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## Workers Say CalPERS Changed the Rules

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SAN JOSE (CN) - The California Public Employees Retirement System refused to give Santa Clara employees a better pension plan despite a superior court judgment, the AFSCME Local 101 claims in court.



The dispute is over a 2013 pension reform law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Employees of the Santa Clara Valley Water District say the district increased the retirement age by 2 years for new employees after passage of the Public Employees Pension Reform Act (PEPRA), though a 2012 contract set the age at 60.

In December 2013, an arbitrator found that the water district violated the contract by changing the pension benefits, and in May this year, a Santa Clara County judge confirmed the arbitration award, according to the employees' Dec. 29 request for declaratory judgment and an injunction.

CalPERS refused to honor the superior court judgment, saying it would "continue to comply with the law as amended by PEPRA," according to the new lawsuit.

The pension changes affect only water district employees hired after PEPRA was enacted in 2013.

Local 101 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees sued Gov. Brown, CalPers, several CalPERS officials, and the state.

It follows a lawsuit filed in San Francisco Superior Court on Dec. 26 by [several state judges](#) who claim the pension reform law was unfairly and retroactively applied to them.

The Santa Clara employees - and the judges - are represented by Beeson, Tayer & Bodine, of Oakland. 🌟

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