



County of Los Angeles

September 1, 2026

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

Holly Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: LILIANA CAMPOS
Litigation Cost Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'LC' or similar initials.

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Joanne Capitano v. Thien Huong Nguyen, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00720



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.

LC:tf

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Joanne Capitano v. Thien Huong Nguyen, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AHCV00720, in the amount of \$1,150,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Public Works' budget.

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained in an automobile collision involving a Department of Public Work's employee.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Joanne Capitano v. Thien Huong Nguyen, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23AHCV00720
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	April 21, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,150,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	KIERAN DOHERTY, ESQ. SHK Law Corporation
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	MELISSA A. MCCAVERY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on August 23, 2022, when a Department of Public Works employee was driving a Department vehicle and crossed over the double yellow lines of oncoming traffic, to avoid a biker in his lane, and collided into the front driver's side of Plaintiff's vehicle. Plaintiff claims to have suffered injuries and damages from the incident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 86,778
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 96,956



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:	August 23, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiff alleges that on August 23, 2022, she was injured and suffered property damage while traveling down First Street in Arcadia, California. As she was traveling southbound on First Street approaching Floral Avenue, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works employee was traveling northbound on the opposite side and without notice, Plaintiff claims that the Public Works employee pulled into her lane and hit her vehicle head-on.

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

The collision occurred due to the Public Works employee crossing over in the opposite direction of travel to avoid a bicyclist who merged into his lane to avoid colliding with a person exiting their parked vehicle.

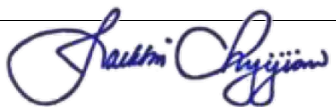
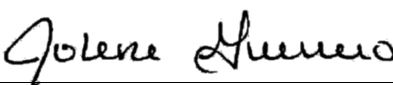
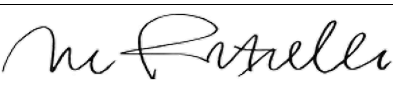
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The ASC's determination was referred to the Human Resources Division, and the employee discipline was issued. The Public Works employee appeared before the department's Automotive Safety Committee (ASC) on December 8, 2022, at which time the ASC deemed the accident preventable.

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

- ☐ Yes - The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- ☒ No - The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Manager) Jacklin E. Injijian	
Signature: 	Date: 06/24/2026
Name: (Deputy Director) Jolene Guerrero	
Signature: 	Date: 07/06/2024
Name: (Department Head) Mark Pestrella	
Signature: 	Date: 07/08/2026

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:
7/8/26