

Why SURS is Sustainable!

- The rate of return for FY 2011 on SURS investments was 23.8 percent. SURS is a long-term investor and since 1986, the average annual rate of return was 8.8 percent. Do not get confused with the short-term returns when the long-term is what matters.
- The numbers to focus on are the amounts SURS pays out in pensions and benefits in a year. During the last fiscal year, SURS paid out \$1.6 billion in benefits, but collected \$4.1 billion in revenue, more than enough to meet current obligations.
- The total value of SURS assets continues to improve. At the end of FY 2009, SURS held \$11.03 billion. At the end of FY 2010, SURS held \$12.12 billion. As of 6/30/2011, SURS held \$14.24 billion. That's a 22.5 percent increase in two years.
- It's important to note that SURS and its investments and contributions from its membership will continue to accrue principal and interest over the remainder of a member's life as long as unused equity exists.
- As of 6/30/2011, SURS had total liabilities of \$31.5 billion and an unfunded liability of \$17.2 billion. While the media frets about the unfunded liability, the total amount is never due all at once. Don't confuse the mortgage with the mortgage payment.

Contributions to SURS since 1996:

- Since 1996 SURS has received \$11.2 billion in employer/state/member contributions.
- Investment income plus employer/state/member contributions has totaled \$24.8 billion since 1996.