



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Arlene Barrera
Auditor-Controller
Steve Robles
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, November 18, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).

a. Claim of National Demolition Contractors

This breach of contract claim seeks damages against the Department of Public Works – Flood Control District; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$70,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

b. Jennifer Alden v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 19AVCV00205

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a multi-vehicle accident involving a Fire Department employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$30,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- c. Diane Vasquez-Whetsell vs. Sandy Ochoa, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 676374

This lawsuit arises from a motor vehicle collision involving a Sheriff's Department marked patrol driven by a Deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$60,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- d. German Cardona v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 686689

This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision involving a Department of Public Health employee; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$23,500.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Kanae Williams v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 664404

This lawsuit concerns allegations of negligence, invasion of privacy, retaliation, and intentional infliction of emotional distress against the Department of Children and Family Services; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$45,000.

- f. Cheryl Jackson-Wilson v. COLA, et al.
Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission Case No.: 15-329

This is a Civil Service Commission appeal filed by a former employee of the Probation Department claiming age discrimination; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$62,743.63.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
5. Approval of the minutes of the November 4, 2019, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[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.
7. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Claim of National Demolition Contractors
CASE NUMBER	Claim only, no lawsuit
COURT	Claim only, no lawsuit
DATE FILED	Claim Filed: December 26, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 70,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Marcia Kamine, Kamine Law, PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Rosa Linda Cruz Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Claimant National Demolition Contractors ("NDC") alleges the Los Angeles County Flood Control District breached its contract for the Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds West Basin Percolation Enhancement Project by requiring NDC to use a less efficient method of moving sediment to a landfill, which allegedly cost NDC in excess of \$220,000.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 13,764
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,200

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jennifer Alden v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19AVCV00205
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	Mach 12, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Fire Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Seth Bowen, Law Offices of Seth C. Bowen
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon, County Counsel George L. Mallory, Jr., George L. Mallory, Jr. & Associates
NATURE OF CASE	On May 2, 2018, Plaintiff Jennifer Alden was rear-ended in a multi-vehicle accident, which involved a County Fire Department employee, on eastbound Avenue J at its intersection with 15 th Street Weset in the City of Lancaster. Ms. Alden allegedly sustained injuries as a result of the collision.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 9,948
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,088

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Diane Vasquez-Whetsell v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC676374
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 20, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 60,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Van Nghiem, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a motor vehicle collision that occurred on August 31, 2016, when a Deputy with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department made a right turn in front of Plaintiff's vehicle at the intersection of Carmenita Road and Lakeland Road. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 27,706
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 19,306

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	German Cardona v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	BC686689
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	December 17, 2017
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Health
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 23,500
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Shaun J. Bauman, Bauman Law, APLC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on November 14, 2016, when a Department of Public Health employee rear ended plaintiff on Glenoaks Boulevard. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 22,478
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 729

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:34 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: Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers, with Chair Steve Robles being absent.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Michael Gordon, Kelsey Nau, Alex Espinoza, Jasmine Bath, Eduardo Montelongo, and Narbeh Bagdasarian; Sheriff's Department: Kelly Porowske, Kevin Percy, Kristine Corrales, Jack Ewell, and John Burcher; Department of Children and Family Services: Armand Montiel; Department of Public Health: Ferdows Rashidian; Department of Health Services: Catie Mathers, Liz Agusta, and Claudia Aguirre.

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 9:37 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(h).

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 10:50 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

**a. Judy Shin v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 657 090**

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

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

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

- b. **Michael Meza v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 660 381

Arturo Mejia-Morales v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 681 694

These lawsuits arise from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of these matters in the amount of \$190,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

- c. **Graciela Morquecho v. Janette Vengco-Dalan, et al.**
Orange County Superior Court Case No.: 30-2018-01006935

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Department of Children and Family Services employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of these matters in the amount of \$475,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

- d. **Mainor Burgos v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 712 696

This lawsuit involves allegations that an employee from the Department of Public Health was subjected to workplace disparate treatment, hostile work environment, failure to accommodate, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

e. **Armenui Keshishyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 707 338

This lawsuit involves allegations that an employee from the Department of Health Services was subjected to discrimination, harassment, failure to accommodate, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$95,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

f. **Miriam Lazos v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 631 616

This lawsuit involves allegations that an employee from the Department of Health Services was subjected to sexual harassment.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$37,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

g. **Z.H.Z., a minor, et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 722 428

This lawsuit concerns allegations of medical malpractice by LAC+USC Medical Center for negligent nursing care causing and infliction of emotional distress.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$200,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

h. **Michael Shirazi v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No.: BC 642 090

This lawsuit concerns allegations of medical malpractice by LAC+USC Medical Center for failure to timely diagnose Plaintiff's medical condition resulting in more extensive treatment.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the October 21, 2019, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Arlene Barrera and Adrienne Byers
Absent: Steve Robles, Chair

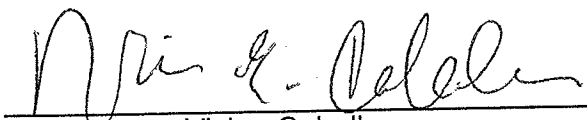
6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting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

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Vivian Caballero