

Dear Retirees - I am contacting you as we have a serious matter before us and one which could have a direct affect on your retirement and the retirement for future retirees. I am sad to report that the County of Kern is once again trying to eliminate our SRBR (Supplemental Retirement Benefit Reserve) funding. These funds currently maintain your purchasing power at 80% and provides a death benefit of \$5,000. The County Administrative Officer, John Nilon, appeared before the KCERA Board last Wednesday proposing to discontinue contributions to SRBR and was seeking support for this issue from the Retirement Board. Your Retirement Board referred the matter to the Audit/Actuary Committee to review the implications of the county's proposal. Mr. Nilon failed to mention that the issue was already being placed on the Board of Supervisor's Consent Agenda on their 16th of February meeting! This issue was visited several years ago and there was a legal opinion that SRBR is a vested right within the structure of the retirement system. Obviously the County is choosing to ignore this point. It imperative that you make your position known to those involved in this process and I cannot over emphasize the need for you to be heard. I encourage you to attend the Board's meeting on the Tuesday, Feb16th, at 1115 Truxtun Ave., Board Chambers, 2:00 P.M. Phil Franey and I will be there to remove the item from consent which will provide you an opportunity to comment on the issue. If you don't express yourself now it very well may be too late once the legislative process has been launched. Your **physical presence** at the Board meeting is required as well as making contact via email and telephone with the following persons:

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I know this is short notice but that's to be expected when a government is trying to ram something through without dialogue or input by those affected by their actions. Please try and make the meeting and give yourself an opportunity to express your opinions. I am attaching several documents for your review and information. The attached documents and others will also be available on our website, www.reokc.org. If you will read the attachments you will clearly see that this project has been in the works for some time (without our knowledge). They have documents ready to sign, seal and mail including letters to your state senators (Roy Ashburn and Dean Florez) and assembly representatives (Connie Conway, Jean Fuller and Danny Gilmore). Its time to act!

Hope to see you Tuesday.

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