

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN ROOM 648 OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION,
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook.

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.**

No members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

- 3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9).**

- a. Mark Celebron, et al. v. City of Lancaster, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 615 587**

This inverse condemnation lawsuit against the Department of Public Works seeks damages for trespass, nuisance and negligence arising out of a rainstorm that deluged Plaintiffs' homes with flood water and related debris.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$40,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

- b. Jennifer Dunnagan, et al. v. City of Lancaster, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 615 197**

This inverse condemnation lawsuit against the Department of Public Works seeks damages for trespass, nuisance and negligence arising out of a rainstorm that deluged Plaintiffs' homes with flood water and related debris

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$40,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

c. **Griffith Company, a corporation v. Future DB International, Inc. a California Corporation,**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 670 190

This lawsuit against the Department of Public Works arises from an airport taxiway paving project.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$550,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

d. **Alfredo Aldana v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 671 712

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$45,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

e. **Jose Caldera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 626 147

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an on-duty Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$23,994.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

f. **Jennifer Bradley v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 628 153

This dangerous condition lawsuit against the Department of Beaches and Harbors arises from injuries sustained by Plaintiff when she tripped and fell in a pothole in the parking lot at Chase Burton Park in Marina Del Rey.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$30,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

g. **Lorena Mendez De Torres, et al. v. John Carrillo, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 674 199

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an employee from the Department of Animal Care and Control.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$34,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

h. **Rafaelina Duval v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 470 714

This lawsuit alleges Plaintiff's civil rights were violated when the Department of Children and Family Services removed her 15-month-old son without her consent, exigent circumstances, or a warrant.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$6,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

i. **Regina Crenshaw v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 652 399

This lawsuit alleges that an employee from the District Attorney's office was subjected to discrimination, harassment based on age and gender, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board authorized a statutory offer. The substance of the settlement will be disclosed upon inquiry if the offer is accepted.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

The Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as indicated under Agenda Item No. 3 above.

5. Approval of the minutes of the October 1, 2018, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

[See Supporting Document](#)

6. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

No such matters were discussed.

7. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY**INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Mark Celebron, et al. v. City of Lancaster, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC615587
COURT	Los Angeles Superiour Court
DATE FILED	April 1, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 40,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John S. Peterson Peterson Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael L. Moore Principal Deputy County Counsel
	David Graeler Nossaman LLP
NATURE OF CASE	Inverse Condemantion and Nuisance claims of water damages allegedly caused by Waterworks facilities.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 17,236
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 67,603

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jennifer Dunnagan, et al. v. City of Lancaster, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC615197
COURT	Los Angeles Superiour Court
DATE FILED	March 30, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 40,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	John S. Peterson Peterson Law Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael L. Moore Principal Deputy County Counsel
	David Graeler Nossaman LLP
NATURE OF CASE	Inverse Condemantion and Nuisance claims of water damages allegedly caused by Waterworks facilities.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 144,812
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 100,402

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Griffith Company, a corporation v. Future DB International, Inc., a California corporation et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC670190
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 28, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works: Aviation Division (Funding Source: Aviation Capital Improvement Fund (M01))
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 550,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Ronald B. Pierce RB Pierce, A Professional Law Corporation Armenak Kavcioglu, Raisin & Kavcioglu (Co-Defendant)
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Rosa Linda Cruz Senior Deputy County Counsel Mark Worthge Litchfield Cavo - Outside Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	The actions relate to the construction of a new concrete taxiway at the General William J. Fox Airfield in Lancaster. Plaintiff, Griffith Company is a subcontractor who sued Future DB International, Inc. ("FDBI"), the County's contractor to recover monies they claim they earned but were not paid. The plaintiffs also sued the County to enforce stop notices they filed on the project. FDBI also sought \$1.13 million against the County for alleged additional work, delay damages and the alleged wrongful withholding of retention, failure to timely make progress payments and discrimination.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 27,490.03*
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,242.19*

*Additionally, payments of \$34,960.39 in fees and \$1,436.92 in costs are pending.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Alfredo Aldana v. County of Los Angeles, et. al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 671172
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 8, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Kim Pearman, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engelen Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle versus bicycle collision that occurred on May 27, 2016, when a Deputy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department travelled through the intersection of Figueroa Street and Pico Boulevard against a red light in the city of Los Angeles at a speed of approximately 10 to 15 miles-per-hour. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 17,722
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 313

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jose Caldera, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 626147
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 15, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 23,994 (Jose Caldera - \$19,500; Miguel Canal - \$4,494)
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Ameer A. Shah, Esq. Law Offices of Ameer A. Shah
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Adrian G. Gragas, Esq. Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>The lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on October 31, 2015. Plaintiff Jose Caldera alleges that a Sheriff's patrol vehicle driven by a Sheriff's Deputy made an unsafe left turn and collided with the vehicle Mr. Caldera was driving (the vehicle owner is Plaintiff Miguel Canal) at the intersection of Whittier Boulevard and Westside Drive in the city of East Los Angeles. Mr. Caldera and Mr. Canal each claim damages as a result of the collision.</p> <p>Due to the uncertainty and risks of litigation, a full and final settlement of \$23,994 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 9,936
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 170

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jennifer Bradley v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC 628153
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 22, 2016
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Beaches and Harbors
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Neil S. Steiner, Esq. Steiner & Libo
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Adrian G. Gragas, Esq. Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a dangerous condition of public property when Plaintiff Jennifer Bradley tripped and fell as a result of a pothole in Lot 77 of the parking lot at the Chase Burton Park in Marina Del Ray.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 3,638
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,665

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lorena Mendez De Torres, et al. v. John Carrillo, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC674199
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	August 30, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Animal Care and Control
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 34,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Andrew Vasserman Vasserman & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kelsey Nau Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On September 16, 2016, Plaintiffs Lorena Mendez De Torres and Manuel De Jesus Torres were involved in a motor vehicle collision with an employee from the Department of Animal Care and Control on Central Avenue in the City of Los Angeles.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is recommended.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 3,404
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,268

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Rafaelina Duval v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC470714
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 30, 2011
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 6,000,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Law Offices of Shawn A. McMillan, APC Law Offices of Charles S. Roseman & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Armita Radjabian Deputy County Counsel Tom A. Guterres and Cristine Bodnar Swiss, Esq. of the Law Offices of Collins Collins Muir + Stewart, LLP Tim Coates, Esq. Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiff alleges that her constitutional rights were violated when her son was removed from her custody on November 3, 2009. Defendants deny the allegations. Given the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid future litigation costs.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ \$1,675,070
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ \$370,638

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

October 1, 2018

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:32 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

Claims Board Members present at the meeting were: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Michael Gordon, Adrian Gragas, Millicent Rolon, Katherine Bowser, Narbeh Bagdasarian, Craig Hoetger, Joyce Aiello and Kent Sommer, Department of Public Works: Michael Hays; Fire Department: Alvin Brewer and Matt Briones; Sheriff's Department: John Roberts, Chris Marks, Scott Gage, Mark Allen, Karen Dalton, Blaine Bolin, Joseph Fender, Dominic Dannan, and Kevin Percy; Workforce Development Aging and Community Services: Deprick Martin, Kimberly Madison, and Richard Franco; Department of Health Services: Arun Patel; Department of Children and Family Services: Christina Lee, Lynne Condon, Janelle Gregory, and Maricruz Trevino; Outside Counsel: Tomas Gutierrez.

2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

No members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9)

At 9:34 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(j) below.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 11:35 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

a. Non-Litigated Claim of Ryder Transportation Services, Inc.

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for real and personal property damages allegedly caused by a backflow of sewage due to a sewer mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$48,355.61 (includes prepayment of \$20,000).

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

b. **James Duffner v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 631 706

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

c. **Sandra Marmol Cortez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. MC 027 197

This lawsuit arises from alleged injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department patrol car.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,999.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

d. **Claim of Melissa Williams**

This claim concerns allegations of sexual assault by a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,650,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

e. **Jennifer Ann Mathews v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:17-CV-7908

This lawsuit concerns allegations of civil rights violations and sexual assault by a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$2,250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

f. **Estate of Michael Parisio, Jr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. MC 024 274

This lawsuit alleges Plaintiffs' civil rights were violated when the Sheriff's Department and Adult Protective Services (part of Workforce Development Aging and Community Services) unlawfully detained their dependent adult son without a warrant.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$150,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

g. **Cathy Bonner v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 15-CV-08885

This lawsuit concerns allegations of medical negligence by LAC+USC Medical Center staff while Plaintiff was in the custody of the Sheriff's Department.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$250,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

h. **Maria M. Reyes-Torres v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 656 085

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from treatment received by a patient at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$325,000 (plus Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$130).

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

i. **Renee Chacon v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 631 857

This lawsuit concerns allegation that an employee from the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to discrimination and that the Department failed to engage in the interactive process or provide a reasonable accommodation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

j. **James Green v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission Case No. 14-43

This is a Civil Service Commission case filed by an employee from the Department of Children and Family Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$225,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

5. **Approval of the minutes of the September 17, 2018, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Steven Estabrook

6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Sandra C. Ruiz