REPORT OF EXAMINATION
OF THE

MERCURY CASUALTY COMPANY

AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2017

Filed on June 17, 2019

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Los Angeles, California
May 17, 2019

Honorable Ricardo Lara
Insurance Commissioner
California Department of Insurance
Sacramento, California

Dear Commissioner:

Pursuant to your instructions, an examination was made of the

MERCURY CASUALTY COMPANY

(hereinafter also referred to as the Company) at the primary location of its books and records, 4484 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90010. The Company's statutory home office and main administrative office is located at 555 West Imperial Highway, Brea, California 92821.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION

We have performed our multi-state examination of the Company. The previous examination of the Company was made as of December 31, 2013. This examination covers the period from January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2017. The examination was conducted in accordance with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Financial Condition Examiners' Handbook (Handbook). The Handbook requires the planning and performance of the examination to evaluate the Company's financial condition, assess corporate governance, identify current and prospective risks, and evaluate system controls and procedures used to mitigate those risks. The examination also included identifying and evaluating significant risks that could cause the Company's surplus to be materially misstated, both currently and prospectively.

All accounts and activities of the Company were considered in accordance with the risk-focused examination process. This includes assessing significant estimates made by management, and evaluating management's compliance with Statutory Accounting Principles. The examination does not attest to the fair presentation of the financial statements included herein. If an adjustment was identified during the course of the examination, the impact of such adjustment would be documented separately following the Company's financial statements.

This examination report includes findings of fact and general information about the Company and its financial condition. There might be other items identified during the examination that, due to their nature (e.g., subjective conclusions, proprietary information, etc.), were not included within the examination report, but separately communicated to other regulators and/or the Company.

The examination was a coordinated examination of the Mercury Insurance Group with California as the lead state, and conducted concurrently with the Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas Departments of Insurance. The insurance entities reviewed as part of this examination are identified below by state of domicile:

Company	State
California Automobile Insurance Company	California
California General Underwriters Insurance Company, Inc.	California
Mercury Casualty Company	California
Mercury Insurance Company	California
Workmen's Auto Insurance Company	California
Mercury Indemnity Company of America	Florida
Mercury Insurance Company of Florida	Florida
Mercury Indemnity Company of Georgia	Georgia
Mercury Insurance Company of Georgia	Georgia
Mercury Insurance Company of Illinois	Illinois
Mercury National Insurance Company	Illinois
American Mercury Insurance Company	Oklahoma

Mercury County Mutual Insurance Company	Texas
American Mercury Lloyds Insurance Company	Texas

COMPANY HISTORY

The Company was incorporated in the state of California on January 6, 1961 and commenced operations in 1962. The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mercury General Corporation (MGC) and the parent company of Mercury Insurance Company and California General Underwriters Insurance Company, Inc., California domiciled insurance companies; and Mercury Insurance Services, LLC, a management services company. The Company is also the sole member of AIS Management, LLC (AISM), a licensed insurance agent. Membership interest in AISM was acquired on January 1, 2009.

Dividends paid to Parent

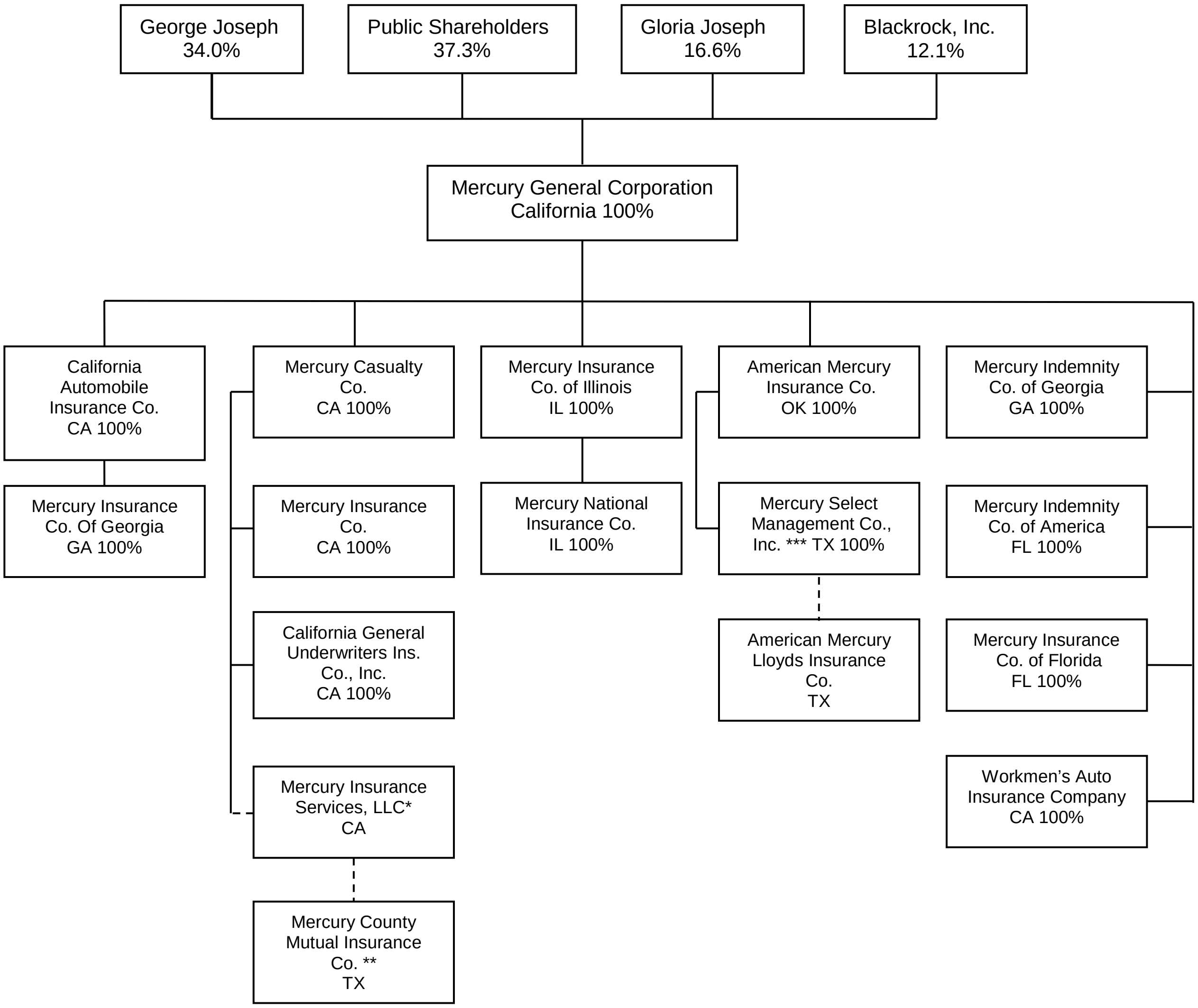
Ordinary cash dividends paid by the Company to its parent, MGC, totaled $225,000,000, $133,000,000, $94,800,000, and $93,000,000, for the years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Capital Contributions

The Company received a capital contribution of $140,000,000 from MGC on March 8, 2017.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Mercury General Corporation (MGC) is a publicly traded insurance holding company. The controlling stockholders, George Joseph and Gloria Joseph, own 34.0% and 16.6%, respectively, of MGC's stock with the remaining 49.4% held by public shareholders and Blackrock, Inc. The following organizational chart depicts the Company's relationship within the holding company system:



* Mercury Insurance Services, LLC, is controlled by its sole and managing member, Mercury Casualty Company, through a management agreement.

** Mercury County Mutual Insurance Company is managed and controlled by Mercury Insurance Services, LLC, through a management agreement.

*** Mercury Select Management Company, Inc. is Attorney-in-fact for American Mercury Lloyds Insurance Company, a Texas Lloyds Plan Insurer.

The nine members of the board of directors, who are elected annually, manage the business and affairs of the Company. Following are members of the board and principal officers of the Company serving at December 31, 2017:

Directors

Name and Location	Principal Business Affiliation
Michael D. Curtius *** Carlsbad, California	Retired President Mercury General Corporation
James G. Ellis Carlsbad, California	Dean of the Marshall School of Business The University of Southern California
George Joseph Los Angeles, California	Chairman of the Board Mercury General Corporation
Joshua E. Little St. George, Utah	Attorney and Managing Shareholder Durham Jones & Pinegar, P.C.
Martha E. Marcon Glendale, California	Retired Partner KPMG, LLP
John G. Nackel (**) Pasadena, California	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Three-Sixty Advisory Group, LLC
Glenn S. Shafer (**) Irvine, California	Retired President Pacific Life Insurance Company
Donald R. Spuehler (*) Los Angeles, California	Retired Partner Law Firm of O’Melveny & Meyers, LLP
Gabriel Tirador Tustin, California	President and Chief Executive Officer Mercury General Corporation

(*) In December 2017, Donald R. Spuehler resigned from the board of directors.

(**) Subsequent to the examination period, in May 2018, the Company amended its bylaws to reduce the size of the board of directors from eight to fifteen members to six to eleven members. In February 2018, both Glenn S. Shafer and John G. Nackel resigned from the board of directors.

(***) In January 2019, Michael D. Curtius resigned from the board of directors.

(****) Ramona L. Cappello and George G. Braunegg were elected as members of the board of directors effective April 26, 2019.

Principal Officers

Name	Title
Gabriel Tirador	President and Chief Executive Officer
Theodore R. Stalick	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer
Judith A. Walters	Secretary
Christopher W. Graves	Vice President and Chief Investment Officer

Management Agreements

Management Agreement: Since January 1, 2001, the Company has been a party to a management agreement with its subsidiary, Mercury Insurance Services, LLC (MIS). Approval of the agreement was granted by the California Department of Insurance (CDI) on January 1, 2001. Under the terms of this agreement, MIS performs underwriting and loss adjustment services for the MGC group of companies. The management fee is based on actual incurred expenses. The underwriting portion of the management fee is allocated between the Company and its affiliates based upon their proportionate share of direct premiums written. The fee for allocated loss adjustment expenses is based on actual payments by MIS for claims on policies issued by the Company. The unallocated loss adjustment expenses portion of the management fee is allocated between the Company and its affiliates based upon their proportionate share of net losses incurred. The agreement was amended, effective October 1, 2013, authorizing MIS to pay certain expense items that were previously reserved to the insurers, including agent commissions and audit fees. The amendment also added a 60-day due date for the payment of management fees, in order to comply with Statement of Statutory Accounting Principles No. 96. The amendment was approved by the CDI on September 25, 2013. Effective July 1, 2015, the agreement was amended to allow MIS to pursue salvage and subrogation claims on behalf of the insurers, with MIS remitting the recoveries to the insurers. The amendment was approved by the CDI on June 11, 2015. The Company incurred management fees of $102,902,510, $154,211,763, $89,335,113, and $45,315,688 during the years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Service Agreement: Since January 17, 2005, the Company has been party to a service agreement with California Automobile Insurance Company (CAIC) and Mercury Insurance Company (MIC). Under the terms of this agreement, the Company collects all premiums and pays claims, commissions, and return premiums on behalf of CAIC and MIC. The Company does not charge for these services as there are no additional incurred costs to the Company. Approval of the agreement was granted by the CDI on January 11, 2005.

Furniture and Equipment Rental Agreement: Since June 3, 2010, the Company has been party to a furniture and equipment rental agreement with MIS. The agreement was effective December 31, 2009, and provides for payment of all facilities and equipment rental by MIS, on behalf of its affiliates, to the Company, while authorizing MIS to receive rents from the affiliates that are utilizing the facilities and equipment. Rental charges are predicated upon the depreciation of the assets utilized. Approval of the agreement was granted by the CDI on December 2, 2009. Rental income received by the Company totaled $30,329,378, $29,654,477, $29,902,539, and $31,566,094 for the years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Service Agreement: Since April 25, 2011, the Company has been party to a service agreement with American Mercury Insurance Company (AMIC). Under the terms of this agreement, AMIC collects premiums and pays losses and agent commissions on behalf of the Company on business written in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The agreement was effective April 1, 2011, for a one-year term. The agreement was approved by the CDI on March 24, 2011. On March 28, 2012, AMIC and the Company renewed the agreement, effective April 1, 2012, for another one-year term. The new agreement contained terms allowing for renewal without separate approval from the CDI. The revised agreement was approved by the CDI on March 8, 2012. On June 7, 2013, the Agreement was renewed, effective as of April 1, 2013, for three consecutive one-year terms. Effective April 1, 2016, the agreement was again renewed for three consecutive one-year terms. No fees were paid under this agreement.

Tax Allocation Agreement: Since January 1, 1983, the Company and various affiliates have been parties to a consolidated federal income tax allocation agreement with the ultimate parent, MGC. Under the terms of this agreement, the tax liability of the Company and its affiliates are computed as if each entity filed a separate stand-alone return, with current credit for net losses incurred by the insurance subsidiaries to the extent it can be used in the current consolidated return. On July 29, 2015, the agreement was amended to add newly-acquired affiliate Workmen's Auto Insurance Company, and to delete three dissolved entities: Concord Insurance Services, Inc., Mercury Group, Inc., and American Mercury MGA, Inc. The amendment was effective as of January 2, 2015. The amendment also included several technical provisions required by the CDI, which did not alter or affect existing practices. The amendment was approved by the CDI on June 5, 2015. Taxes paid or recovered by the Company totaled $4,282,063, $4,873,680, $(26,275,860), and $(8,724,275) for the years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Multiple-Cedents Reinsurance Allocation Agreement: On July 1, 2014, the Company, AMIC, CAIC, California General Underwriters Insurance Company, Inc., and MIC entered into a Multiple-Cedents Reinsurance Allocation Agreement, providing for the allocation of premiums and recoveries in connection with external reinsurance treaties covering all the parties at a single rate, as required by Statement of Statutory Accounting Principles No. 62R. The Agreement was effective as of July 1, 2013. The Agreement was submitted for approval to the Oklahoma Department of Insurance and the CDI, and approval was granted on March 28, 2014 and June 26, 2014, respectively. During 2015, the Company received $158,042, $52,022, and $37,040 from AMIC, CAIC and MIC, respectively, as reimbursement for each insurer's respective portion of installment premium advanced by the Company. The California Registrants recovered $31,534,032 under reinsurance for losses in 2017 of which the Company was allocated $953,506.

TERRITORY AND PLAN OF OPERATION

As of December 31, 2017, the Company was licensed to write various property and casualty coverages in Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. During 2017, the Company wrote $199.4 million of direct premiums; 38.3% of the writings pertained to commercial multiple peril, 14.4% pertained to private passenger automobile liability and 11.9% pertained to homeowners multiple peril. California, New York, and Arizona represented 61.5%, 18.2%, and 10.9%, respectively, of the total direct premiums written. The Company began writing equipment breakdown coverage in 2011 and entered into a quota share reinsurance agreement whereby 100% of the business is ceded to Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company. The Company’s business is distributed and marketed through a network appointed independent agents. Branch offices are maintained in various locations throughout California.

REINSURANCE

Assumed

Assumed reinsurance is limited to business ceded to the Company from various affiliates. The following schedule depicts the Company’s assumed reinsurance contracts in-force as of December 31, 2017:

Type of Reinsurance	Lines of Business	Affiliate Cedant*	Ceding Company Retention	Reinsurer's Maximum Limits
100% Quota Share	Private Passenger Automobile Liability & Physical Damage and Commercial Automobile Liability written in Florida and Pennsylvania	MICFL	$ 0	
100% Quota Share	Private Passenger Automobile Liability & Physical Damage written in Florida	MIDA	$ 0	
100% Quota Share	Private Passenger Automobile Liability & Physical Damage written in Michigan	MNIC	$ 0	
100% Quota Share	All Lines	MICGA MIDGA MICIL		
Aggregate Catastrophe	Homeowners Multiple Peril & Automobile Physical Damage written in Florida, Oklahoma and Texas	AMIC	$5,000,000 plus 5% of $35 million	95% of $35 million in excess of coverage provided by the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund
50% Quota Share **	Private Passenger Automobile Liability & Physical Damage written in California	CAIC	50%	

*American Mercury Insurance Company (AMIC); California Automobile Insurance Company (CAIC); Mercury Insurance Company of Florida (MICFL); Mercury Indemnity Company of America (MIDA); Mercury National Insurance Company (MNIC); Mercury Insurance Company of Georgia (MICGA); Mercury Indemnity Company of Georgia (MIDGA); Mercury Insurance Company of Illinois (MICIL).

** Subsequent to the examination period and effective July 1, 2018, the Company amended the agreement to increase the ceding percentage from 50% to 100%.

Ceded

Effective July 1, 1999, the Company was a party to a 100% quota share agreement with California General Underwriters Insurance Company, Inc. (CGU), under which CGU assumed the fleet automobile policies written by the Company for substantially all vehicles owned by affiliates. This agreement was terminated effective January 1, 2015, coinciding with the termination date of the fleet policies issued by the Company. The fleet policies issued by the Company were replaced by policies issued by CAIC as of January 1, 2015.

During 2011, the Company began writing equipment breakdown coverage and entered into a quota share reinsurance agreement whereby the Company cedes 100% of the business to Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company.

Effective January 1, 2016, the Company was a party to a 100% quota share agreement with Lloyd's Syndicate Number 4242 under which the Company cedes its net liability resulting from losses due to earthquakes covered under the Company's commercial multi-peril apartment policies in California up to a total insured value not to exceed $600 million.

As of December 31, 2017, the Company and all other insurance companies under the ownership, control or management of Mercury General Corporation were party to a Catastrophe Reinsurance Treaty (Treaty) consisting of two reinsurance agreements and four layers of coverage. The agreements were effective from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, and provided for $205 million coverage on a per occurrence basis after covered catastrophe losses exceed a $10 million retention limit for all insurance companies combined. The Treaty specifically excluded coverage for any Florida business and for California earthquake losses on fixed property policies, such as homeowners, but did cover losses from fires following an earthquake. Subsequently, the Company entered into agreements effective from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 under the same terms as the prior year.

Aside from various in place excess of loss facultative arrangements covering individual commercial and personal property risks, the remainder of the Company's reinsurance program is limited to a 100% quota share agreement with an authorized reinsurer that covers commercial umbrella business and provides coverage up to $5,000,000 per occurrence.

ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS

Automobile Assessment File

California Code of Regulations 10 (CCR) § 2698.62(d) states in order to verify the number of vehicles for which an assessment is due and has been paid under this section, each insurer shall maintain a file known as the Automobile Assessment File. The Automobile Assessment File shall contain the vehicle identification, policy number and transaction date for every vehicle for which a policy of insurance was in force for each quarter or any part thereof. For group insurers, the information shall be maintained on an individual company basis. The data shall be kept in a computer format that allows for the insurer to place each calendar year quarter data on a computer media format in a format specified by the Commissioner. The data in the file shall be kept for a minimum of five years after each calendar year quarter. During the course of this examination, it was found the Company did not maintain an automobile assessment file as required by 10 CCR § 2698.62(d).

It is recommended the Company maintain an automobile assessment file in accordance with 10 CCR § 2698.62(d). The Company advised that it has implemented procedures to assure future compliance with the requirements of 10 CCR § 2698.62(d).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following financial statements are based on the statutory financial statements filed by the Company with the California Department of Insurance and present the financial condition of the Company for the period ending December 31, 2017. No adjustments were made to the statutory financial statements filed by the Company.

Statement of Financial Condition as of December 31, 2017

Underwriting and Investment Exhibit for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Reconciliation of Surplus as Regards Policyholders from December 31, 2013
through December 31, 2017

Statement of Financial Condition as of December 31, 2017

Assets	Ledger and Nonledger Assets	Assets Not Admitted	Net Admitted Assets	Notes
Bonds	$ 879,991,083	$	$ 879,991,083	
Preferred stocks	11,352,000		11,352,000	
Common stocks	654,999,354		654,999,354	
Real estate: Properties Occupied by the company	86,462,247		86,462,247	
Cash and short-term investments	100,216,153		100,216,153	
Other invested assets	37,407,720	86,177	37,321,543	
Receivables for securities	27		27	
Aggregate write-ins for invested assets	5,687,500		5,687,500	
Investment income due and accrued	10,974,433		10,974,433	
Premiums and agents' balances in course of collection	29,184,985	128,730	29,056,255	
Premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including $0 earned but unbilled premiums)	23,898,618		23,898,618	
Amounts recoverable from reinsurers	(1,305,263)		(1,305,263)	
Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon	20,029,505		20,029,505	
Net deferred tax asset	14,499,943	5,396,335	9,103,608	
Electronic data processing equipment and software	52,796,737	47,005,090	5,791,647	
Furniture and equipment	4,742,627	4,742,627	0	
Receivable from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates	139,209		139,209	
Other amounts receivable	24,148		24,148	
Aggregate write-ins for other-than-invested assets	4,500,895	669,741	3,831,154	
Total assets	$ 1,935,601,922	$ 58,028,700	$ 1,877,573,222	

Liabilities, Surplus and Other Funds

Losses			$ 364,254,206	(1)
Reinsurance payable on paid losses and loss adjustment expenses			21,373,132	
Loss adjustment expenses			95,230,881	(1)
Commissions payable, contingent commissions and other similar charges			1,812,999	
Other expenses			339,486	
Taxes, licenses and fees			969,487	
Unearned premiums			228,383,774	
Advance premiums			3,195,708	
Ceded reinsurance premiums payable			758,342	
Remittances and items not allocated			343,693	
Provision for reinsurance			282,000	
Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates			78,048,867	
Aggregate write-ins for liabilities			10,808,705	
Total liabilities			805,801,280	
Common capital stock		$ 10,000,000		
Gross paid-in and contributed surplus		240,774,124		
Unassigned funds (surplus)		820,997,818		
Surplus as regards policyholders			1,071,771,942	
Total liabilities, surplus and other funds			$ 1,877,573,222	

Underwriting and Investment Exhibit
for the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Statement of Income

Underwriting Income		
Premiums earned		$ 693,512,815
Deductions:		
Losses and loss expenses incurred	$ 550,000,278	
Other underwriting expenses incurred	173,924,951	
Aggregate write-ins for underwriting deductions	(9,485)	
Total underwriting deductions		723,915,744
Net underwriting loss		(30,402,929)
Investment Income		
Net investment income earned	$ 116,145,588	
Net realized capital losses	(63,230)	
Net investment gain		116,082,358
Other Income		
Net loss from agents' or premium balances charged off (amount recovered $360,474 amount charged off $4,303,331)	$ (3,942,857)	
Finance and service charges not included in premiums	6,290,126	
Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income	156,044	
Total other income		2,503,313
Net income before dividends to policyholders, after capital gains tax and before federal and foreign income taxes		88,182,742
Federal and foreign income taxes incurred		(26,887,782)
Net income		$ 115,070,524

Capital and Surplus Account

Surplus as regards policyholders, December 31, 2016		$ 925,762,133
Net income	$ 115,070,524	
Change in net unrealized capital losses	(24,258,643)	
Change in net deferred income tax	(3,658,338)	
Change in nonadmitted assets	12,138,266	
Change in provision for reinsurance	(282,000)	
Surplus adjustments: Paid-in	140,000,000	
Dividends to stockholders	(93,000,000)	
Change in surplus as regards policyholders for the year		146,009,809
Surplus as regards policyholders, December 31, 2017		$1,071,771,942

Reconciliation of Surplus as Regards Policyholders from December 31, 2013 through December 31, 2017

	Gain in Surplus	Loss in Surplus	
Surplus as regards policyholders, December 31, 2013 per Examination			$1,151,310,514
Net income	$ 462,835,862		
Change in unrealized capital losses		$ 96,787,203	
Change in net deferred income tax		28,373,316	
Change in nonadmitted assets		11,506,915	
Provision for reinsurance	93,000		
Surplus adjustments: Paid-in	140,000,000		
Dividends to stockholders		545,800,000	
Total gains and losses	$ 602,928,862	$ 682,467,434	
Net decrease in surplus as regards policyholders			(79,538,572)
Surplus as regards policyholders, December 31, 2017, per Examination			$1,071,771,942

COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT ITEMS

(1) Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

Based on an analysis by a Senior Casualty Actuary from the California Department of Insurance, the Company's loss and loss adjustment expense reserves as of December 31, 2017 were found to be reasonably stated and have been accepted for the purpose of this examination.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Two major catastrophe events occurred in the fourth quarter of 2018, the Camp Fire in Northern California and the Woolsey Fire in Southern California, which caused approximately $206 million and $43 million, respectively, in losses to the Mercury Insurance Group (Group), before reinsurance benefits. The combined loss to the Group from these two events, net of reinsurance benefits, totaled approximately $37 million as follows: $20 million for the Group's initial reinsurance retention for the two catastrophe events ($10 million for each event); approximately $11 million Group retention from the first layer of reinstated reinsurance limit previously used up; and approximately $6 million Group retention on the Camp Fire losses in excess of $200 million. The Group recorded a total of approximately $18 million in ceded reinstatement premiums written and $5 million in ceded reinstatement premiums earned in 2018 for reinstatement of the reinsurance benefits used under the Treaty related to these two catastrophe events.

The Group incurred a total of approximately $21 million in losses, before reinsurance benefits, resulting from a wildfire, known as the Carr Fire, that occurred in Shasta County of Northern California in the third quarter of 2018. The loss to the Group, net of reinsurance benefits, was $10 million, which is the Group's retention on the catastrophe event. The Group recorded approximately $3 million in ceded reinstatement premiums written and $1 million in ceded reinstatement premiums earned in 2018 for reinstatement of the reinsurance benefits used under the Treaty related to this catastrophe event.

As a result of reinsurance benefits used for the catastrophes described above under the Treaty ending June 30, 2019, the Group has exhausted the reinstated limit on the first layer of the Treaty, and a second reinstatement is not available under the current terms of the Treaty. Should there be another major catastrophe event within the Treaty period ending June 30, 2019, the Group would retain the first $10 million of losses, retain the following $30 million of losses reflecting that the reinstated first layer limit has been used up, and have available approximately $57 million in reinsurance coverage for losses above $40 million up to $100 million, 100% reinsurance coverage for losses above $100 million up to $200 million and 5% reinsurance coverage for losses above $200 million up to $500 million.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Current Report of Examination

Accounts and Records - Automobile Assessment File (Page 13): It is recommended the Company maintain an auto assessment file in accordance with California Code of Regulations 10 CCR § 2698.62(d).

Previous Report of Examination

Accounts and Records – Information System Controls (Page 12): The Company should evaluate the recommendations from the information systems controls review and make appropriate changes to strengthen its controls over its information systems. The Company has implemented changes to strengthen its controls over information systems.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Acknowledgment is made of the cooperation and assistance extended by the Company's officers and employees during the course of this examination.

Respectfully submitted,

__/S/_________________________
Bradley R. Hazelwood, CFE, CPA
Examiner-In-Charge
Contract Examiner
Department of Insurance
State of California

__/S/_________________________
Edward Aros, CFE
Senior Insurance Examiner, Supervisor
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