OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY
COUNSEL

October 14, 2025

TO: EDWARD YEN
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
Catherine Marie Cordova v. Jose Louis Macias, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV26528

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

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

AMB:lzs

Attachments

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Catherine Marie Cordova v. Jose Louis Macias, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV26528, in the amount of $175,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Internal Services Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving an employee of the Internal Services Department.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Catherine Marie Cordova vs. Jose Louis Macias, et al.
CASE NUMBER		22STCV26528
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		August 16, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Internal Services Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	175,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		OGANES OGANESYAN, ESQ. Ness Law, Inc.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		KEVIN ENGELIEN, ESQ. Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE		This is an auto-liability lawsuit which arises from a traffic collision that occurred on November 18, 2021. Plaintiff claims she suffered injuries and damages as a result of the collision. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	67,032
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	16,767

Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/Event:	November 18, 2021
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On November 18, 2021, at approximately 2:45pm, an ISD employee rear-ended plaintiff while traveling southbound on Eastern Avenue in Los Angeles. Reportedly, shortly after the traffic signal on City Terrace Drive changed from red to green, the two (2) vehicles collided. Per the Plaintiff, the County driver was negligent and rear-ended her vehicle. Per the County driver, the Plaintiff's actions caused him to have no opportunity to stop; and therefore, avoid hitting her vehicle from behind. The results of both internal and external investigations revealed that likely, the County driver was the at fault driver in the incident. At the time of the incident, the road conditions were light (daylight), clear and dry. Visibility was good and traffic was light. Plaintiff's vehicle was a 2017 Volkswagen Jetta. The County vehicle (#67032) was a 2020 Ford F450 truck. There were no witnesses to the incident. As well, there were no nearby traffic cameras that were able to offer video or still images of the intersection just prior to, during or after the incident. Both parties drove their respective vehicles from the scene of the incident after exchanging their personal information. While at the scene of the accident neither party indicated any injuries. Subsequently, the Plaintiff filed suit against the County and the employee in November 2022, alleging bodily injuries sustained as the result of the incident.

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

The County driver was following too closely and was unable to stop to avoid the collision.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Department's Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) reviewed this incident and deemed it "Preventable," finding that the employee was "following too closely." VARC's "Preventable" finding required that the employee be referred to both the Training and Development and Employee

Relations/Performance Management Sections. Respectively, the employee was required to attend a mandatory 8-Hour Preventable Motor Accident Driver Training; appropriate administrative actions were taken.

1. Training Completed – March 15, 2023
   Responsible Party – Training and Development Section Manager
2. Administrative Corrective Action – Dated April 27, 2023
   Responsible Party – Employee's Supervisor

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-ide system issues?

☐ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

X No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Vanessa Esparza	
Signature: Vanessa Esparza (May 13, 2025 16:11 PDT)	Date: 05/13/2025

Name: (Department Head) Michael Owh	
Signature:	Date: 5/29/2025

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

☒ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.

☐ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian	
Signature: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 6/3/2025