

Jody Timms – comments to October 8, 2014 MCERA Meeting

Good Morning, I'm Jody Timms, MCERA member, and 350Marin Chair of the Invest Wisely campaign. I don't recall seeing any of you at the Largest Climate March in Marin's History at the Hub 2.5 weeks ago. You probably didn't read about it in the paper either unless it happened to be in my Letter to the Editor mentioning our 250 Marin community members that showed up, in solidarity with the 410,000 people who marched in NYC, and in support of the other 2,646 rallies held in over 162 countries worldwide.

Today, in my on-going effort to educate myself and MCERA Board members, I wanted to share with you recent news I found on the CalPERS website.

Given that CalPERS is the largest public pension fund in the U.S., with approximately \$300 billion in assets and more than 1.6 million members, it seems like what they are up to should be of interest to us all.

So on September 25<sup>th</sup> CalPERS signed the Montreal Carbon Pledge, committing to measure and publicly disclose the carbon footprint of its investment portfolio. The pledge was coordinated by the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) at their annual conference in Montreal, Quebec. PRI is an initiative led by an international network of investors working together to put the six Principles for Responsible Investment into practice.

“Climate change represents risks and opportunities for a long-term investor like CalPERS,” said Priya Mathur, CalPERS Board of Administration Vice President. “This pledge signifies our continued commitment to better understand our own footprint and help forge solutions to serious climate change issues. We call on other investors to join us in assessing the climate risk in their investment portfolios and using that knowledge and insight in their investment decisions.”

Mathur represented CalPERS at the PRI annual conference and participated in an asset allocation session looking at how investors define their investment beliefs and how those beliefs impact the decision-making process.

The pledge commits CalPERS to mapping its carbon footprint in its investment portfolio, starting with equities, by December 2015. It also commits CalPERS to using the results of the mapping information to develop an engagement strategy and/or set portfolio carbon footprint reduction targets.

The pledge is aligned with CalPERS Investment Beliefs that state long-term value creation can be achieved by managing financial, physical, and human capital, which includes a strong understanding of climate risks and opportunities. CalPERS' Beliefs help guide the Pension Fund's work in engaging companies' managers on environmental practices and its advocacy role on environmental issues.

I encourage MCERA to join CalPERS in committing to measure and publicly disclose the carbon footprint of its investment portfolio. Perhaps this is something that could be made available to the public here in Marin. Many of us are interested; many of us want to know.

In closing, I would also like to encourage MCERA to consider following the lead of CalSTRS that just the week before, announced its plans to more than double its clean energy and technology investments, from \$1.4 billion to \$3.7 billion over the next five years. Any chance of that?