



County of Los Angeles

April 9, 2024

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

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Supervisor, Third District

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Supervisor, Fourth District

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Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: JEFF LEVINSON
Interim Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS
Litigation Cost Manager 

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda
County Claims Board Recommendation
Aaron Esquenazi, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCP02885**

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter.

It is requested that this recommendation and the Case Summary be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.



AMB:rm

Attachment

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Aaron Esquenazi, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCP02885, in the amount of \$310,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Treasurer and Tax Collector's budget.

This class action lawsuit against the Treasurer-Tax Collector alleges the department extraterritorially imposed and collected utility user tax in former unincorporated areas of the County that were annexed by incorporated cities.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	<u>Aaron Esquenazi, et al. v. County of Los Angeles</u>
CASE NUMBER	19STCP02885
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 10, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Treasurer and Tax Collector
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 310,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Prescott Littlefield, Esq. Eric Benink, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Matthew Dill Government Services Division
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a recommendation to settle for \$310,000, a petition for writ of mandate and class action alleging the County extraterritorially imposed and collected utility user tax ("UUT") in former unincorporated areas of the County that were annexed by incorporated cities. Pursuant to the terms of the proposed settlement, the County will pay \$310,000 consisting of plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and service awards to plaintiffs.</p> <p>The County will require five service suppliers to refund their respective customers extraterritorially collected UUT for a total amount of approximately \$169,631 in exchange for credit on future remittances of UUT to the County.</p> <p>Given the damages and cost of further litigation, the full and final settlement amount of \$310,000 is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 246,084
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 17,453