
MARCH 06, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 8
ACTION ITEM

CALSAVERS RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD

Resolution 2025-02: Approval to extend Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17A with Program Administrator Ascensus College Recordkeeping Services, LLC and Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17B with State Street Global Advisors for Investment Management Services

Summary

The CalSavers Retirement Savings Board (“Board”) will consider approving the extension of Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17A with Program Administrator Ascensus College Recordkeeping Services, LLC (“Ascensus”) and Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17B with State Street Global Advisors (“SSGA”) for Investment Management Services.

Background

State law¹ required the Board to adopt a third-party administrator model to operate the CalSavers Retirement Savings Program (“Program”). Statute² further required the Board to approve an investment management entity or entities and regularly report on the Program’s investments and investment performance against benchmarks and industry standards.

During the May 21, 2018, meeting, the Board approved the release of request for proposals number CSCRSIB07-17 (the “RFP”) for Program Administrator and Investment Manager services. The RFP was published May 30, 2018. Proposals were due July 17, 2018.

Thirteen total responses were received for the RFP, including multiple responses for both program administration and investment management, but none for the program manager design that would have had one firm handling the responsibilities of both the program administrator and the investment manager.

On August 16, 2018, the Board approved the selection of Ascensus to provide program administrator services and SSGA to provide investment management services for the Program via agreement CSCRSIB07-17A and CSCRSIB07-17B respectively. The term of the agreements is seven (7) years through November 30, 2025, plus three (3) one-year options to extend at the Board’s discretion, for possible total terms not to exceed ten (10) years from the first enrollment.

The program administrator Ascensus (i) implemented and manages a Program for California employees who lack access to employer-provided, tax-favored retirement plans, (ii) designed

¹ Government Code Section 100043(b)(1)(D)

² Government Code Section 100002(f)

simple and efficient enrollment and opt-out processes, (iii) offers individual retirement account (“IRA”) expertise and resources, (iv) provides a comprehensive marketing strategy to reach employers and employees, (v) provides seamless administration, recordkeeping and compliance, and (vi) provides or otherwise enables the State to provide responsive, accessible, and culturally competent customer service, all at the lowest possible cost to participants.

The investment manager SSGA provides investment options with attractive investment performance geared to the anticipated needs of participants, at the lowest possible cost to participants.

These agreements took effect on August 27, 2018, and are set to expire on November 30, 2025, unless the Board exercises its option to extend. The agreements are considered zero-dollar contracts because the Board makes no payments to Ascensus or SSGA. Ascensus and SSGA earn revenue by collecting fees from each participant according to the terms of the agreements. An extension of the agreements would come at no additional cost to the Board and would not change the nature of the fee structure.

Recommendation

- Staff recommend the Board approve Resolution 2025-02: Extension of Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17A with Ascensus College Recordkeeping Services, LLC for Program Administrative Services and Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17B with State Street Global Advisors for Investment Management Services by one year, to November 30, 2026.

Attachments

- Attachment 8A: Resolution 2025-02: Extension of Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17A with Ascensus College Recordkeeping Services, LLC for Program Administrative Services and Agreement No. CSCRSIB07-17B with State Street Global Advisors for Investment Management Services