

COUNTY OF NEVADA



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SUMMARY FOR CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

**FOR THE PERIOD OF
JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH
JUNE 30, 2024**

CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE UNIT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
	ARTICLE 1 DEFINITION	
A.	Definition	3
	ARTICLE 2 SALARIES	
A.	Regular Salaries	3
	ARTICLE 3 SPECIAL ALLOWANCES	
A.	Confidential Differential	3
B.	Bilingual Pay Differential	4
C.	Longevity/Merit Pay Differential	5
D.	Acting Temporary Pay	5
E.	Special Project Pay	6
	ARTICLE 4 LEAVES OF ABSENCE	
A.	Personal Leave Program (PLP)	6
B.	Sick Leave	7
C.	Administrative Leave	7
D.	Holiday Leave	7
	ARTICLE 5 HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS	
A.	Medical Insurance Benefits	8
B.	Cafeteria Plan	9
C.	Cafeteria Plan through December 31, 2021	9
D.	Cafeteria Plan effective January 1, 2022	9
E.	Rural Health Subsidy	10
F.	Life Insurance	11
G.	Coverage – Leave of Absence	11
H.	State Disability Insurance	11

SECTION

PAGE

ARTICLE 6
RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

A.	Authority	11
B.	Eligibility	12
C.	Retiree Coverage and Contribution Rate	12
D.	401(a) Plan	13
E.	Retiree Health Coverage	13

ARTICLE 7
MISCELLANEOUS

A.	Safety Management Employee Coverage	13
B.	Continuing Education	13

ARTICLE 8
TERMS OF AGREEMENT

A.	Duration	13
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ARTICLE 1 DEFINITION

A. DEFINITION

Employees designated as Confidential Employees are an unrepresented group of employees. Confidential employee means any employee who is required to develop or present management's positions with respect to employer-employee relations or whose duties normally require access to confidential information contributing significantly to the development of management positions.

ARTICLE 2 SALARIES

A. REGULAR SALARIES

1. The County will provide the following Recruitment and Retention General Adjustments effective the first full pay period of each fiscal year to regular employees:

2% effective 21/22

2% effective 22/23

2% effective 23/24

ARTICLE 3 SPECIAL ALLOWANCES

A. CONFIDENTIAL DIFFERENTIAL

1. Each regular rank and file Confidential employee, who is routinely and consistently assigned to sensitive positions requiring trust and discretion, shall receive a 5% confidential pay differential. Upon promotion or transfer of an employee who is receiving the differential to another rank and file classification within the Confidential Unit, the differential shall remain in effect and shall be reported to CalPERS as reportable compensation. However, if promoted to a management confidential employee, the differential would no longer be reported to CalPERS as reportable compensation (these classifications are listed below in #3).
2. The rank and file classifications include:
 - i. Accountant Auditor I/II
 - ii. Accounting Assistant I/II
 - iii. Accounting Technician
 - iv. Administrative Analyst I/II

- v. Administrative Assistant I/II
- vi. Administrative Services Assistant
- vii. Attorney I/II/III
- viii. Board Clerk I/II
- ix. Legal Office Supervisor
- x. Legal Secretary I/II
- xi. Management Analyst I/II
- xii. Management Technician
- xiii. Office Assistant I/II
- xiv. Senior Accountant Auditor
- xv. Senior Accounting Assistant
- xvi. Senior Legal Secretary
- xvii. Senior Management Technician
- xviii. Senior Office Assistant

3. Each management Confidential employee shall receive a 5% confidential pay differential. Management level classifications within the Confidential Employees Unit will not have the 5% confidential pay reported to CalPERS as reportable compensation. These classifications include:

- i. Administrative Services Associate
- ii. Assistant Auditor Controller
- iii. Assistant County Counsel
- iv. Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors
- v. Project Administrator
- vi. Public Information Officer
- vii. Risk Manager
- viii. Senior Administrative Analyst
- ix. Senior Management Analyst
- x. Undersheriff

4. At the discretion of the County Executive Officer, and in conformance with the definition outlined in Section A-2, a 5% confidential differential may be approved for department heads.

B. BILINGUAL PAY DIFFERENTIAL

1. For those employees identified by the Director of Human Resources who have assigned duties involving regular use of bilingual skills, a differential of 5% of base salary shall be provided. Regular use shall be defined as using the skill a minimum twenty percent (20%) or more in the course of the employee's assigned duties. Exceptions to this requirement shall be reviewed by the Human Resources Director on a case by case basis and that determination shall be final.

2. Bilingual pay differential shall cease when the position is determined by the Human Resources Director to no longer require the bilingual skill or when the employee is assigned, transferred, promoted or demoted to a position not requiring the bilingual skill.
3. Requests to have positions considered for bilingual differential shall be submitted by the Department Head to the Human Resources Director, whose determination shall be final, and shall include:
 - a. Position proposed for designation;
 - b. Description of the bilingual duties being performed by each employee in sufficient detail to indicate the second language to be utilized, purpose, nature and frequency of use;
 - c. Location of work assignment.
4. Upon approval of the proposed designation, the Human Resources Department shall schedule the designated employee and/or applicants for bilingual examination.

C. LONGEVITY/ MERIT PAY DIFFERENTIAL

1. Each regular employee designated as confidential with ten (10) or more years of regular Nevada County service shall receive a 2 ½% pay differential. The said differential shall begin to accrue on the first day of the pay period following the tenth (10th) anniversary of the date the employee commenced working for the County. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, upon promotion or transfer of an employee who is receiving the differential to another classification within the same bargaining unit, the differential shall remain in effect.
2. Human Resources shall notify the Department Head when an employee becomes eligible for longevity pay differential and shall ensure the increase is processed.

D. ACTING TEMPORARY PAY

1. If a regular employee is temporarily assigned to an acting position in a class with a higher salary range, the employee will be eligible to receive an increase of at least 7.5% of the employee's base pay from the first date of the assignment. In certain circumstances the County Executive Officer can approve a higher differential to meet the needs of the organization. The acting assignment will not cause a change to the employee's regular employee unit or benefits. Acting assignments will be no longer than nine months in duration, unless approved by the CEO. Upon termination of the acting assignment, the employee shall be restored to his/her regular position and salary including any merit increase earned. Acting assignments shall not affect any employee's salary anniversary date. If an

acting position is offered to an employee from a different department, both department heads must approve the assignment.

2. This section does not apply to regular employees whose positions are designated to act in the absence of the department, division or section head for time periods not to exceed fifteen (15) working days or one-hundred-twenty (120) hours, which ever comes first, of time such as a vacation or off site in an official capacity or for those employees participating in training or quality teams.

E. SPECIAL PROJECT PAY

1. An employee assigned a special project or set of duties and responsibilities substantially in excess of the normal or typical duties of the job may be eligible for additional compensation as authorized by the County Executive Officer (CEO).
2. Granting this additional pay shall be within the sole discretion of the CEO.
3. The CEO may authorize paying an employee Special Project Pay up to ten percent (10%) of the employee's base pay for the duration of the special project assignment or set of duties and responsibilities in excess of the employee's normal or typical duties. Such pay would not be reportable for PERS retirement calculation purposes.

ARTICLE 4 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A. PERSONAL LEAVE PROGRAM (PLP)

1. The vacation and sick leave program for exempt and non-exempt employees shall be converted to a Personal Leave Program (PLP) that combines the accrual of both sick leave and vacation into the following schedule:
 - *Years 0 through five, 189 hours per year
 - *Years six through ten, 216 hours per year
 - *Years eleven plus, 224 hours per year
2. Employees may accrue a maximum of 500 fully vested hours under the personal leave program. All current balances of vacation and sick leave will be set aside and accessible to the employee under the current terms and conditions of their usage and may be cashed out according to the sick leave provisions as stated below. No further accruals will occur in confidential employee's vacation or sick leave programs.
3. Employees may request a cash out of up to forty (40) hours of either Personal Leave (PLP) or Vacation time (old program) each year to be cashed out the following calendar year, so as to reduce the future unfunded liability that these leave balances represent.

- a. Employees must advise their department heads in writing on or prior to December 17th in the calendar year prior to that calendar year in which the Personal Leave or old vacation time is desired to be cashed out. The amount of hours proposed for such cash-out is to be included in the Department's budget submission for the applicable fiscal year, if approved by the Department Head. The employee can choose to have the hours cashed out in the 2nd full pay period in July or in the 1st full pay period in December. The election is irrevocable.

B. SICK LEAVE

1. Sick Leave Accrued Prior to PLP:

Upon retirement or termination with satisfactory performance after five (5) years of service, each regular employee shall be paid thirty-five percent (35%) of the value of all unused, accrued sick leave. The value of such unused sick leave shall be determined by multiplying the total hours accumulated at the time of termination by the hourly wage rate of the range and step to which the employee is assigned.

2. County has adopted PERS Section 20965, Credit for Unused Sick Leave. It is understood that an employee who is otherwise eligible for the benefits described in this subsection or in subsection 1 above may select only one, which selection must be made timely and shall be irrevocable.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

1. Exempt employees with over 6 months of county service shall receive 40 annual hours of administrative leave. Such leave shall be separate from any other leave. An employee shall be allowed to accrue a maximum of 80 hours of administrative leave. Leave in excess of this amount shall be paid off at the employee's regular rate.
2. Additional administrative leave may be granted when exempt employees are required to work extraordinary amounts of overtime. Extraordinary can include both special project work and aggregate hours associated with an employee's regular assignment. Employees working such overtime may request additional administrative leave which may be approved by the employee's Department Head and the County Executive Officer. Additional administrative leave must be used within the fiscal year in which it is granted.

D. HOLIDAY LEAVE

1. Each regular employee in the County service shall be entitled to eight- (8) hours compensation for the following designated holidays:
 - a. January 1st;
 - b. The third Monday in January, known as "Martin Luther King's Birthday";
 - c. The third Monday in February;

- d. The last Monday in May;
 - e. July 4th;
 - f. The first Monday in September;
 - g. The second Monday in October
 - h. November 11th, known as "Veteran's Day";
 - i. Thanksgiving Day, designated as the fourth Thursday in November;
 - j. The Friday immediately following Thanksgiving Day;
 - k. December 25th;
 - l. Every day designated by the President or Governor for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday and approved by the Board of Supervisors;
 - m. Two floating holidays which may be taken at any time mutually agreed upon by the employee and the appointing authority. Employees will not be permitted to accrue or carry over more than the amount of floating holidays they are eligible for in a year. Therefore, if the employee has not used all of their floating holiday credits by the end of the fiscal year (June 30), at the beginning of the next fiscal year (July 1) the employee will only be eligible to receive floating holiday credits up to the maximum floating holidays they are eligible for in the new fiscal year (e.g. if an employee is eligible for 2 floating holidays (16 hours) and have 4 hours of floating holiday credits on June 30th, then he/she will only be allowed to have 12 hours credited into their floating holiday account on July 1 for the entire fiscal year).
2. Each employee with more than ten (10) years of service shall receive one (1) additional floating holiday per year. This shall be granted in accordance with all other current requirements pertaining to the accrual and use of County holiday benefits and the determination of seniority for purposes of benefits administration.
 3. When a holiday specified herein falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be observed as a holiday. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed as a holiday. When a holiday falls on an employee's regular day off, which is other than the observed Saturday or Sunday, the following workday shall be observed as a holiday.
 4. To be eligible for the "holiday time" an employee must work on the regular work day before and the regular work day after a paid holiday or be on an approved paid leave of absence during these times in order to receive pay for the holiday. Approved paid leave of absence is defined as paid sick leave, paid vacation, paid floating holiday, or paid authorized leave of absence. Any exception to the foregoing shall be for good cause, only, and shall require the approval of the County Executive Officer whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE 5 HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

A. MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

The County contracts with the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) for

the purpose of providing employees and their eligible dependents with medical insurance benefits. The County's maximum monthly contribution for each eligible active employee shall be equal to the minimum employer contribution required under the Public Employees Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA.)

B. CAFETERIA PLAN

The County maintains a Cafeteria Plan, pursuant to Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, for the purpose of providing eligible active employees with access to various health and welfare benefits. Benefits available through the Cafeteria Plan include medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance and life insurance benefits.

Effective July 1, 2015, employees will have the option of choosing all available coverages or, upon proving other medical coverage in another group plan that offers minimal essential coverage, may choose to opt out of medical coverage and the County will pay the employee \$300 dollars per month. This does not apply to grandfathered employees who are eligible for \$335 per month per Personnel Code 24.4, c, 1.

C. CAFETERIA PLAN through December 31, 2021

The County cafeteria plan contribution for "Employee plus one" coverage and "Employee plus two or more" coverage for medical, dental and vision plans will be frozen at the 2016 dollar contribution levels until such time as the employee paid premium contribution equals twenty percent (20%) of the total premium for the least expensive health insurance plan available and the cost of dental and vision coverage for the level of enrolled coverage. Employees choosing a more expensive health plan will be responsible for paying the difference in cost.

D. CAFETERIA PLAN effective January 1, 2022

1. The County provides a Cafeteria Plan Allowance to all active employees eligible to participate in County sponsored health and welfare benefits. The amount of this Cafeteria Plan Allowance shall be determined by an employee's participation level, as follows:
 - a. **Medical Insurance:** Employees participating in employee only benefits shall receive a Cafeteria Plan Allowance towards medical benefits that is equal to the medical premium cost for the plan chosen by the employee or the average premium cost of all health plans offered in CalPERS Medical Region 1 (excluding out of state plans), whichever is less minus the amount of the County's contribution towards medical insurance set forth in Section A of this Article.

The County contribution for "Employee plus one" coverage and "Employee plus two or more" coverage for medical premium coverage cost for the plan chosen by the

employee or eighty percent (80%) of the average premium cost of all health plans offered in CalPERS Medical Region 1 (excluding out of state plans), whichever is less, minus the amount of the County's contribution towards medical insurance set forth in Section A of this Article.

- b. **Dental and Vision:** The County will pay 100% of the premium cost for dental and vision plans for the "Employee Only" level of coverage. The County will pay eighty percent (80%) of the premium cost for dental and vision plans for "Employee plus one" and "Employee plus two or more" levels of coverage.
 - c. **Payroll Deductions:** Premium amounts for medical, dental and vision coverage elections above the amounts provided by the County in this Article shall be paid by the employee through payroll deductions.
- 2. Employees who opt out of medical insurance benefits sponsored by the County and who provide proof of coverage in a group plan that offers minimal essential coverage will not receive any Cafeteria Plan Allowance under Section C or D 1 (a) of this Article. Instead, employees who opt out of this County sponsored benefit will receive \$300 dollars per month. This does not apply to grandfathered employees who are eligible for \$335 per month per Personnel Code 24.4, c, 1.
 - 3. Employees who opt out of medical insurance may still enroll in dental and vision insurance.
 - 4. Any Cafeteria Plan Allowance provided for under Section C or D 1 (a) of this Article can only be used by an employee to offset the cost of participation in County sponsored medical, dental and vision insurance benefits for the employee and any eligible dependents.
 - 5. The County contribution to the dental plan calendar year maximum shall be \$2,500.

B. RURAL HEALTH SUBSIDY

Employees who live in the Truckee area who elect medical insurance coverage will receive the same benefit as stated in Sections C and D above. In addition, Truckee employees who are not eligible to participate in an HMO plan are eligible to be reimbursed annually by a Rural Health Subsidy for up to \$1,500 per employee or \$3,000 for an employee and dependent(s). The subsidy may be used for reimbursements for covered medical expenses as determined by the PPO plan's Evidence of Coverage.

Employees will be reimbursed for receipted out of pocket medical expenses during the calendar year in which they were incurred and not reimbursed under any other plan.

Reimbursements for expenses incurred under the Rural Health Subsidy will be available through the following methods:

- a. Employees will be issued a debit card to use at providers for out of pocket

expenses under the plan. The debit card is programmed for eligible expenses only.

- b. Employees may submit receipts to the County's third-party vendor for verification and reimbursement. This can be done via email, phone app, mail or scan.
 - c. Employees have the option of direct deposit for their reimbursement.
 - d. Employees will be able to view all transactions and their status via an on-line portal.
1. Should an HMO option become available for Truckee employees, the Truckee employees will be reimbursed the same as all other County employees as described in Sections C and D above and the Rural Health Subsidy shall be discontinued.
 2. Should the HMO option become unavailable for all County employees, the Truckee employees will be reimbursed the same as all other County employees as described in Sections C and D above and the Rural Health Subsidy shall be discontinued.
 3. Should the HMO option become unavailable for all County employees, the County agrees to meet and confer over the effects of such a change.

C. LIFE INSURANCE

1. Employee and dependent coverage shall be paid for by the County.
2. Employee coverage shall be provided in the amount of \$50,000, and there shall be \$1,000 coverage provided for each eligible dependent.

D. COVERAGE -LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Employer paid insurance contributions shall not be made on behalf of any employee who receives any leave of absence without pay exceeding fifteen (15) calendar days, effective on the first day of such leave of absence. An employee may continue coverage during the afore stated leave of absence by advancing to the Auditor-Controller each month the total monthly premium cost.

E. STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE

The County shall augment the amount of SDI benefits being received by an amount sufficient to provide the employee with a gross biweekly salary equal to the employee's normal biweekly base salary. The afore stated augmentation to SDI shall be made from sick leave balance, CTO balance and vacation balance, in that order until exhausted. Upon exhaustion of leave balances as provided herein, the employee's status shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the Personnel Code as they pertain to leaves of absence. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, each employee absent from work and receiving SDI benefits shall be required to utilize accrued leave balances to augment SDI benefits as provided in the Nevada County Personnel Code.

ARTICLE 6 RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

A. AUTHORITY

This section delineates, briefly, the various retirement programs available to employees as provided by law, contract or memorandum of understanding. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to amend or affect any portion or provision of any contract or agreement, but, instead, this section shall be construed only as a general description of certain retirement programs available.

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. Social Security. All regular employees shall be members of the Social Security System, unless otherwise provided by law.
2. Public Employees' Retirement System. Regular employees holding positions in the County Service shall be members of the Public Employees' Retirement System, as provided by the terms of the contract in effect between the County and the Public Employees' Retirement System.
3. Regular employees working less than one-half (1/2) time shall not be eligible to enroll in the Public Employees' Retirement System, unless otherwise provided by contract or direction of the Board of Supervisors.

C. RETIREE COVERAGE AND CONTRIBUTION RATE

1. The type of coverage and amount of employee contribution shall be established in accordance with this Agreement and the contract between the County and the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).
2. Tier I/Legacy Tier (Employees hired prior to July 23, 2011): Effective July 1, 2006, the County adopted the 2.7% at 55 modified retirement plan. The County contributes on behalf of all covered employees their contribution at the established rate of 8% of monthly base salary received in excess of \$133.33. The employee contribution toward the employer share of PERS is 10.585% of reportable compensation in accordance with California Government Code Section 20516.
3. Tier II/Classic Tier (Employees hired between December 14, 2012 and December 31, 2012): are enrolled in the 2% @ 60 formula. Effective July 5, 2015, employees enrolled in the 2@60 formula shall contribute 7.0% towards the employee share of PERS reportable compensation in accordance with California Government Code Section 20516.

4. Tier III/PEPRA Tier (Employees hired on or after January 1, 2013): Employees are enrolled in the 2% @62 formula. The employee contribution towards PERS shall be 50% of the total normal cost rate for Tier III/PEPRA Tier. The employee share may change in accordance with PERS requirements under California Government Code Section 20516.

Tier III employees shall be subject to the provisions of the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA), including provisions governing pensionable compensation.

5. The County offers the PERS optional death benefit Section 21548, Pre-Retirement Optional Settlement 2 Death Benefit.
6. The employees in this unit are eligible for PERS Section 21540.5 Special Death Benefit.
7. Credit For Unused Sick Leave - Employees of the unit shall be eligible for PERS Section 20965, Credit For Unused Sick Leave.
8. The County provides EPMC benefits in accordance with Title 2, CCR 569 and 571 providing for the reporting of the value of Employer Paid Member Contributions (EPMC) of 8% as special compensation to PERS for eligible employees.
9. Social Security - Each regular employee shall pay his/her contribution to the system.

D. 401(a) PLAN

The County agrees to establish and make available, at no County contribution, a 401(a) plan.

E. RETIREE HEALTH COVERAGE

Effective July 1, 2008, retiree health insurance shall be provided pursuant to Personnel Code Section 24.7, "Retiree Medical Insurance".

**ARTICLE 7
MISCELLANEOUS**

A. SAFETY MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE COVERAGE

Effective September 21, 2003, the position of Undersheriff shall be covered by the Confidential Unit and shall be entitled to all compensation and benefits delineated herein. All employees covered by the PERS safety category and who are covered by the Confidential Unit may be entitled to all compensation and benefits delineated in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff's Management Association upon approval of the County Executive or his designee. This includes eligibility for POST Incentive Pay, Education Incentives, and participation in the Safety Retirement and the treatment of unused sick leave.

B. CONTINUING EDUCATION

Confidential employees are eligible to apply for tuition payment/reimbursement using the County process.

**ARTICLE 8
TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

A. DURATION

This Agreement shall be for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, and except as otherwise specified herein, shall become effective on the date of adoption by the Board of Supervisors.