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November 17, 2026

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: LILIANA CAMPOS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Jose Gonzalez Rios, et al. v. William Cash Reed, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00735

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

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Jose Gonzalez Rios, et al. v. William Cash Reed, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23AVCV00735, in the amount of $200,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Public Health's budget.

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiffs sustained in a traffic collision involving a Department of Public Health employee.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Jose Gonzalez Rios, et al. v. William Cash Reed, et al.
CASE NUMBER		23AVCV00735
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		July 13, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Department of Public Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	200,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		LAWRENCE H. MANDELL, ESQ. Mandell Law Firm EMERSON TABONE, ESQ. Law Office of Tabone, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		MELISSA A. MCCAVERTY, ESQ. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE		This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on November 19, 2022, where Plaintiffs' vehicle was involved in a collision with a vehicle operated by a Department of Public Health employee at or near Palmdale Boulevard and State Route 14 northbound, in the City of Palmdale, California. Plaintiffs claim 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	$	106,037
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	20,489

Case Name: Jose Gonzalez Rios, 23-4415510

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 29, 2022, 6:00 p.m..
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On November 29, 2022, around 6:00 p.m., Plaintiff was driving north on SR-14 with his family after leaving a wake in Palmdale. After mistakenly exiting at Palmdale Boulevard, he attempted to reenter the freeway by crossing multiple westbound lanes outside the designated merge area. As he did so, his vehicle collided with a westbound Ford F-350 driven by COLA driver, who was traveling home from the Palmdale Sheriff's Station. According to the responding LASD deputy, Plaintiff acknowledged that he had taken the wrong exit and was trying to reach the northbound on-ramp when the crash occurred.

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

The COLA driver was found to be not at fault by the department's Vehicle Accident Review Committee (VARC) and California Highway Patrol.

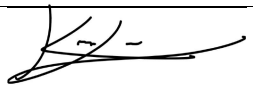
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- On December 20, 2022, VARC reviewed the collision report and determined that it was non-preventable work damage. Therefore, no other corrective actions were implemented for the COLA driver.
- May 5, 2026 – The department reviewed all County vehicle assignments to confirm operational necessity and determined that Emergency Operations staff do require immediate response capability. As a result, it is concluded that assigning a County vehicle in this case was appropriate and that the incident did not result from any departmental error or negligence.

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 Management Coordinator) Kevin Lee	
Signature: 	Date: 8/3/2026

Name: (Department Head) Dr. Barbara Ferrer	
Signature:  On behalf of Barbara Ferrer	Date: 8/11/2026

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: 8/13/26