



## **PARS SSA-1945 NOTIFICATION COVER LETTER**

**Stanislaus County** is required to provide you this notice, *Form SSA-1945*, to read and sign at the beginning of your employment with our organization. We are required to do so under federal law, Section 419(c) of Public Law 108-203, the Social Security Protection Act of 2004.

This notice must be provided to you because you are serving in a position, in which you as employee and **Stanislaus County** as employer will not be contributing to Social Security on your behalf.

You must do the following:

- Read the notice
- Sign the notice
- Return the notice to **Department Payroll/Personnel Clerk**

### **What is the purpose of the notice?**

The purpose of the notice is to inform you about how Social Security law may impact public employees who work in positions not covered by Social Security. This can be a complicated issue, so we encourage you to seek out additional information to determine whether the laws mentioned in the notice pertain to you by doing the following:

- Check the Social Security website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)
- Employees in a PARS, FICA Alternative Plan can contact (800) 540-6369 for further information.
- Neither PARS nor **Stanislaus County** provides tax, accounting, or legal advice. You should see your tax consultant, accountant or attorney for advice.

### **Why will I not be in Social Security?**

Not all employees working in government positions are required to be in Social Security. Instead of being in Social Security, **Stanislaus County** has part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees such as yourself in the PARS Plan. This plan offers you greater flexibility, portability, and potentially higher benefits. For more information on this plan, please see <http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/riskmgt> and click on the Employee Benefits section or contact PARS at [www.parsinfo.org](http://www.parsinfo.org) and (800) 540-6369.

## County of Stanislaus

### STATEMENT CONCERNING YOUR EMPLOYMENT IN A JOB NOT COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Your earnings from this job are not covered under Social Security. When you retire, or if you become disabled, you may receive a pension based on earnings from this job. If you do, and you are also entitled to a benefit from Social Security based on either your own work or the work of your husband or wife, or former husband or wife, your pension may affect the amount of Social Security benefit you receive. Your Medicare benefits, however, will not be affected. Under the Social Security law, there are two ways your Social Security benefit amount may be affected.

#### **Windfall Elimination Provision**

Under the Windfall Elimination Provision, your Social Security retirement or disability benefit is figured using a modified formula when you are also entitled to a pension from a job where you did not pay Social Security tax. As a result, you will receive a lower Social Security benefit than if you were not entitled to a pension from this job. For example, if you are age 62 in 2005, the maximum monthly reduction in your Social Security benefit as a result of this provision is \$313.50. This amount is updated annually. This provision reduces, but does not totally eliminate, your Social Security benefit. For additional information, please refer to the Social Security publication, "Windfall Elimination Provision."

#### **Government Pension Offset Provision**

Under the Government Pension Offset Provision, any Social Security spouse or widow(er) benefit to which you become entitled will be offset if you also receive a Federal, State or local government pension based on work where you did not pay Social Security tax. The offset reduces the amount of your Social Security spouse or widow(er) benefit by two-thirds of the amount of your pension.

For example, if you get a monthly pension of \$600 based on earnings that are not covered under Social Security, two thirds of that amount, \$400, is used to offset your Social Security spouse or widow(er) benefit. If you are eligible for a \$500 widow(er) benefit, you will receive \$100 per month from Social Security,  $\$500 - \$400 = \$100$ . Even if your pension is high enough to totally offset your spouse or widow(er) Social Security benefit, you are still eligible for Medicare at age 65. For additional information, please refer to the Social Security publication, "Government Pension Offset".

#### **For More Information**

Social Security publications and additional information, including information about exceptions to each provision, are available at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). You may also call toll free 1-800-772-1213, or, for the deaf or hard of hearing, call the TTY number 1-800-325-0778, or contact your local Social Security office.

**I certify that I have received Form SSA-1945 that contains information about the possible effects of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset Provision on my potential Social Security benefits.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Employee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**