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ARTICLE 13 - BENEFIT PROGRAMS

Section 13.1 - Workers' Compensation

a) Eligibility

Every nurse shall be entitled to industrial injury leave when the nurse is unable to perform services because of any injury as defined in the Workers' Compensation Act.

b) Compensation

A nurse who is disabled as a result of an industrial injury shall be placed on leave, using as much of the nurse's accumulated compensable overtime, accrued sick leave, and PTO time as when added to any disability indemnity payable under the Workers' Compensation Act will result in a payment to the nurse of not more than the nurse's ~~full salary~~ regular gross wages unless at the time of the filing of the Supervisor's Report of Injury the nurse indicates on the form provided by the supervisor that they do not want such integration of payments to take place. This choice shall be binding for the entire period of each disability unless the employee later requests in writing that the Workers' Compensation Division begin integration. In such case, integration shall be implemented at the beginning of the next pay period.

If integration occurs, the first three (3) days are to be charged to the nurse's accrued but unused sick leave. If the temporary disability period exceeds fourteen (14) calendar days, temporary disability will be paid for the first three (3) days.

c) Industrially Injured Workers - Temporary Modified Work Program

The County has established a program to return workers with temporary disabling occupational injuries or illnesses to modified duty within the County as soon as medically practical. Pursuant to the program, the County will make every reasonable effort to provide meaningful work assignments to all such workers capable of performing modified work. The maximum length of such work program shall not exceed twelve (12) weeks. With the approval of the Worker's Compensation Division, a temporary modified work assignment may be extended to no more than 16 weeks.

There are three kinds of "Temporary Modified Work" shown in order of preference:

1. Return to the worker's same job with some duties restricted.
2. Return to the same job, but for fewer hours per day or fewer hours per week. To be used if an injured worker cannot return on a full-time basis.

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3. Return temporarily to a different job. This is the least desirable and will only be attempted if the regular job cannot be reasonably modified to meet the injured worker's medical limitations.

d) Clothing Claims

Loss of, or damage to, a nurse's clothing resulting from an industrial injury which requires medical treatment will be replaced by the County through the following:

The Department will review and make a determination on all such incidents as submitted in writing by the nurse. Reimbursement will be limited to the lesser of:

1. Seventy-five percent (75%) of proven replacement cost, or
2. The repair cost.

However, both of the above are limited by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) maximum. (Nothing in this Section is intended to replace or supersede Article 13.2 which provides for replacement of items damaged, lost or destroyed in the line of duty.)

e) Tracking of High Incidents of Industrial Injury

The County shall design and initiate a study/analysis of on-the-job injury/illness incidents to identify whether there are areas of unusually high injury and/or illness. The County may submit the report to the County-wide Safety Committee. The parties agree to review and determine what course of action, if any, may be required based on the findings.

Section 13.2 - Repair/Replace Claims

County shall provide the necessary protective clothing to nurses and classifications pursuant to such requests by the nurses affected as provided by law under Cal-OSHA, Title 8, Article 10. The County shall pay the cost of repairing or replacing the uniforms, clothing and equipment of County nurses which have been damaged, lost or destroyed in the line of duty when the following conditions exist:

- a) The clothing, uniform or equipment is specifically required by the department or necessary to the nurses to perform the nurse's duty; and not adaptable for continued wear to the extent that they may be said to replace the nurse's regular clothing; or
- b) The clothing, uniform or equipment has been damaged or destroyed in the course of making an arrest, or in the issuance of a citation, or in the legal restraint of persons being placed in custody or already in custody, or in the service of legal documents as part of the nurse's duties or in the saving of a human life; and

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- c) The nurse has not, through negligence or willful misconduct, contributed to such damage or destruction of said property.

Claims for reimbursement shall be reviewed and approved by the Department in accordance with procedures set forth by the County Executive.

Section 13.3 - Insurance Premiums

- a) The HMO plan design will be \$10 co-payments for office visits, \$35 co-payment for emergency room visits, \$5-\$10 co-payment for prescriptions (30-day supply) and \$10-\$20 co-payment for prescriptions (100-day supply) and \$100 copayment for hospital admission; the Point of Service plan design will be \$15/\$20/30% (Tier 1/2/3) for office visits, \$50/\$75/30% co-payment for emergency room visits, and \$5/\$15/\$30 (generic/brand/formulary) co-payment for prescription (30-day supply) and \$10/\$30/\$60 co-payment for prescription (90-day supply).

Hearing aid coverage, up to \$1000 for 1 to 2 devices every 36 months, will be counted in all health plans.

Effective November 10, 2014 the County and employees will share in the cost of medical plan premiums. The County, in order to provide one health plan where there is not premium sharing, will continue to offer Valley Health Plan without premium sharing. For all other plans, the County will pay the cost of any premiums for "employee only" and "employee plus dependent" tiers that is not covered by the employee's share of the premium. The employee share shall be 2% of premium in effect as of November 10, 2014, converted to a flat rate.

Effective November-07-2016, and each November thereafter, for those plans and tiers where the employee pays a portion of the premium, the dollar amount of the then current employee contribution shall constitute the base onto which an additional amount equal to 10% of the increase in medical plan premiums rate for the plan year, if any, will be added to form the new total employee contribution. The County share of the premiums will decrease accordingly.

During the term of the agreement the employee contribution shall be capped at an amount equal to 10% of the increase. Employees shall not pay a higher share of the increase in medical plan premium rate than other bargaining units during the term of the agreement. Should a bargaining unit negotiate a lower term on a year for year basis during the term of this agreement, the share paid by RNPA members shall be adjusted accordingly.

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Dual Coverage

Married couples and registered domestic partners who are both County employees shall be eligible for coverage under one medical plan only with the County paying the full premium for dependent coverage. County employee couples are not eligible to participate in the Health Plan Bonus Waiver Program.

High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)

The parties agree to investigate the feasibility of adding by mutual agreement a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with or without Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) as an option to current health plans.

Medical Premiums during Medical, Family, Maternity Parental, or Industrial Injury Leave of Absence

The County shall pay the nurse's premium subject to applicable co-payments in this Section as follows:

1. While on medical, maternity parental or industrial injury leave of absence without pay, up to thirteen (13) pay periods of employee only coverage. A portion of the leave may include dependent coverage in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, The California Family Rights Act and the County's Family and Medical Leave Policy.
2. For a nurse on family leave without pay, in accordance with the County's Family and Medical Leave Policy, up to twelve (12) weeks of dependent coverage.

Registered Domestic Partners

- a) County employees who have filed a Declaration of Registered Domestic Partnership in accordance with the provisions of Family Code 297-297.5 shall have the same rights, and shall be subject to the same responsibilities and obligations as are granted to and imposed upon spouses. The term "spouse" in this contract shall apply to Registered Domestic Partners.
- b) Tax Liability
Employees are solely responsible for paying any tax liability resulting from benefits provided as a result of their Domestic Partnership.
- b) Dental Insurance
The County agrees to contribute the amount of the current monthly insurance premium to cover the nurse and full dependent contribution and to pick up

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inflationary costs during the term of this Agreement. The existing Delta Dental Plan coverage will be continued in accordance with the following schedule:

Basic and Prosthodontics: 75-25 - no deductible. \$2,000 maximum per patient per calendar year.

Orthodontics: 60-40 - no deductible. \$2000 lifetime maximum per patient (no age limit).

The County will continue to provide an alternative dental plan. The current alternate dental plan is Pacific Union Dental. The County will contribute up to the same dollar amount to this alternative dental plan premium as is paid to the Delta Dental Plan.

- c) Life Insurance
The County agrees to increase the existing base group Life Insurance Plan to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per nurse for the term of the Agreement.
- d) Social Security
Effective October 12, 1981, the County did cease payment of the nurses' portion of Social Security.
- e) Vision Care Plan
The County agrees to provide a Vision Care Plan for all nurses and dependents. The Plan will be the Vision Service Plan - Plan A with benefits at 12/12/24 month intervals with twenty dollar (\$20.00) deductible for examinations and twenty dollar (\$20.00) deductible for materials. The County will fully pay the monthly premium for nurse and dependents and pick up inflationary costs during the term of the agreement.
- f) County-wide Benefits
The parties agree that, during the term of this Agreement, County-wide changes in benefits, such as medical, dental, life insurance or retirement, shall be applied to nurses in this Unit.

Section 13.4 - Training for Nurses With Disabilities

- a) Vocational Rehabilitation Job Displacement Benefit
~~When a nurse is determined by the County to be unable to return to the classification in which the nurse held permanent status because of a work-connected illness or injury and does not elect a disability retirement, that nurse will be offered vocational rehabilitation. Injured workers may be entitled to supplemental job displacement benefits, if any, subject to California Workers Compensation law.~~

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- b) Lateral Transfer/Demotion Openings
If the nurse meets all the qualifications for a particular position (this would take into account the nurse's medical limitations, prior work experience and skills) and an opening exists that involves a lateral transfer or demotion, the position shall be offered to the nurse.
- c) Salary Level
In accordance with Chapter VI, Article 5, Section A25(e) of the Personnel Practices, "...the salary of the nurse shall be placed at the step in the salary range which corresponds most closely to the salary received by the nurse as of the time of injury. In the event that such a demotion would result in a salary loss of more than ten (10) percent, the nurse's new salary shall be set at the rate closest to but not less than ten percent (10%) below their salary as of the time of injury."
- d) Training Program
In those cases where the nurse may not have the necessary prior experience or all the required skills but there is reasonable assurance that the nurse will be capable of obtaining them through a designated formal on-the-job training program, the County will make reasonable efforts to place the nurse in a training program.
- e) Placement Review
If, after a period on the job, it is demonstrated that the nurse is unable to develop the required skills, knowledge and abilities and/or cannot meet the physical requirements to handle the new position, the nurse will be placed on a leave of absence and the placement process begins again.
- f) Promotions
Any position which involves a promotion will call for the normal qualifying procedures, written and/or oral examination. However, if it is found that a nurse meets all the qualifications for a higher paying position and an eligibility list is already in existence, the nurse shall be allowed to take a written and/or oral examination, and, if the nurse qualifies, the nurse's name will be placed on the eligibility list commensurate with their score.
- g) Referral to Accredited Rehabilitation Agency
~~In those cases where the County is unable, for one reason or another, to place a nurse in any occupation, that nurse's case will be referred to an accredited rehabilitation agency as approved by the Division of Industrial Accidents for testing, counseling and retraining at either the County's or State's expense.~~
- h)g) State Legislation Authority

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~~The provisions of this Section shall not apply if State legislation removes from the County the control of training for disabled employees. This Agreement does not address, change, or otherwise impact California Workers Compensation law.~~

Section 13.5 - Short-Term Disability Program

The County shall provide a short-term disability plan at no expense to the County under the same terms and conditions as provided County-wide.

Section 13.6 - Retirement

The County will continue the present benefit contract with PERS which is the 2% at 55 Retirement Plan.

Effective April 11, 2005 the County ceased paying the employee's statutorily required contribution and adjusted the base pay of all employees upwards by 7.49% and implemented an employee self-pay PERS member contribution on a pre-tax basis pursuant to Internal Revenue Code 414(h)(2).

The County has amended its contract with PERS effective December 17, 2007 for the 2.5% at 55 Plan for Miscellaneous employees. In consideration for this amendment, the Association agrees for each nurse covered under this benefit to contribute to PERS, through payroll deduction effective December 17, 2007, an additional amount of 3.931% of PERS reportable gross pay added to the current self-pay member contribution of 7% through June 14, 2009.

Each nurse's payroll deduction of 3.931% includes the 1% member contribution and the 2.931% employer contribution. The 1% member contribution, in addition to the 7% member contribution, shall be deducted for the duration of the Agreement.

Effective June 15, 2009, each nurse, in addition to making the 8% member contribution, shall have a payroll deduction equal to the difference between the employer share for 2.5% at 55 and the employer share for 2% at 55 as computed by PERS for all Miscellaneous employees effective July 1, 2009 provided that the deduction for the employer share will not exceed 2.931%. This deduction shall continue for the duration of the Agreement.

Employees who are hired on or after January 1, 2013, and who are considered "new employees" and who are considered "new members" of PERS, as defined in Government Code section 7522.04 shall not be entitled to the benefits enumerated above. All such employees shall be in the Miscellaneous retirement tier of 2% at age 62 with a minimum retirement age of 52 and final compensation calculated on the highest average of pensionable compensation earned during a period of 36 consecutive months.

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The employee contribution rate shall be 50% of the normal cost for the 2% @ age 62 PERS plan expressed as a percentage of payroll as defined in the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2012. The County shall not pay any portion of the employee contribution rate (EMPC.) If the normal cost increases or decreases by more than one quarter of 1% of payroll the employee contribution rate will be adjusted accordingly.

Pursuant to the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 – Government Code Section 7522, employees convicted of certain felonies may be deemed to have forfeited accrued rights and benefits in any public retirement system in which he or she is a member.

Medical Benefits for Retirees

a) For Employees Hired before August 12, 1996:

The County shall contribute an amount equal to the cost of Kaiser retiree-only medical plan premium to the cost of the medical plan of employees who have completed five (5) years' service (1,305 days of accrued service) or more with the County and who retire on PERS directly from the County on or after December 5, 1983. Retirees over sixty-five (65) or otherwise eligible for Medicare Part B must be enrolled in such a plan, and the County shall reimburse the retiree for the cost of Medicare Part B premium on a quarterly basis. This reimbursement is subject to the maximum County contribution for retiree medical. The surviving spouse or the same sex domestic partner of an employee eligible for retiree medical benefits may continue to purchase medical coverage after the death of the retiree.

b) For Employees Hired on or after August 12, 1996:

The County shall contribute an amount equal to the cost of Kaiser retiree-only medical plan premium to the cost of the medical plan of employees who have completed eight (8) years of service (2,088 days of accrued service) or more with the County and who retire on PERS directly from the County on or after December 5, 1983. Retirees over the age of sixty-five (65) or otherwise eligible for Medicare Part B must be enrolled in such a plan and the County shall reimburse the retiree for the cost of Medicare Part B premium on a quarterly basis. This reimbursement is subject to the maximum County contribution for retiree medical. The surviving spouse or the same sex domestic partner of an employee eligible for retiree medical benefits may continue to purchase medical coverage after the death of the retiree.

c) For Employees hired on or after June 19, 2006:

The County shall contribute an amount equal to the cost of Kaiser retiree-only medical plan premium to the cost of the medical plan of employee who have completed ten (10) years of service (2610 days of accrued service) or more with the County and who retire on PERS directly from the County. Retirees over 65 or

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otherwise eligible for Medicare Part B must be enrolled in such a plan, and the County shall reimburse the retiree for the cost of Medicare Part B premium on a quarterly basis. This reimbursement is subject to the maximum County contribution for retiree medical. The surviving spouse or same sex domestic partner of a employee eligible for retiree medical benefits may continue to purchase medical coverage after the death of the retiree.

Continuous Years of Service

The years of service expressed in Section 13.6 a), b), c) and d) must be continuous service with the County and shall have been completed immediately preceding retirement directly on PERS from the County.

Delayed Enrollment in Retiree Medical Plan

A retiree who otherwise meets the requirements for retiree only medical coverage under the Sections above may choose to delay enrollment in retiree medical coverage. Application and coverage may begin each year at the annual medical insurance open enrollment period or within 30 days of a qualifying event after retirement.

Employee Contribution toward Retiree Medical Obligation Unfunded Liability

Effective with the pay period beginning June 24, 2013, all coded employees shall contribute on a biweekly basis an amount equivalent to 7.5% of the lowest cost early retiree premium rate. Such contributions are to be made on a pre-tax basis, and employees shall have no vested right to the contributions made by the employees. Such contributions shall be used by the County exclusively to offset a portion of the County's annual required contribution amount to the California Employers Retirement Benefit Trust established for the express purpose of meeting the County's other post-employment benefits (OPEB) obligations and shall not be used for any other purpose.

d) For Employees Hired on or After December 08, 2014:

The County shall contribute an amount equal to the cost of Kaiser retiree-only medical plan premium to the cost of the medical plan of workers who have completed fifteen (15) years of service (3915 days of accrued service) or more with the County and who retire on PERS directly from the County. Retirees over 65 or otherwise eligible for Medicare Part B must be enrolled in such a plan, and the County shall reimburse the retiree for the cost of Medicare Part B premium on a quarterly basis. This reimbursement is subject to the maximum County contribution for retiree medical. The surviving spouse or registered domestic partner of a worker eligible for retiree medical benefits may continue to purchase medical coverage after the death of the retiree.

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f) ~~Limited Reopener on Retiree Health Reimbursement Account:
Effective the third year of the agreement, the County and the Union shall reopen
this section solely to consider the option of a retiree health reimbursement account.~~

Section 13.7 - Deferred Compensation Plan

The County will continue the present deferred income plan. If the County proposes to change the plan, it shall provide appropriate notice to the Association and the parties shall meet and confer pursuant to Article 20 over said changes.

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