Baggage fees for second and additional items require a justification memo that it meets a business purpose.
	Laundry Service Such expenses are allowable if the duration of the trip, traveling conditions, or some other special circumstances dictate.	☐ Submit receipts for all miscellaneous expenses.
City Business Telephone Calls Such expenses are allowable if the telephone calls are relevant to appropriate City business.		
	Personal Telephone Calls Such expenses are allowable for one call to the Trustee's immediate family if they are located within the locale of their residence.	
	If travel is in excess of three (3) days, one such call is permitted for each successive three (3) days thereafter.	
Each call should last a reasonable amount of time, such as 10 minutes per call.		
	Ground Transportation Transportation between the traveler's	

residence and airport, and transportation between the airport and conference location.